



ONEHUNGA BOWLING CLUB (INC.) BOWLS COORDINATORS REPORT

The concept of a Bowls Coordinator is not a new one; the idea to mirror how successful Australian clubs run their bowls programmes has long been discussed and proposed. However, no club has actually followed through and delivered on these thoughts.

This is where Onehunga have already separated ourselves from the pack; we have actually put those plans into a reality. I congratulate the Board on endorsing the position, and in turn backing the movement of positive change within the club. I also thank the members for their support, and I endeavour to repay this support by delivering results based upon the plans and goals we are working towards.

The club has had a stellar year on the greens led by new Black Jack Danny Delany. At present Danny is hard at work preparing himself for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India which commence in early October, while we all take a break from the greens and hibernate over the winter period. We wish Danny all the very best of luck in his attempt to bring the New Zealand men home a Gold medal for the first time since Ian Dickison won the singles in Edinburgh 1986, 24 long years ago.

Success brings success; and the result of this will soon see a number of new members join us at Onehunga. Current womens National Pairs champion Reen Stratford has already signed along the dotted line and we look forward to her complimenting our ever strengthening womens playing roster.

However the club is not at all solely focused on achieving results at a higher level; the Board recently signed off our programme of bowls which is all-inclusive, for every level of member. We now have in place a structure whereby all types of persons utilising the Onehunga Bowling Club will be catered for, in whatever capacity they wish to do so. These include;

- "Fresh off the street" people, who may or may not be interested in playing the game
- Secondary Schools / Youth bowlers
- Social members
- Sponsors, corporates and supporters
- 1-5 year bowlers and keen, promising players

- Club bowlers
- Elite players

Coaching, fostering and guidance will be available in house at Onehunga to players of *all* levels, led by Gale Ngatai ("newbies"), Kevin Dixon (men) and Marlene Castle (women). It is our intention that bowlers at any level should not have to seek outside assistance, as the experience and tutelage available right here at Onehunga is second to none.

The playing programme and conditions of play have been somewhat altered this season. Every event on the calendar has been carefully decided upon and placed applicably with these two principles strictly adhered to in all decisions made;

- To ensure all events are completed as efficiently as possible with the intention being to free up as many days as possible on the calendar. This will see you, the bowler, able to play the game on more days, put more bowls down the other end of the green and get "more bang for your buck."
- Ensuring that the bowls being played at the club is done so cost effectively.

This will no doubt see some championship games played by mutual arrangement between teams involved. The BOC and I will assist you in scheduling games. These types of conditions are prevalent in places such as Canterbury and Australia, and work very effectively. I am under no illusions that the first season will not encompass some teething problems but I urge the members for their support and I am certain that this will be a superior method of play.

The challenge now for the club once the refurbishment is complete is to increase the activity within the four walls. We will have a first class facility capable of hosting a list of endless activities not restricted to the playing of bowls. We will be a true community and entertainment venue, capable of catering for any group of nearly any need ranging from 10 to 250 people.

This is where you, the member are our biggest asset. Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your workmates; bring them along and show them your club. They certainly do not need to be interested in playing bowls to have a good time at Onehunga.

Chris Le Lievre
BOWLS COORDINATOR