

WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bristol Indoor Bowls Club

Monday to Friday – 25 to 29 April, 2022

NEW WORLD EVENT COMES TO BRISTOL

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED 6 APRIL – WITH NO EMBARGO

The proud and historic City of Bristol in south west England is all set to play host to a brand new world championship for indoor bowls, with 64 star players from 29 countries across the globe bidding to win world titles from Monday 25 to Friday 29 April, 2022.

The intriguing event is the product of a merger of flagship events on the part of World Bowls (WB), who run the sport worldwide, and the former World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), who recently changed their name to the International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC).

Before the IIBC affiliated to WB, both organisations ran their own world indoor championships, the WB in Warilla in New South Wales, and the IIBC usually somewhere in the northern hemisphere. In Bristol, they are delighted to present a new format that combines the best of both events.

Gary Smith, the CEO of World Bowls, said: *"We are delighted that in partnership with the IIBC, we are able to finally launch this much anticipated event, which will showcase a truly global level of participation, including a host of leading exponents of our great sport. We are most grateful to the first class Bristol Indoor Bowling Club and its members, and to the host nation authority EIBA for their commitment and support, and know that these Championships will be an outstanding success."*

David Phillips, the secretary of the IIBC added: *"Our association with World Bowls enables us to bring together bowlers from all corners of the world to participate in these World Indoor Championships, with 64 players involved from 29 different countries, the winner of each of the 3 disciplines can rightly call themselves World Champions."*

The event, originally scheduled for 2020, was delayed by the Covid Pandemic. It will comprise men's singles, women's singles and mixed pairs championships.

The field for the men's singles includes Scotland's Stewart Anderson, the holder of the IIBC men's title, while Gary Kelly, a young Irishman, who plays professionally in Australia, will play as the holder of the WB Men's World Cup.

Other strong contenders for the men's title include Welsh star Robert Chisholm, England's indoor champion Andy Walters, and high-flying Scot Mike Stepney, who is a member of the World Bowls Tour Top Sixteen. England's David Bolt, Australia's Robert Biglia, Canada's Hirenra Bhartu, South Africa's Jason Evans and Turkey's Ozkan Akar are also well known on the international circuit.

The favourites for the women's title include Guernsey's Alison Merrien, MBE, who is the holder of the IIBC women's title, Scotland's prolific Julie Forrest, and South Africa's Commonwealth Games gold medallist Colleen Piketh. However, strong challenges are sure to come from young England star Devon Cooper, Ireland's Sandra Bailie, Scotland's Claire Anderson and Welsh duo Kelly Packwood and Amy Williams.

While many of the world's top players will be competing, a feature of the event is that it has attracted entries from countries that are not well known for bowls, and it will be fascinating to watch players from Hungary, Switzerland, Sweden, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Jamaica and the Falkland Islands in action.

Bowls, of course, is a highly accessible and 'democratic' sport, where anyone can beat anyone 'on the day', and it will be interesting to see how many David & Goliath stories emerge in Bristol over the five days of the World Bowls Indoor Championships.

The Bristol club regards it as a great honour to have been selected to host the inaugural dual hemisphere World Bowls Indoor Bowls Championship. Lewis Toman, for the club, said: *"We were delighted to be put on a shortlist of English clubs to host the event, and, when we were selected, it fulfilled our ambition of being a truly international bowls club."*

Mr Toman added: *"We have enthusiastic volunteers covering a multitude of roles, and it's been heartwarming to receive the unreserved support of club members. It helps that we have hosted a number of British Isles bowling events in the past, and we also acknowledge the expert guidance from WB CEO Gary Smith, David Phillips of IIBC and Peter Thompson of the EIBA."*

Entry will be by ticket, Tickets are available from the EIBA on 01664-481900, or from the Bristol Indoor Bowls Club on 0117-963-3460 (or email info@bristolindoorbowls.org.uk) Cost is £5.00 per ticket per day, with a 5 day ticket being available for £20.00,

This release, which is being issued to Member National Associations and to a wide range of media outlets, is published by Media Officer David Rhys Jones who can be reached on drhysj@aol.com

NOTE TO MEDIA OUTLETS

Once the event gets underway, there will be daily updates with results.

Sports desks that would welcome pictures of their competitors in action can request them.

I will do my best to provide them.

Please let me have email addresses of outlets that would welcome the daily updates.

NOW SCROLL DOWN FOR DETAILS OF THE FIELD AND THE DRAW...

THE FIELD

FIELD FOR WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – at Bristol – 25-29 April, 2022

