

NEW ZEALAND RETURNS TO POTTERS

The New Zealand Professional Bowls Association makes a welcome return to the World Indoor Bowls Championships at the Potter's Leisure Resort in Norfolk, England early Saturday morning NZDT with New Zealanders playing in the World Indoor Pairs, World Indoor Singles, World Mixed Pairs and Ladies Invitational Singles. Though the Championships have played the last two years it was near impossible for kiwis to travel meaning qualifiers on the New Zealand PBA tour were awarded prize money instead as compensation for the lack of ability to travel.

There have been a number of changes in the last two seasons in our absence with the World Indoor Pairs reverting back to two-bowl pairs rather than three per player which the NZ PBA will re-adopt next year. The Pairs are also back to straight knockout for all the qualifiers rather than overseas combinations having to qualify in pools of four to make the main draw. There is a new website at www.worldbowlstour.org which combines both World Bowls Tour and each nation's domestic PBA action. New Zealand's branch pages can be found under the PBA heading. And the UK played three qualifying tournaments for the Under 25 singles only leaving one spot for an overseas invite. In the last tournament that NZ participated in there were two overseas players in the Under 25 singles.

Action will start with the Pairs with a New Zealand combination of Colin Rogan and Garry Cotter second up on the portable rink playing Scottish pair Chris and John Carswell at approximately 12.15am on Saturday morning. Rogan will then feature in the World Indoor Singles with his first round match around the same start time on the morning of Friday 13th January against another Scot in Darren Burnett.



Rogan had a very successful 2022 PBA season in New Zealand winning the Scottish Singles and World Indoor Singles trips but gave up the Scottish to focus on the World Indoor Champs at Potter's. Cotter won the World Indoor Pairs with Nick Thompson however Thompson was unable to make the trip to the UK so fellow Auckland-branch member Rogan has been drafted into the Pairs combination.

New Zealand will also be ably represented in the Ladies Invitation Singles and World Mixed Pairs by Wellington coordinator Clare Hendra. Hendra has dominated the NZ women's rankings over the last three years but was denied the first two years from an invite due to the Pandemic travel restrictions. Hendra has also been particularly active on the NZ PBA scene running the Wellington branch that hosted the Finals Weekend this year and creating and running a live macro spreadsheet that updates the NZ rankings as each weekend plays. The kiwi will be playing the Mixed Pairs with England's Jamie Chestney against Scot Paul Foster and Guernsey's Alison Merrien on Friday 13th Jan at 11pm NZDT, and then the Ladies Singles versus England's Katherine Rednall at the same time on Sunday 15th Jan.

With no Under 25 Singles invite, 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Aidan Zittersteijn from New Plymouth is being awarded prizemoney for his top NZ ranking in that category.

Coverage will be available on the World Bowls Tour Youtube channel.

New Zealand Player Profiles:

Garry Cotter

Auckland Branch

Joined PBA 2017

Career high NZ rank 21st= (2022)

Current NZ rank 21st=

Career highlights – winner 2018 Hamilton Scottish Singles qualifier;

winner 2022 Auckland World Indoor Pairs & UK Singles qualifiers

Colin Rogan

Auckland Branch

Joined PBA 2000 (foundation member)

Career high NZ rank 9th (2022)

Current NZ rank 9th

Career highlights – Round of 32 2019 WBT Scottish Singles in Perth, Scotland;

winner 5 other local qualifiers in 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2022

Clare Hendra

Wellington Branch

Joined PBA 2019

Career high NZ rank 4th (2020) (highest ranked woman in NZ PBA history)

Current NZ rank 12th

Career highlights – winner 2020 Wellington Scottish & International Singles

qualifiers; winner 2022 Wellington Scottish Singles qualifier