

BOWLING NUMBERS ON THE UP

An important objective of the BCC-Z15 Executive is to increase the number of bowlers participating in competition play and to encourage the involvement of experienced bowlers with enthusiastic new bowlers. One initiative has been to offer free entry in the 2017 Zone Championship events to those bowlers who have taken up bowls since 1 January 2015 and extend that offer to free entry to the team that includes one or more of those new bowlers. The draws for the State Fours and President Reserve Fours are out and we can report that we are off to a promising start in 2017. There was a total entry list of 69 teams – which is up from 53 last year and an additional 64 bowlers are participating in the Fours Championships. That is a 30 % increase on last year and an absolutely fantastic start to the new year. Furthermore, 15 of the additional 16 teams are taking advantage of the free entry.



The other piece of good news is that whilst Pennant player numbers are down in most Zones, entries in the Central Coast Pennant competition are up from 94 sides last year to 96 sides in 2017. That is a significant increase and an encouraging commitment at club level when overall membership numbers are still in decline.

It is important that we continue to encourage our new bowlers to experience the cut and thrust of competition play and we cannot overlook the important role of clubs in encouraging new bowlers to participate in Club championship events. Let's make 2017 a year of getting more players back into competition play.