

## **BOWLS CENTRAL OTAGO**

### **Umpires Report**

**December 2024**

At the recent World Singles Champion of Champions in Auckland, we were fortunate to have an Umpire from Australia officiating. Pam is proficient in the use of the Laser Measure. The Greens at the Browns Bay Bowling Club were perfect for using the measure. Umpires and players were impressed with its use. As a result, BNZUC are now recommending that Laser Measures be approved for use in NZ Domestic Competitions. This approval is limited to the Bowls Line Measure. Approximate cost of \$500 to \$600. Umpires who wish to use this, once approved, will be required to purchase their own.

I have also ordered a new mirror boundary siter from Australia which Pam recommended for use instead of the current boundary scopes. It has a large mirror and can be used at both ends of the green. I am looking forward to its arrival. Mirror boundary siters are already approved for use in New Zealand.

We are currently looking at ways to improve the efficiency and knowledge of all our Umpires. Plans for online laws training for umpires needing to reaccredit are underway. Umpires are encouraged to continually keep up the self-development. Completing the online Quiz questions, which are refreshed on a regular basis, is a good way to do this. Our Facebook page continues to be popular where real life situations are detailed. Umpires from throughout NZ comment and offer advice on various topics.

I was also fortunate to attend the Coaching Conference on the morning of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November in Auckland. A very inspirational morning. I worry that the remote Centres, such as Central Otago, are missing out on hosting top level competitions. It is expensive and time consuming for our players and officials to travel. We need to continually commit to gaining as much exposure to top level competitions as possible.

Our busy season continues to keep our Umpires busy. Over the coming few days we will be officiating at the Triangular at Roxburgh and Mixed Pairs in Queenstown. I'm sure everyone will be looking forward to a break over the Xmas period.

Pauline Seaton  
Umpires Convenor