

World Bowls Development



News



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Welcome



Hi all and welcome to this new look Development magazine, I trust that you will find it both informative and interesting, it's absolutely amazing what is happening throughout the bowling world, and all our correspondents

are to be congratulated on the part that they are playing in their various regions, each issue of this publication will be compiled in turn by one of the Development committee, and I hope that likeminded members across the world will submit articles for inclusion to their relevant committee member or directly to me.

The publication will be released every two months and it is important that all meaningful happenings and activities are captured, to the members of the Development committee I say thank you for the outstanding job which you are doing and hope that you will not hide your light under a bushel but will tell us the news from across the World.

I trust that you will enjoy this new look publication and look forward to comments either directed to the members or myself, this issue is compiled by Debra Ferguson of South Africa, and I owe her a vote of thanks for the sterling work.

One of the main tasks undertaken by World Bowls has seen the setting up of a new subcommittee to take stock of the overall make up of World Bowls, this was agreed

Welcome

continued

to at the last council meeting in Delhi, where I raised this question of World Bowls having been in place for 10 years, was it worthwhile to stand back and investigate the way forward from where we are.

I am pleased to inform

you that initial submissions have been made, and we have now had the second round of submissions from the various members, a face to face meeting will be held in October to assess where we are and map out further the way forward. I hope to be in a position in the next publication to update you on the status of this project.

Lastly my grateful thanks to Margaret Fettes for a sterling job in chairing the development subcommittee over the past few years, at our last board meeting it was suggested that perhaps a new look at this complex portfolio might lend some fresh ideas on the perspective needed to take it to a new level, with this view in mind I have taken over this task for the foreseeable future.

That's all until the next issue, keep bowling.

John

Africa



Botswana

2010 - Enlisted the coaching services of John and Althea Page. Invited a larger than usual squad of players to

receive training with a view to enhance performance of our sides.

Introduced the TID Programme of exercises which are now standard and compulsory.

Introduced a data base "Player Profile" of those who expressed interest to play bowls at a higher and representative level.

2011 – Continued with our training camps and the services of the Pages as coaches.

Also sought the services of a Dietician and assisted with BMI analysis and recommendation for weight reduction.

Trevor Davis gave an umpire's presentation over a long week-end and assisted the BBA to put in place a Technical Officials Board. We hope to roll out qualified umpires in the very near future.

Next on the cards – to run coaches courses in the south and north of Botswana before year end in an effort to have a qualified coach at every club in Botswana.

The standard of bowls will hopefully improve going forward as evidenced at the AST Nairobi.

Africa

continued

Namibia

Entered the under 25 Inter-district in South Africa to start giving their younger players international exposure. The working relationship with Bowls South Africa is very strong and assistance is given on a regular basis for Coaching and Technical officials.

Swaziland

Under the guidance of Dawn Squires a contingent of young citizen bowlers have emerged. She has had tournaments supported by the government and Southern Sun to give these future national bowlers all the assistance they require. I am sure in the future there will be entries in the international competition with these young players should they continue to get the assistance they require. See above the 4 ladies that recently played in the under 25



Kenya

The African States tournament was recently held in Kenya and Trevor Davis and his wife Elma assisted in training their technical officials to enable them to host the tournament.

Zimbabwe

They are managing to survive with the turmoil in the country. They have requested that they get more international competition and have approached South Africa to hold more tournaments for them to participate in.

South Africa

For the first time in many years South Africa has finally seen the growth in their numbers.



This prior to a major development drive to recruit members. A Guinness World record attempt lead to many non bowlers been exposed to the game. The team that ran this event are positive that in the next year we will see a major increase in the numbers. South Africa have also taken to the New Age Bowls and have started to implement at school level. I was sent the photo below of the 6 year olds having fun

America



For some time now we have been trying to break into the Caribbean market as far as bowls development goes, this has proved difficult to say the least, and although the Caribbean plays a major role in the Commonwealth Games family, bowls is certainly the poor relation.

Many contacts were investigated after Delhi and even utilising the top echelon of the games structure has not yielded any low hanging fruit, however we will keep working across the various role players and endeavour to obtain a foot hold.

Two main contacts in this area have been Mike Brown and Andrew Newell, both have made mention of a green in Jamaica, which upon deeper research indicated was a private venture and not available for commercial use, whilst this was a bit of a downer, at least it proves that there are some form of bowls out there, and it is safe to say that we will continue to explore this market as it is a much needed source of membership for the Commonwealth Games family and our continued support of it.

Other contacts have been attempted in the Caribbean but so far have borne no fruit. I will keep you updated in this regards as we move forward.

As far as Canada and America are concerned, I have had no discussions with Margaret as she is on leave, as I have taken over this area from her, I will discuss with her the contact persons and get in touch with them for the next issue. Please do not hesitate to send me details should you have them of what is happening on the ground in the America's.

