

Bowls Canterbury

From the Centre Desk

November/December 2024

Usually when you have news to share you share the good before the bad (in this case sad). This time I'm doing it the other way around. It is with real regret that I am advising that Erica is leaving us. She is heading to Australia to spend time with her family initially and then who knows where in the world she will end up in. She will still with us until early February so plenty of time to say your farewells. Ericas contribution to the development of our game has been enormous especially with the under 26-year-olds, secondary schools, school/club relationships and coaching and more recently she has become a master of bowls draws. The relationships and networks, and the resources she has developed leave our sport better place than it has been for many years.

All is not lost though, as Aime will be stepping into her shoes and while they are quite big shoes to fill, I have every confidence that she will fill them admirably.

Now for the good news - Tracy Wilkinson has been appointed our Sport Administration Coordinator. She is stepping into Megs shoes and will officially commence with us on Monday 6 January. She is very likely to be around the office from time to time before that getting familiar with our office systems and to know us too. I know there will be many of you saying, 'thanks goodness there is someone in the office who understands bowls at last', but it had to be the right person, and I believe Tracy is that right person. We are excited to have her on board and know her knowledge will be invaluable.

Apology – Over 60's Triples

We got it wrong last Thursday by postponing the Over 60's Triples. The weather didn't do what the forecast said it would instead the sun shone most of the day and the very cold wind abated. It was a late call, and I know many of you were already on your way, I have also been reminded that many over 60 players still work so need to organise leave in advance. With post section now on Friday some players have pulled out meaning a new draw will be published on Tuesday. It was a decision I very much regret and I am sorry it caused so much inconvenience to so many. A learning curb for me.

Section play is now at Bowls Hornby Thursday 28 November with Post Section at Riccarton Racecourse on Friday 29 November.

Year 9 & 10 Tournament

This was held last week at the Centre green. There was a very strong field of young men many who play on a regular basis on Wednesday afternoons and some who had not played as much but by the end of the day everyone was hooked. The final was between a team from Ellesmere College and a combination team from Christ College and

Christchurch Boy's High. Ellesmere College won the challenge. The final was an excellent display of competitive bowls by both teams but in the well drilled Ellesmere College players had the edge, congratulations boys. Thanks to the supporters who called in during the day even though the weather was not that conducive to sitting outdoors and to the teachers for their support of the event.



Competitors in the Bowls Canterbury Year 9 &10 secondary schools' tournament

New Umpires – Congratulations

Since September the following umpires have gained their umpires or measurers qualification.

Congratulations to all. We look forward to seeing some new faces on the side of the greens in the near future.

Full Level 1 Umpires are Nic Andrew, Jason O'Connor and Denise Taylor all from Allenton. Mike Small and John Liddy from Burnside. Brian Breen (Papanui Club Outdoor), Phillip Hobbs (Bowls Papanui), Margaret Stacey (New Brighton) and Mike White (Akaroa).

Level 1 Measuring Umpires are John Fraser (Hanmer Springs), Bernie Osborne (Allenton), Diane Vanderweg (Rakaia). James Simpson, Mervyn Radford, Robyn Spinks and Vivien Bradbury from Kaiapoi Riverside. Neil Clark and Paul Diver from New Brighton.

Warren Stanbury hosted this group at Kaiapoi Riverside and was ably assisted by Wendy Suttie, Ann Wright and Ray Hunt.

David Conroy said he is happy to hold a measuring course at clubs and also to note that Bowls NZ runs excellent online laws courses a couple of times a year. The downside is they so have a waiting list.

Congratulations

To our Under 26 players representatives at Oceania. Well done all of you. It must have been a mighty experience playing against some old heads of our game. We were also represented by umpires Wendy Suttie, Joseph Van der Pennen. Warwick Graham and Ian Warren who no doubt enjoyed a bird's eye view of the games.