COUNTRY	MEN	WOMEN
AUSTRALIA	Robert Briglia	Genevieve Delves
BOTSWANA	Remmy Kebapetse	Marea Modutlwa
CANADA	Hirendra Bhartu	Bobbi Charlton
ENGLAND	Andrew Walters	Devon Cooper
ENGLAND	David Bolt	Ruby Hill
FALKLAND ISLANDS	Cecil Alexander	Daphne Arthur-Almond
GUERNSEY (IIBCc)	XXX	Alison Merrien, MBE
GUERNSEY	Ian Merrien	Rose Ogier
HONG KONG	Arthur Lam	Gloria Ha
HUNGARY	Zoltan Pavelka	XXX
IRELAND (WBc)	Gary Kelly	XXX
IRELAND	Andrew Duncan	Sandra Bailie
IRELAND	XXX	Lara Reaney
ISLE OF MAN	Mark McGreal	Paula Garrett
ISLE OF MAN	XXX	Janice Pilling
ISRAEL	Selwyn Hare	Ruti Gilor
JAMAICA	Robert Simpson	Maureen Caesar
JERSEY	Alexander Stewart	Megan Kivlin
KENYA	Benson Wambugu	Sophy Kihuyu
MALAYSIA	Fairus Jabal	Nurul Alyani Jamal
NAMIBIA	Ronan Olivier	Marietjie Van den Bergh
NETHERLANDS	Henk Veenstra	Saskia Schaft
PAKISTAN	Mohammed Ayub Qureshi	XXX
SCOTLAND (IIBCc)	Stewart Anderson	XXX
SCOTLAND	Mike Stepney	Claire Anderson
SCOTLAND	XXX	Julie Forrest
SINGAPORE	Zoher Motiwalla	May Lee
SOUTH AFRICA	Jason Evans	Colleen Piketh
SPAIN	Graham Cathcart	Carol Broomfield
SRI LANKA	Susil Don-Ramanayake	Arosha Jayasundara
SWEDEN	Olle Backgren	XXX
SWITZERLAND	Tom Schneiter	Marianne Kuenzle
THAILAND	Wattana Kadkhunthod	Tanida Kachanthornpak
TURKEY	Ozkan Akar	Rahsan Akar
USA	Bill Brault	Anne Nunes
WALES	Robert Chisholm	Kerry Packwood
WALES	XXX	Amy Williams

THE DRAW

DRAW FOR WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – at Bristol – 25-29 April, 2022

MEN'S SINGLES:-

Section 1:

Stewart Anderson (Scotland & IIBC); Arthur Lam (Hong Kong China);
Zoltan Pavelka (Hungary); Remmy Kebapetse (Botswana).

Section 2:

Robert Briglia (Australia); Ian Merrien (Guernsey);
Robert Simpson (Jamaica); Wattana Kadkhunthod (Thailand).

Section 3:

Robert Chisholm (Wales); Benson Wambugu (Kenya);
Mark McGreal (Isle of Man); Mohammed Ayub Qureshi (Pakistan).

Section 4:

Jason Evans (South Africa); Alexander Stewart (Jersey);
Zohar Motiwalla (Singapore); Olle Backgren (Sweden).

Section 5:

Mike Stepney (Scotland); Ronan Olivier (Namibia);
Graham Cathcart (Spain); David Bolt (England).

Section 6:

Gary Kelly (Ireland & WB); Mohamad Fairus Abd Jabal (Malaysia);
Cecil Alexander (Falkland Islands); Henk Veenstra (Netherlands).

Section 7:

Andy Walters (England); Selwyn Hare (Israel);
Bill Brault (USA); Ozkan Akar (Turkey).

Section 8:

Andrew Duncan (Ireland); Hirendra Bhartu (Canada);
Tom Schneider (Switzerland); Susil Don-Ramanayake (Sri Lanka).

DRAW FOR WORLD BOWLS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – at Bristol – 25-29 April, 2022

WOMEN'S SINGLES:-

Section 1:

Sandra Bailie (Ireland); Marietjie Van den Bergh (Namibia);
Maureen Caesar (Jamaica); Bobbi Charlton (Canada).

Section 2:

Megan Kivlin (Jersey); Genevieve Delves (Australia);
Marea Modutlwa (Botswana); Amy Williams (Wales).

Section 3:

Ruti Gilor (Israel); Kerry Packwood (Wales);
May Lee (Singapore); Devon Cooper (England).

Section 4:

Saskia Schaft (Netherlands); Ruby Hill (England);
Tanida Kachanthornpak (Thailand); Janice Pilling (Isle of Man).

Section 5:

Rose Ogier (GUE); Colleen Piketh (South Africa);
Gloria Ha (HK China); Daphne Arthur-Almond (Falkland Islands).

Section 6:

Paula Garrett (Isle of Man); Claire Anderson (Scotland);
Arosha Jayasundara (Sri Lanka); Lara Reaney (Ireland).

Section 7:

Carol Broomfield (Spain); Nurul Alyani Jamal (Malaysia);
Sophy Kihuyu (Kenya); Julie Forrest (Scotland).

Section 8:

Alison Merrien, MBE (Guernsey & IIBC), Rahsan Akar (Turkey);
Anne Nunes (USA); Marianne Kuenzle (Switzerland).

MIXED PAIRS:-

Section 1:

Reaney (IRE) & Kelly (WB); Garrett & McGreal (IoM);
Gilor & Hare (ISR); Akar & Akar (TKY).

Section 2:

Jamal & Jabal (MAS); Ogier & Ian Merrien (GUE);
Modutlwa & Kebapetse (BOT); Williams (WAL) & Backgren (SWE).

Section 3:

Alison Merrien, MBE (IIBC) & Stewart Anderson (IIBC); Delves & Briglia (AUS);
Lee & Motiwalla (SIN); Forrest (SCO) & Qureshi (PAK).

Section 4:

Hill & Walters (ENG); Van den Bergh & Olivier (NAM);
Kachanthornpak & Kadkhunthod (THA); Arthur-Almond & Alexander (FKL).

Section 5:

Packwood & Chisholm (WAL); Nunes & Brault (USA);
Jayasundara & Ramanayake (SRI); Cooper (ENG) & Pavelka (HUN).

Section 6:

Claire Anderson & Stepney (SCO); Ha & Lam (HKC);
Caesar & Simpson (JAM); Kuenzle & Schneider (SWZ).

Section 7:

Bailie & Duncan (IRE); Schaft & Veenstra (NED);
Kihuyu & Wambugu (KEN); Kivlin & Stewart (JER).

Section 8:

Piketh & Evans (RSA); Charlton & Bhartu (CAN);
Broomfield & Cathcart (SPN); Pilling (IoM) & Bolt (ENG).

ENDS