Asia



Our Asia region currently comprises the 10 member nations of Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Due to the need to accommodate climatic conditions and other International events, the Bowls Federation of India's invitation to host the Asia Bowls Championships 2011 in November, will be deferred to 2012. The date will be advised as soon as possible.

Over these last months, our Asia region has been active with local events and the popular international Tiger

Asia

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Bowls Invitational Hong Kong and China Tours event with 30 overseas teams from 17 countries participating. Coming-up will be the 6th Asia Pacific Merdeka Indoor Bowls Championship in early October 2011, the 2nd Japan Open Invitational in late October 2011, the World Singles Champion of Champions 2011 Hong Kong in early-November 2011 [with a notable unprecedented entry number of 31 men and 31 women from a total of 33

nations], the Hong Kong Golden Jubilee International Bowls Classic in mid-November 2011.

As Asia's 2nd largest bowling nation, **Malaysia** has amazed the world over the last decade with their dynamic rise from formation to the World's top ranks, strongly led by the President of the Malaysia Lawn Bowls Federation - Tun Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid, who has established very disciplined and progressive systems enabling their internationally recognized success. Under the World Singles Rankings, Malaysia's men currently hold 3 places amongst the top 38 players and their women 3 places amongst the top 44 players. Do look up their comprehensive web-site <http://www.bowlsmalaysia.org.my> to appreciate their many activities and achievements.

Bowls Japan reports that although their number of registered bowlers is very small [300], they are gradually becoming more active in holding national events throughout the year at various cities throughout Japan. Their 2nd Japan International Open Tournament will be held in Kobe in October and China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, UAE will be competing in this Mixed Triples Tournament

Europe



New developments and some progress are still on going and I include updates based on the information to hand at the present time. I had hoped that since my last report Sweden and Germany would have joined Turkey as Development Members of World Bowls, but I still remain extremely optimistic that this will take place.

Bulgaria.

Currently a clubhouse and green is in the process of construction near the town of Dobrich in the northeast of the country, and naturally on completion future progression can be discussed

Europe

continued

Cyprus – North

The Olive Press Flat Green Bowling Club is due to open later in the year and it will be a first for the north of the island. The green is situated in the Lapta area of Kyrenia and the carpet has been supplied and fitted by Greengauge. An enquiry has also been received from the Korineum Golf & CC requesting technical information required for the provision of a bowling green.

Czech Republic.

A request from the Czech Bowls Association to become a member of World Bowls was received, and we are now awaiting a response containing the necessary criteria required in order for the membership process to proceed.

Finland.

Not much change in Finland other than to highlight the efforts of their chief representatives who host events for companies and other parties along with providing Eurosport with the Finnish commentary on televised bowls matches. In order to increase the player base proper investment in bowling facilities is required which is also relevant to many countries in Europe.

Germany.

The green in Lobichau continues to improve and members are hopeful that the new section will be playable, allowing the club to have 8 rinks. The surroundings have been redeveloped by the local authority, and the club is now set in a park rather on an old football pitch. Active membership is at 18 ranging from aged 13 to 66, and the club are also looking to translate the Laws of the Game into German

Greece (Thess)

An enquiry was received regarding bowling facilities for the Island and communications as of now are ongoing

Hungary.

A few problems with Hungarian State Bureaucracy are still being resolved, which has hampered the progress of the Federation, but importantly bowls still continues.

Competitive play still carries on regardless with the most recent competition attracting 40 competitors, a web site has also been set up : - www.gyepeteke.bocca.sport.hu.

Lanzarote.

Following interest shown, the Chief Executive of World Bowls, Gary Smith, whilst holidaying on the Island met with the group of bowls enthusiasts to discuss the potential for the sport and a precise of his detailed report follows.

The meeting took place at an existing sports facility in Puerto del Carmen which has a number of tennis courts some of which were perceived to be currently underutilised.

Europe

continued

Short mat is played a few days a week on carpets laid out on a suitable space between the courts, and the group were keen to investigate with the manager of this council sports complex, the viability of utilising the space currently used for one of the tennis courts to lay a full sized green of 3 / 4 rinks. Obviously it would be an artificial green and the group were furnished with some Law Books and some World Bowls Artificial Green Performance Standards booklets and also the names of established suppliers of those greens. Those concerned are naturally trying to sell the idea to the council and tourist board, who own the complex, and local businesses and hoteliers with a view to attracting more visitors and bowls tours.

Latvia.

On a request from the Secretary General of the Latvian Sport for all Associations, details of the equipment required and their availability along with the Laws are to hand and are ongoing

Portugal.

