

Southern Tasmanian Bowls Association Inc.

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January 2015

NEWSLETTER TO ALL CLUBS

A. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

On behalf of the President, Leigh McAdam, and the Board of Directors of Bowls Tasmania South, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a great and prosperous 2015. Thank you for all your support in 2014 and we look forward to working with you all in 2015.

B. NEW WORLD BOWLS RULES

New Laws of the Sport of Bowls have come into effect from 1 January 2015. There are four main changes which will most affect Australian bowlers. The Laws have been reorganised and renumbered – with the aim to follow the progression of the game. Before delivery a player must be standing on the mat with all or part of at least one foot on the mat. At the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl, the player must have all or part of one foot on or above the mat. For domestic play, Bowls Australia can approve regulations that provide for a team with one player short to play less bowls – e.g. in fours play the team short plays six bowls (lead, third and skip) against eight bowls – but with no reduction in that team's score. Bowls Australia can also approve regulations transferring the keeping of the score card from the skip to the second of each team. Full details of all changes are available on the Bowls Australia website. A new edition of the "Laws of the Sport of Bowls" is currently being printed and copies will be available at the Hobart Bowls Centre for purchase in the New Year. BTS Conditions of Play will be amended where necessary to incorporate the new laws.

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C. TASMANIAN JUNIOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bowls Tasmania Tasmanian Junior Fours, Pairs and Singles Championships for boys and girls under 18 years old will be held at the Buckingham Bowls Club from 11 – 15 January 2015. Please go along and see the next generation of bowlers in action – there should be some great bowls over the week.

D. SATURDAY PENNANT DOUBLE HEADER

A Saturday Pennant double header is scheduled this season for Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1 February 2015. This double header is necessary to ensure our pennant season is finished in time for winning clubs to participate in State Finals and takes into account that some players prefer to keep long weekends free. The Bowls Tasmania South Board has agreed that clubs be allowed to play the game scheduled for Sunday 1 February 2015 on Saturday 24 January 2015, when no pennant is scheduled due to the long weekend subject to the following conditions.

- Only the game scheduled for Sunday 1 February 2015 can be brought forward to Saturday 24 January 2015.
- Games in individual divisions can be changed, it is not necessary that all games for a club be changed.
- Games can only be brought forward with the agreement of both clubs involved in the game.
- Clubs should consult with members and only seek to bring forward the game if all usual players in that division agree.
- If a game in a particular division is brought forward, players who play in that game cannot play in any other division on Sunday 1 February 2015 for games not brought forward from that date.
- If clubs agree to bring forward the 1 February 2015 game to Saturday 24 January 2015 and that game is washed out, it cannot be rescheduled to 1 February 2015 i.e. clubs will share points from the game.
- If clubs cannot reach agreement then games will be played as scheduled on Sunday 1 February 2015.

This may benefit some clubs, particularly clubs with older members who may struggle to play pennant on consecutive days. If you wish to take advantage of this option, you should firstly discuss it with your members and then make contact with your scheduled opponent. BTS has sent a form to Clubs which must be completed by both clubs if games are to be changed. Completed forms should be returned to BTS by 22 January 2015.

The logo for 'Love this bowls' features the words 'Love this bowls' in a colorful, handwritten-style font. 'Love' is in red, 'this' is in blue, and 'bowls' is in blue with a yellow outline. The letters are slightly slanted and have a casual, friendly appearance.

E. SMOKING ON THE GREENS

Clubs are reminded that smoking within 20 metres of greens and seating areas beside greens is not permitted during Bowls Tasmania South championships or pennant competitions. The smoke-free area will apply during the games and for the period 30 minutes before and after the competitions. Clubs are responsible for providing designated smoking areas.

It is still apparent that not all Clubs in Southern Tasmania are following the new laws. Please note that the new laws provide powers to fine offenders if they smoke in a smoke-free area. Clubs also risk on-the-spot fines or prosecution if they allow a person to smoke in a smoke-free area.

F. DJ MOTORS SPONSORSHIP OF BAREFOOT BOWLS

Bowls Tasmania South is extremely pleased to announce that DJ Motors has increased its sponsorship of BTS for the 2014-15 to include sponsorship of any individual Clubs Barefoot Bowls competitions that elect to take up such sponsorships as well as a new end-of-season championship to determine the Barefoot Bowls Champion of Champion team for 2014-15.

G. POOR BEHAVIOUS AND LANGUAGE:

Bowls Tasmania South is concerned that the behaviour and language of some players at BTS Championships and Pennant is unacceptable. Swearing, over-exuberant celebrations and encouragement of team-mates, unbecoming conduct or any other behaviour that brings the game of bowls into disrepute will not be tolerated in future. Action will be taken by the BTS Board against any players undertaking any such behaviour.

H. SINGLES CHAMPION OF CHAMPION EVENTS:

Bowls Tasmania South Champion of Champions events will be played as follows:

- Women's 4 - 6 March 2015.
- Men's 16 - 20 March 2015.

It is requested that Clubs schedule their Singles Championships to finish prior to commencement of the BTS Champion of Champions events to enable your Club Champions to participate in the BTS events.

