



International Bowls for the Disabled Inc.

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Newsletter 1/2013

1. Foreword

By: the President, Brian Sneag

I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year. Amazingly in the blink of an eye 2012 has become a memory and we look forward to new challenges in 2013. To quote "yesterday is history, today is reality and tomorrow is a challenge".

We need to work together to build our organisation into a strong, cohesive unit working towards the same goals for the benefit of our bowlers.

Next year our bowlers will be competing against each other in the Commonwealth Games - an event that will catapult us into the eyes of the world. To this end we need to ensure that IBD is strong enough and up to the challenge.

Please assist us in finding new members as there are so many people who could benefit from joining. Please also send your comments to Elbert for printing in the newsletter - after all it is your newsletter.

Greetings and best wishes to you all.

2. Membership portfolio

By: Bob Love

I have sent 32 emails to member countries of World Bowls that are currently not members of IBD, together with an introductory letter explaining my reason for contacting them. 4 came back indicating the contact had possibly changed.

I now await responses.

3. World Championships 2015 – New Zealand

By: Colin Frude, 2015 organising committee.

Planning for the IBD world championships in New Zealand in Feb 2015 is now getting under way. Both host clubs and the local city council are very enthusiastic about the event and we are working hard

to make NZ2015 a very memorable event.

To this end, we will be seeking expressions of entries through the IBD in February. We would be very grateful if member nations could respond promptly to the email we will be sending out. We do not expect firm commitments this far out but a considered response will vastly aid the planning process. We thank you all in advance for your cooperation in this matter and we look forwards to greeting you in person on Kiwi soil in 2015.

4. Elite Athletes with a Disability (EAD) at the Commonwealth Games 2014

By: Brian Sneag

The Commonwealth Games Committee decided to include lawn bowls for the Disabled in their programme for 2014. The decision taken was to include disciplines at the Games as follows:

- Visually Impaired Pairs B2/B3. This pairing must include a male and a female bowler.
- Physically Disabled Triples B6/B7/B8 Open Triples (with at least one B6 athlete but no gender stipulation)

It is extremely gratifying to the Executive of IBD that we are afforded the opportunity for our bowlers to compete at these prestigious Games and display their skills. Please remember that all bowlers selected will need up to date classification documentation which will need to be forwarded when asked for.

Please also ensure that wheelchairs, sticks or any other aid complies with the laid down standards which will be strictly adhered to.

I look forward very eagerly to this event and am sure the competition amongst bowlers will be strongly contested as everyone would love to be part of this event.

5. Classification

By: Sheila Corcoran

Some headway has been made in recent years, regarding classification in the sport of Lawn Bowls for bowlers with a disability.

For some years now, Lawn Bowls has been slow to adopt the sport specific classification system that has been standard for other Paralympic sports since the early to middle 1990's. The IPC classification code (available on the IPC website) was established at the beginning of the 2000's to provide standards around classification for all sports. These principles are adopted by all recognized sports in the family of IPC and other associated Independent Federations, recognizing disabled athletes.

The sport specific classification system for Lawn Bowls was developed in 2002-2004. It was ratified at the Sports Assembly in Kuala Lumpur in 2004.

In the last World Championships, IBD adopted the sport specific classification system, with bowlers entering and participating in events according to their class. The plan is for this to be developed further at the next World Championships in New Zealand, with singles competitions for all classes of physically disabled bowlers (B5-B8). The blind bowlers (B1-B3) have always played competitions in this way.

The next challenge is to adopt a fair and equitable way for teams of doubles, triples and fours to compete. As happens with medley races in swimming, the proposal is that each combination should "add up" to an equal amount. Hopefully this will soon be adopted by the IBD committee.

The Chief Classifier for IBD has been invited to participate in a pre-Commonwealth Game event in Glasgow this August. This is in recognition that all athletes with a disability must have an International Classification prior to being selected for a team.

If Lawn Bowls ever hopes to be included in the Paralympic Games again, classification is an essential component to "get right".

Unfortunately, some bowlers, associations and nations do not yet understand these basic principles, and continue to run their events as "open" events. Hopefully, the recognition of the importance the Commonwealth Games attributes to classification will help to influence some people's views.

6. Disabled world tournaments

By: Elbert Broere

The IBD has received enquiries from Korea regarding guidance they need in planning their 2014 Incheon Asian Para Games OC. At this stage the IBD is uncertain of the format these games will take and who will be invited to participate.

Scotland is planning an event in 2013. They wrote: It has been identified for selection for the Commonwealth Games Scotland team that there is a need for an additional world class competition for the players with a physical disability to compete in to qualify for the Scotland team for 2014. It has been proposed to have an 8 nation integrated event with able bodies and disabled bowlers in August 2013 which will be similar in format to the Commonwealth Games the following year. It will be called a Commonwealth Invitational event. This will be held at the same venue, Kelvin grove, as the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

7. Award, Margaret Smith

At the 2012 Assembly it was decided to make an award to Bob Tinker and Margaret Smith. At a recent do in England our Vice President, Bob Love, presented the award to Margaret.

We received an e-mail from Margaret:

Dear Brian
Long time since we were in touch
I just wanted to say what a lovely surprise it was to receive my award from the IBD committee. Please thank them for me.
It was presented to me last weekend at our DBE Masters tournament.
Apparently they wanted to give it to me earlier but I wasn't at the previous disability event earlier in the year.
I hope that yourself and your family are well.
Please remember me to the bowlers and give them my best wishes
South Africa has always been top of my favourites list of places I have visited. Some wonderful memories. I miss organising the trips and seeing all of the friends I made along the way.
Keep well and keep in touch
Every best wish
Marg