At the General Meeting of Bowls Portugal, Amadeu Gil da Rocha decided not to stand for re-election and it would be remiss not to mention the contribution he has made to bowls in Portugal over many years. The men delegated to take Bowls Portugal forward are President John Hewitson and Secretary Tony Gilbert. The new committee have been in office for around 3 months and have made an encouraging start by producing an initial newsletter, and have also been successful in increasing the membership to date to 100 members and 4 member clubs.

Sweden

It is anticipated that the first artificial outdoor 4 rink green in Sweden will be ready for play shortly. The Swedish Bowls Federation now has 100 registered players and currently run an Open Swedish Bowls Tour in four different towns around Sweden based on the short mat format. Their goal is to be a full member of World Bowls from 2012.

Turkey.

The Laws of the Game have been translated into Turkish and appear on the National web site www.tbdbf.gov.tr and it has recently been announced that Turkey will host the forthcoming Mediterranean Games at Mersin in 2013. In addition, its Vice President Dr Mutlu Turkmen has been appointed as Technical Delegate of Bowls for the said games. A bowling seminar is due to be organised followed by the 1st National Championships from which it is assumed the team for the European Championships will be selected.

The existing green at Fethiye has had a new surface laid and is proving very successful and at present is the only flat green in Turkey.

Middle East



Middle East

The interest level across the wider Middle East region in the development of the sport of bowls continues to grow. In addition to developments in the UAE in recent years work on the constitution of the Pakistan Federation is now complete and are

now development members of World Bowls. Muhammad Basharat, International Liaison Officer for the Pakistan Federation said “ We are delighted to be at this stage and looking forward to our future as a member of World Bowls. We have already held national championships and are eagerly looking forward to becoming involved at World level”. Next in the pipeline could be Bangladesh after opening contacts between Bangladesh and World Bowls officials. The growing interest in the sport across the region is perhaps best illustrated by the contacts from interested parties in Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Qatar which merits special mention.

QATAR

There is now a bowling green at the Doha Golf Club, Qatar. The driving force behind developments in Doha is Peter Brickle, a businessman with a bowling background in the U.K. Peter has discovered significant numbers in Doha interested, has tapped in to that interest and organised a competition for early September which has attracted 100 entries.

Roy McCune, World Bowls Development Officer for the region said “ Peter Brickle’s bowling background coupled with his business acumen and organisational ability offers great hope for a speedy lift off for Qatar”.

Anyone seeking further information on developments in Qatar at the Doha Golf Club can contact Peter at the following email address:-
dohabowls@yahoo.com

Oceania



Elite bowls – great play, but more importantly, great exposure to the new breed of bowlers:

What a fantastic sport we all play. What a fantastic opportunity it provides at the elite level to showcase the sport to future generations.

That’s what Bowls Australia have been doing in their recent premier events. Take the recent international series between Australia and South Africa – while the best of each nation were competing on the green, the local school children (all 440 of them) were given a taste

Oceania



of the game.

In an exciting initiative, school students in the age range of 10-12 years were given the opportunity to see the best of the best. Taking the experience one step further, each student is given an introductory lesson from the players competing in the event. They then have the opportunity to play on the green and test their skills.

What other sport has the capacity to do that....? What other sport has superstars willing to assist young children in between their games....? It's a new initiative, and it's exciting. It's also rewarding. The smile on the faces of the children who are introduced to the game says it all.

If this style of introduction is replicated at every premier level event around the world... we'll soon have a new participant base... and that results in a strong and prosperous sport for the future.



Clubs are getting a boost too:

There's a recent change in focus in Australia which may well prove to be a fantastic case study for the sport to grow into the future.

While we are always working to introduce new participants to the sport, the other side of the equation is having strong clubs who can cater for the needs of the new consumer. To ensure clubs have the best support needed to prosper, Bowls Australia has recently embarked on an ambitious plan to better serve our clubs.

As I write this, a unique opportunity is currently up for grabs to help shape the sport of bowls.

Bowls Australia is currently advertising for 13 community development officers to join its dynamic team. This increase will bring the total number of development staff in Australia to in excess of 20.

Oceania

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Reporting to the Bowls Australia participation manager, in conjunction with the appropriate state or territory association CEO, the regionally-based community development officers will be responsible for:

- Working within their regional area to increase participation and membership within the sport of bowls;
- Providing support to clubs with business planning,

- member recruitment/retention, governance, funding, programs, information technology and volunteer strategies;
- Implementing whole-of-sport programs delivered at club level;
- Increasing the quantity and quality of coaches and officials; and
- Accurately recording local membership and participation data.



There are currently 13 positions available in various regions around Australia. Each staff member will be given the necessary tools to assist clubs to be stronger community clubs with a key focus on membership and capacity building. Their portfolio of clubs will range from 80-120 clubs, and the relationship they form coupled with the service they provide will ensure future success.