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I. APPLICATIONS – BOWLS TASMANIA COACHING POSITIONS:

Bowls Tasmania is now calling for applications for Open Coaches (Men's and Women's) and Junior Coaches (Under 18). BTAS requires two coaches that have appropriate, current, qualifications for the Men's and Women's teams. These teams will be travelling to Perth for the Australian Sides Championships on 7 April 2015. BTAS also require two coaches that have appropriate, current, qualifications for the Boys U18 and Girls U18 teams. These teams will be travelling to Canberra for the Australian U18 Championships in September 2015. Appointed coaches must have completed the new Working with Children check that is now mandatory in Tasmania.

A BTAS Selection Policy is available on the BTAS website for reference. Within it, are the duties and responsibilities required of a BTAS State Coach as well as an indication of the commitment required. All application are to be submitted by email to Bowls Tasmania. Applications close 5pm on Friday 23 January 2015.

J. APPLICATIONS – BOWLS TASMANIA SELECTOR POSITIONS:

Bowls Tasmania is also calling for applications for selectors for the Juniors. BTAS requires three selectors that have appropriate, current, qualifications for the Boys U18 and Girls U18 teams. These teams will be travelling to Canberra for the Australian U18 Championships in September 2015. Appointed coaches must have completed the new Working with Children check that is now mandatory in Tasmania.

A BTAS Selection Policy is available on the BTAS website for reference. Within it, are the duties and responsibilities required of a BTAS State Selector as well as an indication of the commitment required. All application are to be submitted by email to Bowls Tasmania. Applications close 5pm on Friday 23 January 2015.

K. AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY SPORT – TASMANIAN DISABILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Bowls Tasmania has announced its continued corporate partnership with Australian Disability Sport with the staging of the Tasmanian Disability Championships with separate divisions for hearing, vision, intellectual and physical impairment. The Tasmanian Disability Championships will be held at the West Launceston Bowls Club on 24 and 25 January 2015 with entries closing on Friday 14 January 2015.



L. USE OF COACHES

Some concerns have been raised about the use of coaches for BTS Pennant and BTS Championships. The now outdated Laws of the Sport of Bowls – Law 57 permitted a manager or coach of a player, team or side to give advice during play provided that the umpire is given the name of the manager or coach before the game starts, only one person can give advice at any one time and the person giving the advice does so from outside the boundaries of the green. The new Laws which came into effect from 1 January 2015 change this law to provide that only a coach can give advice and only when their team or side is in possession of the rink. The remainder of the Law remains the same.

M. AUSTRALIAN INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bowls Tasmania has appointed Kingborough Bowls Club as the host venue for the Tasmanian finals of the Australian Indoor Singles Championship for 2015, 2016, and 2017. Congratulations to Kingborough who put in an extremely professional application to BTAS.

N. BOWLS AUSTRALIA LOGO

Bowls Tasmania South is concerned that some players are not conforming to Bowls Australia policies in regard to wearing of approved clothing whilst playing pennant and in competitions. The BA Logo Policy requires that all attire worn in BA sanctioned pennant and above level events must carry the BA logo. The BA logo may appear in its traditional green and gold colouring, in a single colour “tone on tone” where the BA logo is the same colour as the base of the garment or in a single “colour matched” version where the logo is the same colour as a contrasting tone in the garment. For side competitions at pennant and above level bowlers must be attired in the same club, state or representative shirt in respect to image and colour of the shirt (these garments are referred to as team wear). For all other events there is no requirement for teams to be similarly attired and participants can wear a combination of team wear and/ or non-team wear. Clothing identified as “on replacement” (such as wet weather gear) is not required to display the BA logo until it has reached the end of its life, however, when it is replaced it should be replaced with a BA licensed garment displaying the BA logo. Bowlers are requested to adhere to the BA policies at all times when playing BTS pennant and in BTS competitions and above.



O. INCREASE IN CLEARANCE FEES

Please note that clearance fees were increased to \$10 on 1 October 2014 by Bowls Tasmania. Interstate clearance fees remain at \$20. Responsibility for collecting the clearance fee rests with the Club that players are transferring to.

P. JUNIOR JACK ATTACK KITS

Bowls Tasmania South has invested in an exciting new participation product, called Junior Jack Attack, aimed at bringing the sport of bowls to kids in Southern Tasmania. Junior Jack Attack is designed to enable kids to participate in an engaging format of bowls which is both fun and inclusive. Importantly, it can be conducted on a range of surfaces, including greens, carpets, concrete, wooden floors and just about anything else that is flat, which removes the restrictions of requiring a bowling green to introduce new audiences to the sport. It provides an opportunity for every child to play and compete.

BTS has purchased several Junior Jack Attack Kits which are available free of charge to clubs and schools in Southern Tasmania although Clubs will be responsible if any damage is done to the kits whilst being used by Clubs. The Junior Jack Attack Kits are being stored at the Hobart Bowls Centre. If you want to borrow them please contact the BTS Secretary.

Q. SATURDAY PENNANT ACTION GROUP

A Saturday Pennant Action Group was recently established as a consequence of the Bowls Tasmania South decision to establish non-gender specific Saturday Pennant in 2014-15. The Group is made up of representatives of up to ten clubs who attended a meeting at the Black Buffalo Hotel and is pressing for a return to the previous Saturday format of conducting both a Men's Pennant and a Mixed Pennant. The Group has approached clubs with a survey seeking views of members as to their preferences for the 2015-16 season. The Saturday Pennant Action Group has not approached BTS and its activities including the survey are not condoned by the BTS Board. The BTS Board has already agreed that non-gender specific pennant will be reviewed at the end of the season.

Rob McGuire
Secretary
Bowls Tasmania South

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