



From the Centre Desk

January 2021

Happy New Year to Everyone. I hope you managed to have a fun festive season with family and friends and managed to find some time to relax. 2020 was certainly a challenging and different year. As a sport we were reasonably lucky as most of our competitions had been completed by the time we were locked down. Thank you for being understanding and for making the effort to complete those outstanding games from last season prior to the start of this season.

Office Update - Emily is starting the new year with a new name, she got married in early December after COVID prevented their wedding from taking place earlier in 2020. As expected, she was a glowing bride and is now Emily Belton. I am sure she will forgive you if you still call her Robbins, for a while anyway. Katie is also walking down the aisle in mid-February. Katie will be on leave for a couple of weeks in February. I am sure you all wish Katie well for her special day.

Centre Happenings – Finals Weekend is being hosted by Burnside on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 January. The draw will be on the website in a few days. The Northern Quad Representative event is also being played at Burnside on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 February. Our Men and Women will be playing against their counterparts from Marlborough, Nelson, Dunedin, and the men will also be playing against a team from South Canterbury. Play will start at 9am each day. This is the final chance for our players to impress the selectors before the Canterbury Intercentre teams are named. The draw will be on our website soon.

Nationals News – Congratulations to Bruce Wakefield who took out two titles at the Summerset Nationals in Auckland in the New Year, Bruce won both the Men's Disabled Singles and the Men's Disabled Pairs. Lance Pascoe won the Men's Pairs competition at the same event. Well done and congratulations to both of you. Good to see our Canterbury bowlers names in lights. This was Lances first national title but was even more special as he has come close on several occasions. In the Women's Singles Mandy Boyd finished in second place as did Tayla Bruce in the Women's Pairs. Deane Robertson also made it through to the semi-finals in the Blind Bowlers competition. Well done to all of you, you all played so well, often in trying conditions and you all managed to make the respective eventual winners work for their titles.

Safety Warnings – Recently a player had an unfortunate accident at one of our clubs. Unfortunately, accidents will always happen, and all clubs do their utmost to avoid these. However, it is a timely reminder to check that your club's **Health and Safety Policy** is in place and it is regularly updated that is recorded. I hope the person who suffered the accident has made a speedy recovery and will be back bowling soon. If you require any assistance with your Health and Safety Policy, please contact me or Emily.

Last weekend a car was broken into in a club carpark. It was in broad daylight while games were being played only metres away. This is a reminder not to leave valuables in your car even when the vehicle can be seen from the club.

Rep Round Up –Lindley Neil – The Development Men travelled to Greymouth on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 January to play the Men’s Development West Coast team. This wasn’t as successful as the coaches had hoped. There were lessons learnt from the first day but unfortunately the opposition held the upper hand and we were unable to retain the trophy.

Over 60’s Colphil Trophy – It has been decided by the Board that we will not be sending a team to Invercargill this year. There are a number of reasons for the decision. I know there will be some disappointed people as for many it was a fun trip. We will be looking at our entire representative programme for next season to make sure it targets and benefits our players.

Phone Calls to the Centre Office – Recently there seems to be more calls to the office than we have had in the past. As you know that at this time of the year there is more than one event to be organised which means Katie is really busy and your Club secretary can usually answer most of your questions. We understand you want to know the venue or who you are playing against, but we publish the draws as soon as we can and until then can’t help. It would help if you could contact your secretary first, then us.

End of Season Prize Giving: It was a disappointing that we could not hold the 2020 End of Season celebrations. We are going to celebrate our winners from this season though. At this stage we have pencilled in Saturday 22 May. Mark it in your diaries now and we will advise the venue soon.

AGM – Mark this date in your diary - Sunday 11 July at Christchurch Bowling Club.

Bowls for Hanmer – I have been asked to send a plea out to all clubs – Hanmer would love some smaller old bowls for the women and children who are playing on their ‘green’ Anything from ‘3’s down would be greatly appreciated. Phone Janet Messervy 027 221 0653 or David Conroy 021 069 2625

Hand and Surface Sanitiser – Some clubs still have not picked up their allocation. We are not holding this any longer so if any club wants more, it is yours. Call in to pick it up.

‘Good Ideas’ – Burnside Masterclass. This was held the day before the Stu Buttar Pairs, the masters were Jo Edwards and Val Smith. Twenty people took advantage of their expertise, they spent a couple of very informative hours listening to and learning from them. The pair shared some of the things they do in the course of a game and how they cope when things aren’t going well. They also spent time on the green trying out the things they had learnt and testing new techniques. The morning was finished with a lunch which gave everyone time to ask more questions and to hear more about their successes on the world stage. A great initiative and a great opportunity for our bowlers to learn from some of our best.

Please let me know what ‘Good Ideas’ are happening at your club so I can share them with everyone.

A New Year a New Car – why not! – Visit CMG Motors - corner Montreal & St Asaph St Christchurch. Ask for Blair Smith or give Blair a call on 021 317 483 and take a test drive in one of their latest MG3’s.

The car will be in the car in the carpark at Burnside during the Finals and Northern Quad weekends.

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