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                          2023 December Library Newsletter

( A )  The December issue of "Bowls International" magazine is out. There are two articles which may be of interest to you.

( 1 )  This month, John Rednall hands his column to daughter Katherine to share her 'behind the scenes' perspective of her success at the World Bowls Championships. Katherine, the triple times World Indoor Bowls women's singles champion brought home a bronze medal for England.

Just like those who come to play in Australia for the first time, she found it was difficult to adjust to the fast green with windy weather. After a lot of practice with team members and playing some test matches against other countries such as New Zealand, things started to come together and she could play with confidence.

Katherine favours playing singles as she sees the advantage of playing four bowls, a continuous rhythm, maximum green time and complete control of her own fate.

After playing singles in this Championships, she brings up something for discussion. In the northern hemisphere, bowlers are not accustomed to having a coach, whereas duos such as Ellen Ryan and coach Karen Murphy know each other's game inside out and it can sometimes look like they are almost playing pairs. When you are used to working this way, it comes naturally, when you are not it can completely change the dynamics of a singles player's game. Katherine finds it unnatural to speak during a game of singles let alone to discuss shots which she feels instinctive of and can break her rhythm. But this time, she has to give thanks to Sandy Hazell who discussed with her when needed and she felt comfortable to receive Sandy's support and input. So, it's not a bad idea that if you can find the right pairing of coach and player, a successful team is formed.

She totally enjoyed the experience of this trip. Not only the competition itself, the social side of bowls is one that creates friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

( 2 )  At the beginning of an indoor bowls season, we commit to competitions, leagues, tournaments, club games and perhaps the occasional game of social bowls. Tony Allcock in his coaching column writes about essential player maintenance in order to produce consistency and success.

-  Technical Requirements

Experienced bowlers would recommend that what the player needs to do on a fast green is to reduce the body weight on and over the bowl. There is one simple and effective way in which smaller steps, shorter backswing and control of body weight over the bowl is achieved by thinking SLOW. This doesn't happen naturally. You have to take time to recognise your delivery and learn to adjust.

-  Aim and Target

Aiming is key to our sport. Some outdoor greens enable the aiming point and the jack too close

together, so players become lazy and complacent with regards to aiming. There are several methods which are used  to identify the required line. Indoor bowls demand this is taken seriously. Another advice is  that at the very start of any playing season, keep all things simple and exercise familiarity with the draw shots before playing the 'smart' shots.

-  The Grip

Having identified that delivery is one of the major considerations, equal will be the grip. Grips change frequently as the player continues through the various stages of their playing career. The lower the thumb the lower the bowl sits in the hand and the more powerful the grip is. The grip  will change frequently and whenever there is a change this results in a difference.

( B )  Bowling videos

( 1 )  From outdoor to indoor, we all draw our attention to the coming yearly big event - the World Indoor Bowling Championships at Potters resort. Prior to it is the Scottish International Open Singles which comprises the seeded top players and qualifiers from different countries around the world.

This event concluded last month. Lots of familiar faces and we always enjoy watching their good games when they play against each other and at the same time we are curious to see how they meet the challenge of playing against those qualifiers with high level bowling skills. You never know the outcome. In the last World Bowls Indoor Singles Championships at Potters, it was the first time in history that two qualifiers came out to be the finalists.

Before we know who will be the new World Bowls Indoor singles champion, let's watch who is the winner of the Scottish Indoor Open.

The final game was between the defending champion Stewart Anderson and the current world indoor singles champion Jimmy Walker.

Anderson is one of my favourite bowlers. His inch-perfect drawing shots always fascinate me.  He played like a man possessed in the final - beating Walker in a comfortable way , and successfully defended his Scottish International Open crown for the third time.

[m.youtube.com/watch?v=ldc5Mhlq4x8](http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ldc5Mhlq4x8)

( 2 )  If you are interested in watching good indoor games, you can search You tube for more videos of the Scottish International Open. The game between Nick Brett and Jason Banks is very interesting. Nick played well, and was so disappointed to lose the game by Banks's one good shot in the last end of the second set.

Also, I am quite impressed to watch two young qualifiers - Connor Biddle and David Motu.

Connor is 27-years-old Australian qualifier. He started bowling at 7. This time, he must have learned a good lesson as his opponent was Paul Foster.

David Motu from New Zealand is only 16-yr-old. He comes from a rich sporting family and was born with a hole in his heart. I love his smooth and consistent delivery and this time, he won a lot of admiration as he nearly won the first set playing against the top guy - Stewart Anderson. In the last three ends of the first set, Motu was ahead by 2 points. With determination and confidence, Anderson showed he could manage the runners as well as his impeccable draw shots to prove that he deserved to win the title.

m.[youtube.com/watch?v=HY0hKBpPOvM](http://youtube.com/watch?v=HY0hKBpPOvM)

( 3 )  After an absence of four years due to social unrest and COVID-19 pandemic, the Hong Kong International Bowls Classic was finally returned to the world circuit last month.

Let's watch the men's single final game between Mark Wilson from Ireland and Izzat Shameer from Malaysia.

The commentators of this video are Chinese who gave lots of good information.

39-year-old Wilson started playing bowls when he was 16. He is familiar with the Hong Kong Classic as he played in 2014 and 2015 and his previous achievement in the Singles was a quarter finalist. He played with 'Tiger' bowls.

Izzat is Malaysia's star bowler. ( He and his partner Hizlee Rais won the men's Pairs title later.)

He played with more narrow running 'X-G' bowls.

Nowadays, players have lots of choices in picking up their preference in different running bowls. Honestly speaking, some bowls can cope better on certain surfaces of greens. This time, the quality of greens was affected by the worst flush flooding affecting Hong Kong in September and a subsequent typhoon in October, making it a bit tricky to play on. Who can adjust better would be the winner. Mark Wilson dominated the game by playing a lot of good shots.

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

( 4 )  In the Hong Kong International Open Men's Pairs men's final, the Malaysian players adjusted to the green well and defeated New Zealand.

Maybe the Hong Kong women players had the advantage of being familiar with the green. Both finalists were local players.

Let's watch the Women's Pairs final game. England's World U25 champion Nicole Rogers and British Isles champion Harriet Stevens faced Scotland's British singles champion Dee Hoggen and British Isles Junior singles champion Rachel Sinclair.

[m.youtube.com/watch?v=0oj7wHtmUyg](http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0oj7wHtmUyg)

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