**Library Newsletter September 2025**

( 1 )  The recent Pacific Coast Open run by PIBC enjoyed good support and live streaming of most of the matches: it is considered a well-run event which raised the profile of our sport in Canada. If you missed the live streaming, you can watch it any time on Youtube.

The Open Singles final game was between the Canadian Team member Joanna Cooper (AB) and BC veteran player Jim Aitken. Both had good shots especially Joanna who showed her strength all through the game. She pulled out brilliant shots at the tie-break ends and deserved to win the trophy.

[youtube.com/watch?v=opANmYQKnNM&t=830s](http://youtube.com/watch?v=opANmYQKnNM&t=830s)

( 2 )  I enjoyed watching the  Pacific Coast Mixed Pairs games even more, as there were a lot of interesting combinations. The Final was between the renowned Canadian Team member Pat Bird with his partner Serena Mathews and our BC players James Chen and Anita Lee who we are more familiar with. They all entertained us with good shots. James showed his ability with various skills, while Anita gave him the perfect support a good lead can provide. Yet Pat Bird pulled out some brilliant draw shots at crucial stages in the match to win.

Both Joanna Cooper and Pat Bird have been selected to represent Canada to play in the Hong Kong Classics in November. The other two are Jon MacDonald and Linda Ng. We wish them all the best in this prestigious tournament.

[youtube.com/watch?v=Ywe3owXR6rM&t=46s](http://youtube.com/watch?v=Ywe3owXR6rM&t=46s)

Another Mixed Pairs game I found interesting was the game on Matchday 1, with veteran BC player Vincent Mai pairing up with Canadian Team member Jordan Kos against two young BC players in Nathaniel Hui and Gillian Poon.

Please compare the bowling styles of Pat Bird and Vincent Mia. As high-level players, they are all equipped with a full range of skills such as draw shots, conversion shots or drive shots - the difference is their choice of strategy. Pat tends to play drawing to save the head, while Vince believes in his drive shot more. Both choices have their reasons, and it's interesting to see how they work out.

As usual, Vincent delivered beautiful heavy shots. But it is amazing to see how Gillian Poon consistently laid her first 2 bowls right on the jack in the centre line which made a very small target for drive shots. Maybe this is the reason why lawn bowling is so attractive - you can beat anyone if you are on fire at that moment.

[youtube.com/watch?v=z9lc0cLoiOo&t=3679s](http://youtube.com/watch?v=z9lc0cLoiOo&t=3679s)

( 3 )  The 2025 World Bowls Singles Champion of Champions will start from 20 -25 September in Australia. There will be 64 contenders from 33 countries competing for the title. The winners of 2024 Canadian National men's and women's singles Owen Kirby and Betty Van Walleyhem will be Canadian representatives.

Who is the Scottish representative? This year, 41-yr-old Iain McLean made a record in being the Scottish National men's singles champion for the fourth time. Let's watch his final game against Steven Fleming.

[youtube.com/watch?v=idkgLpIy\_tY](http://youtube.com/watch?v=idkgLpIy_tY)

( 4 )  How about England? Please watch the 2025 Aviva National Bowls men's singles final. It is a good game to watch. It is a pity that we have only the highlights.  I always like the atmosphere of the English National Championships. The whole venue is packed with enthusiastic spectators. Everyone is having a good time and how I hope that I can one day be part of them.

This singles Final is interesting. Here we have one player reaching 20 points, needing one more to end the game, and the opponent catching up from 10 points to 19 to make the game so exciting.

[youtube.com/watch?v=VVU2lkewym0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=VVU2lkewym0)

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