

Inside Bowls Magazine Library Newsletter

(A) The July edition of Inside Bowls Magazine is now online.

<https://www.insidebowlsmag.com/july22/index.html> for all the latest news and information from around the world.

(1) The July edition of "Bowls International" magazine is also out. Obviously, the core content is about the coming Commonwealth Games which will start from July 28 to August 8. The supplement features a preview by David Rhys Jones, Commonwealth memories from columnists Allan Thornhill, John Rednall, David Corkill and Sian Honnor and some of the Birmingham 2022 players tell us what it means to be selected to represent their country.

It is interesting to know that it's a Canadian who started the idea. Bobby Robinson, a sportswriter, who was manager of the Canadian track and field team at the summer Olympics in Amsterdam in 1928. When he returned home, he campaigned for a similar event for the British Empire and he was given the task of organising it in Hamilton. There were only six sports involved which included athletics, boxing, lawn bowls, rowing, swimming and wrestling. The first Games - then known as the British Empire Games - staged in Hamilton, Ontario in 1930.

Just 11 countries were represented, and 398 competitors across the six sports took part - a far cry from the numbers involved on Australia's Gold Coast 4 years ago, when 4,426 athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations competed across 18 sports.

Trace back history. Bowls was born in Europe. It became popular in Britain. But it was exported to far-flung Commonwealth countries and soon became just as popular in places like Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and South Africa. Who is the best? Competition is always intense, and there are splendid rivalries between the different countries. When we look at the players name list, a lot of them are hot shots for medals. But we can expect the four home countries to do well.

(2) It is always amazing to watch para bowlers play the game. Bob Love is regarded as one of the best in the world. The article "International retirement for Bob Love" tells you more about him as a 'wonder' man.

Bob was born without hands. He was given prosthetic arms as a child, but found them too heavy and has taught himself of coping without his upper limbs.

He loves sports. Over the years, he has competed internationally at athletics and swimming, and nationally at table tennis and archery. For table tennis and archery, he used his mouth by seeking help from a dentist to produce a mouthpiece with which to hold and use a bat.

He turned to bowls when he felt he was too old to continue with those sports. He played short mat games to begin with and then tried long mat games.

Bob uses two different techniques indoor and out. Indoor, with bare feet, he 'pushes' the bowl along the chosen line. Outdoor, where the greens are heavier, he lifts the bowl with his right foot on to the top of his left foot, and swings his leg, delivering the bowl along the line to the jack. If you haven't seen Bob bowl, you'd better believe it - he does so with unbelievable accuracy, finding the right line almost every time.

His first international bowls event was the IPC World Championships in 1990 in Birmingham where he won one gold medal, two silver medals and one bronze medal. He also competed at the Paralympic Games in 1996 and won a Bronze medal in the paratriples event at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

Bob recently captained England to success in the parahome nations event and announced his intention of retirement.

Let's watch a clip of the paratriples game in Glasgow.

youtube.com/watch?v=iBimngAjLLQ

(3) David Rhys Jones interviews a special bowler who is well known in the British bowling community. The article's title "John Rednall - Bowls legend 'Born to Lead'" summarizes the point.

John comes from a bowling family. He first played bowls at 4 or 5 with his mom on the living room carpet. Then later played on the front lawn with his grandmother's bowls. He joined the club at 14. He showed his talent as in his second year at the club, he won the club singles beating a former England international in the final. Later, his consistently inch-perfect play at lead helped him to be selected to play in home international series. All these years, he has made 101 appearances for his country and is regarded as one of the best leads in the game. He has been playing in World Bowls and Commonwealth Games as lead. With such uncanny drawing ability, he is also very successful as a Singles player, winning Suffolk county singles title nine times indoor and four times outdoors, and his club two-wood singles title 24 times.

John is also a gifted musician, a pianist and composer. During lock down, he produced a music album to raise money for the hospital. He is also a marathon man. It all started 17 years ago when his teaching colleague and good friend had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He joined the marathon to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Charity. Since then, his love of running grew and to date he has completed numerous marathon runs.

Back to the bowls, he is a dedicated and inspirational coach.

Though John is retired, another distinguished young Rednall is carrying on the name - his daughter Katherine Rednall.

(B) Let's watch some good Singles games.

(1) This is a very good game between two elite players: Kelsey Cottrell and Zalina Ahmad. Kelsey is Australia's top woman bowler and Zalina is the best example of well-coached methodical Malaysian who has won the Commonwealth Games women's singles gold medal twice.

Playing to 25 points and burnt ends replay, this game lasts for nearly 3 hours. It is interesting to see who finally wins the game. Coming to the final stage, may be a wrong choice of what shots to play makes a difference in the result.

m.youtube.com/watch?v=PWKvy_wQRgY

(2) It seems so easy for those good bowlers to roll their bowls right on the jack. Smooth and consistent delivery with a good line and weight can make it. Let's watch two young girls playing with such ease. This is the South Africa Junior Masters Games between Marizelle Rousseau and Francesca Baleri.

m.youtube.com/watch?v=r-B9Nah6a6Q&t=532s

(3) Let's watch the men's singles game. The Golden Nugget Singles between Irish Gary Kelly and Australia Corey Wedlock is a good game to watch. Both of them are equally good playing neck to neck. They should have a good chance of winning medals in the coming Commonwealth Games.

m.youtube.com/watch?v=Vp67HXLjl9Y&t=716s

(C) Quotable Quotes

"It is the marriage of ability, confidence and will to win that creates champions."

"When holding shots, never be narrow. When down, never be wide."

"For long jack - take the straight hand. For short jack - take the swinging hand."

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