

May 26, 2019



National Tournament Managers Report:

Well it's that time of the year, where it is the opportunity to review the past twelve months in regards to Tournament bowling within New Zealand, especially with the events that TBNZ holds. There have been a number of changes to our events over the past year. Whether that has been form of policy amendments, format alterations, the Tournament landscape has definitely changed. Is it for the better? Time will only tell, but like most things, give it time.

There have been undoubtedly a number of highlights over the past year, starting with the Open Nationals from last year, where 122 bowlers took part in the tournament at Manukau Superstrike. The Open Nationals has a long history of producing 1st time winners, especially in the Graded division, last year was no exception with local Judith Devine taking out the honours. The Open Champions were James Kelly & Angela Boswell.

There has been an obvious turning of the tide with the National Teams events if recent results are anything to go by, especially with the NTC & NYTC. North City have broken the Auckland based centres dominance with victory in NYTC in 2018, after previous winners were Auckland, Waitakere, Manukau, North Harbour and Westgate. This has then morphed onto the NTC this past Easter, with North City Lightning tying for the title this year with the Counties Comets. With the Senior Teams the next event on the TBNZ tournament schedule. There is a distinct possibility that North City could hold all three titles for a 'calendar slam', something that any centre has yet to achieve over the past six years. They will be looking to dethrone Wellington and Manukau's stranglehold at this tournament. On the subject of the NSTC, there could also be a record number of centres participating at this year's event to be held at Tenpin Tauranga in August, with up to twelve teams indicating their interest to take part. Early indications too, that the NYTC could see a record number of teams entering this year's event at Manukau.

However, the NTC seems to be on the decline with ten teams participating at this year's tournament, but representing only five centres. Is it time for a format or concept change for this event? This needs to have a serious 'think tank' session to see what direction this event needs to take in moving forward what's in the best interests for all parties, bowlers and host centres alike.

It's always refreshing when new teams enter an event, but nothing is more rewarding than seeing the smaller centres taking part in these team's events. Over the years we have seen the introduction of Westgate & Kapiti at the Youth Teams and Wairarapa at the NTC. Last year, after an absence of nearly 25 years from any Regional team tournaments, Hawkes Bay have made a welcome return too. Not only did they host the Youth Nationals, they have returned to the 'Regionals' for the first time since 1994 and soon to be taking part in the Senior Teams for the first time as well.

While bowling tournaments seem to have stagnated in the South Island for a various number of reasons, with only the Canterbury Open seeming to be held annually now. It would be great to see those other traditional events back on the calendar in the future. I will endeavour to assist with this to happen wherever I can. What is fantastic to see at this year's Nationals, is the number of Canterbury bowlers who have made the trek north with nearly twenty here this weekend. With a number of bowlers competing for the first time.

It is also pleasing to see the number of centres that are attempting to hold 'stand alone' Junior/Youth tournaments on this year's calendar. This is a great way for this age group to have their own 'bowling tour' and hopefully it will be as successful as the Senior tour has become. As this is an age group that needs to be fostered and is the responsibility TBNZ along with the centres to ensure this does happen.

However what has become disappointing over recent times is the continuous chasing up of competitors to pay their entry fees, especially for the Nationals. Hopefully this will improve in the future.

Many thanks to those centres who have hosted events over the past year and the continual support of all the sponsor centres, it is surely appreciated. Thank you all those who have assisted at tournaments, especially to Ian Klein for all his work with scoring at the events.

In looking towards the future, there are still a number of aspects of our sport that requires work, but those issues are needed to be discussed in another forum. Good luck to all athletes competing this weekend.

Regards

Pete Richardson

National Tournament Manager