

Reflections for a new year

Submitted By Ian Tyzzer & Anna Mees

With one month of the New Year behind us, it seems appropriate to both reflect on accomplishments and to look forward to opportunities.

We are in a different era of doing business with a new national Not-For-Profit Act and changed criteria defining how our funding partner Sport Canada will recognize national sports.



Last year was not without its trials. Declining membership, staff changes, governance transitions, not meeting Sport Canada's new definition of a national sport due to gaps in high performance programming, and being flagged by Canada's Department of Official Languages for non-compliance to bilingualism standards were among those trials that tested the mettle of our organization.

Despite this adversity, the BCB Board and office staff worked hard on behalf of the membership to position the organization to better meet the challenges of this new world.

2014 brings many exciting opportunities. Paramount on the world stage will be the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Closer to home, BCB has already begun work to start the new year off with a bang.

It is clear that 2014 will not be without its challenges. However, we take heart in knowing that the warning shots fired across our bow in 2013 will have served to better prepare us to adapt and grow. We know the strength of any national organization is its people and it is clear that the membership of BCB has a considerable depth of expertise and skill. By working together we can create the path that will lead us to success in 2014 and beyond.

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Canada will look to build on its recent success with some key tournaments coming up, including the Commonwealth Games.

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Milestone Celebration

The Port Credit LBC celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year!

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2014 & 2015 Championship dates

Bowls Canada is pleased to announce the dates for the various BCB championships not only for 2014, but for 2015 as well. This will allow you the athlete to better plan your schedule for each of the various playdowns.



2013 Men's Singles Semi-Finalists before they faced off in Regina.

2014

EVENT	DATES	CLUB/LOCATION
Singles	June 19-25, 2014	Commonwealth LBC (Alberta)
Junior/Under 25	August 4-11, 2014	Etobicoke LBC (Ontario)
Canadian Championships	August 16-24, 2014	Norwood & St. James LBC's (Manitoba)
Senior Triples	August 30-September 6, 2014	Westmount (Quebec)
Mixed Pairs	September 8-13, 2014	Parksville LBC (BC)

2015

EVENT	DATES	CLUB/LOCATION
Singles	June 21-27, 2015	Location TBD
Junior/Under 25	August 3-10, 2015	Saskatchewan
Canadian Championships	August 17-22, 2015	Ontario
Senior Triples	August 27-September 2, 2015	British Columbia
Mixed Pairs	September 7-12, 2015	New Brunswick

BCB Championship Review Summary

Upon conclusion of the 2013 Bowls Canada Championships events, BCB sent out a Championship Survey to see what you, the bowlers, had to say about the direction of these events.

Each province responded to this survey with Ontario coming back with the most responses (51 of 155 for 32%). They were followed by Alberta (15%) and BC (12%). The first surprising result came from the demographic. 49% of responses received came from bowlers aged 60 years or older. This was followed by bowlers aged 40-59 which had 32%.

Other results were as followed:

- 61% of respondents stated the reason they attend a National Event is to win a gold medal.
- 46% of respondents stated that they would like to see an Opening Meet and Greet at the beginning and a Closing Banquet at the end of the event (I.e.: Vancouver 2013)
- 73% of respondents stated that they would like BCB to return to using medals
- 58% of respondents stated they enjoyed the Live Streaming and would like to see it continued
- 73% of respondents stated that they prefer NOT to have all medal games played simultaneously

On behalf of everyone at BCB, we would like to thank each and every one of you that took part in this survey. It is because of all of you that we intend to make our Championships bigger and better moving forward.

HIGH PERFORMANCE UPDATE

One of the biggest events that our sport has is the Commonwealth Games. This year's games will be held in Glasgow Scotland at the Kelvingrove Lawn Bowls Centre. The games will be held from July 23 to August 3, 2014.

In preparation for this event, Bowls Canada will be holding a training and selection camp in Sarasota, Florida at the Sarasota Lawn Bowls Club.

Another event coming up for Canada is the annual Tiger Bowls and China Tour held yearly in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China. The squad consists of some highly skilled veterans as well as some up and comers to the international stage. The team consists of Mary Ann Beath, Mary Wright, Priscilla Westlake and Jaymee Sidel on the women's side, with Michel Larue, Pat Bird, Jesse Caldwell and Alex LeBlanc representing the Men.

Leading the way for Canada is the new Head Coach David Mathie. Mathie, who had held the interim title for the last year is no stranger to International Events, as he has lead Canada at North American Challenges, Test Matches and other prestigious events.

Not only does the Canadian team boast a new coach, but several new players as well. These players each bring something different to the game and are welcome additions to the National Team Squad. Joining the women's squad will be Leanne Chinery of Bayview, Auckland New Zealand Pricilla Westlake of Delta, BC, and Mary Wright of Surrey BC. The men's squad will be joined by Jake Schuknecht of Chesley, Ontario, Jeff Harding of Etobicoke, Ontario, and Kevin Jones of London, Ontario.



Canadian Men's Triples team of Steve McKerihen, George Whitelaw and Chris Stadnyk captured a bronze medal at the Eight Nations Commonwealth Invitational Championships in Scotland.

DID YOU KNOW???

CANADA HAS NEVER WON A COMMONWEALTH GAMES GOLD MEDAL. CANADA HAS WON 8 SILVERS & 3 BRONZE.

FUN FACT

LAST COMMONWEALTH GAMES MEDAL CAME IN 2006 WHEN RYAN BESTER WON A BRONZE MEDAL IN MENS SINGLES.

National Planning Summit

Bowls Canada is pleased to announce its first ever National Planning Summit that will be held in Toronto, Ontario from March 21-23, 2014. BCB has invited representatives from all over North America to help plan the future of bowls in Canada. Together we will bring the sport of Lawn Bowls to levels it has never seen before.



Meet the New BCB Board of Directors

Bowls Canada has elected three new members to the Board of Directors and their fresh ideas are expected to enable BCB to further enhance its mission in 2014. The new members are Pat Vos, Alberta, Secretary; Rosalie Parsons-Brown, Quebec, Treasurer and Mary Wright, British Columbia, Director at Large.

To help get to know the members a little better, Extra Ends editor Kevin Ferguson sat down with Pat and Mary to talk about what they plan on bringing to the table. We will sit down with Rosalie in our next issue.



Pat Vos, Secretary

Extra Ends: Why were you interested in joining the BCB Board?

Vos: My passion for the sport, along with recognition of a need for a number of new board members at a crucial time in BCB's continued development of their new governance model. Ian's and Anna's encouragement helped as well!

Wright: I have always been an active member at club level and have been fortunate to compete in many Provincial and National competitions. I became interested in the administration side of the sport and I felt I could contribute at the National level.

Extra Ends: How many years have you bowled?

Vos: I have bowled for six years and belong to the Commonwealth Lawn Bowling Club in Edmonton.

Wright: Fourteen years in the White Rock Club.

Extra Ends: What would you consider to be your greatest bowls achievement?

Vos: Earning the privilege of representing Alberta at the Mixed Pairs championship in my third year of bowling. I'll always fondly remember the days spent at the beautiful White Rock Lawn Bowling Club and the great hospitality shown by their members to make it a very memorable week.

Wright: I have played in many Nationals, but by far my greatest bowling achievement was representing Canada at the Indoor Singles in Australia in 2010.



Mary Wright, Director at Large

Extra Ends: What is an interesting non-bowls related fact that people may not know about you?

Vos: I lived in Ottawa for 17 years. I took a PE (physical education) class to the Nepean Lawn Bowling club once and still never got into the sport myself until more than 10 years later.

Wright: An interesting fact is that I was a member of the Vancouver Gaelic Choir.

Extra Ends: What is your vision for Bowls Canada?

Vos: I hope to see Bowls Canada become a well organized, well funded, sponsored national sports association that supports and encourages its provincial member associations and their clubs across Canada, so that the sport grows in popularity for people from nine through 90! I'm excited to be a part of a board that wishes to see a continuous improvement of our national competitions, along with the introduction of a classy international competition someday soon, along with solid support for top Canadians to succeed in international play.

Wright: My vision for Bowls Canada is one where there is a strong relationship between the average club bowler and the National Association; where every club member is aware of the work the Association is doing in the promotion and development of the sport in Canada and feels proud to be a part of it.

The Port Credit Lawn Bowling Club Looking Forward to its Centennial Next Year

The Port Credit Lawn Bowling Club will be proudly celebrating its centennial in 2014. There is no shortage of energy at the club as it is getting ready for and looking forward to this special milestone year. This energy is being driven by a 100th Anniversary Committee, organized in 2011, by Chair, Fran Todd, with the following goal in mind: "Through teamwork, create a very special anniversary year for our club and its members".

With such a clear objective, the anniversary committee, supported by some 40 volunteers, has been abuzz with preparations for next year's celebrations.



(100th Anniversary Committee: Left to right, Eldon McFadyen, Club President Jackie Tjelios, Anna Carr, Blair Munshaw, Gordon Kerr, Frank Schneider, Fran Todd)

"Preparing for our centennial!"

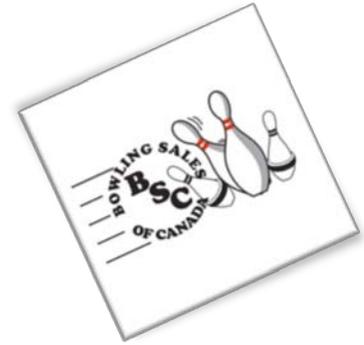
Among its activities, the committee has already created a special centennial club pin and a centennial logo which it hopes to use on merchandise that will be available for sale to its members. The committee has already used these brands on a new anniversary-themed club letterhead that can be used by Port Credit for years to come.

These special brands are also being used on 2013 club posters to help get the membership "in the mood" for next year. An "anniversary wall" has been created within the club house to keep everyone up to date on plans and activities.

The membership is truly getting "in the mood" as they continuously provide their generous support of a variety of club-sanctioned fund raisers.

Beginning with an Opening Day centennial celebration, the 2014 season will be filled with anniversary-themed events that the committee is planning. Among these events, Port Credit is very proud to have been selected as the host site for the 2014 Provincial Mixed Pairs Championship. During its very special milestone year, the club is looking forward to welcoming district winning mixed bowlers from across Ontario.

Port Credit is indeed "preparing for its centennial" and is looking forward to "celebrating its centennial" in 2014.



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