

Circular 10/2010



8th December 2010

TO: ALL BOARD MEMBERS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS, LIFE MEMBERS, CENTRE SECRETARIES, UMPIRES COMMITTEE, DISTRICT UMPIRES SECRETARIES, SELECTORS, JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

NEW ZEALAND SPORTS TURF INSTITUTE:

New Zealand SportsTurf Institute Sale Proposed:

New Zealand Golf and Bowls New Zealand announced today that they have received an offer to buy the business of the New Sports Turf Institute Inc (NZSTI). NZSTI is a not-for-profit incorporated society with just two members, New Zealand Golf and Bowls New Zealand. The focus of the incorporated society is on the technical and management skills to develop and maintain fine quality turf sports playing surfaces, such as putting greens and bowling greens.

The purchase offer has been made by Chris Todd who has worked and invested in the turf industry for over 20 years and owns Parkland Products Limited. Discussions with Mr Todd are well-advanced and a due-diligence process is underway. If the sale proceeds, it will be completed early in the new year.

The NZSTI Chairman, Kerry Clark, said that "both New Zealand Golf and Bowls New Zealand have had a long history with the NZ Sports Turf Institute since its inception in 1949. The Institute was originally set up to provide agronomic services to Golf and Bowls Clubs throughout New Zealand. For its first 40 odd years of existence the only Clients were Golf and Bowls."

"Since the 1990's the business has diversified and the Members scale of business activity within the organisation has lessened."

"It is the view of the Members that the time is right for the Institute to be taken to another level both within New Zealand and overseas.

Mr Todd explained that, if the purchase proceeds, NZSTI will remain as a standalone entity. "I have no plans to incorporate this into my existing business interests" he said. "The value of NZSTI lies in its uncompromising, independent advice and high quality of training delivery to the sports turf sector. That will continue" he added.

NZSTI staff have been informed that all staff will be offered positions in the new entity, which will be called New Zealand Sports Turf Institute Limited. "It's shaping up to be a great outcome," said Mr Clark. "One of our bottom lines is that this needs to be good for the staff. The staff of NZSTI have many excellent ideas and we think that the new owner will be better placed to inject the capital required to develop new products and services for the benefit of the sports turf industry. That has to be good for all."

It is proposed that New Zealand Golf and Bowls New Zealand will enter into five year contracts with NZSTI Limited to ensure continuity of service and long term security of service provision to the bowls and golf community. Two NZSTI board members will also move onto the board of the limited liability company. "This demonstrates our faith in the new arrangements" said Mr Clark. It is expected that management of NZSTI will be unchanged, led by the current Chief Executive, Kevin Oldham. NZSTI international operations will continue, based out of Brisbane, under the leadership of Keith McAuliffe.

POSTIE PLUS SPONSORSHIP:

Bowls white-wear has gone into the Postie Plus Stores as of 1st December 2010. Please reinforce with your Clubs that they can get a 5% rebate for any purchases made with Postie Plus. All they need to do is register through the forms sent to Clubs via Bowls Talk or at their local Postie Plus Store.

YOUTH BOWLS:

Help with Youth Data Collection Please - Centre Secretaries and Youth Bowls Coordinators,

Thank you to those who have already responded or supplied the information.

We need to be able to measure the increase in participation in Bowls of our young players in formal events. While we can track the numbers at the national finals, we need your help to gather the information at the preliminary (Centre and Regional) level which lead onto the national finals for Secondary Schools Championships and Kittyhawks.

It is essential for our sport to be able to measure participation numbers

What do we need please:

- Player names and contact details (phone, email, address if possible) from the entry forms
- For all participants in preliminary events for 2010 National Secondary School Championships and 2011 Kittyhawks National U20 Singles Championship
- If you don't have names, then just the numbers of participants is acceptable

As these preliminary events have already been held, I hope it is just a matter of forwarding your information, in whichever format you have (spreadsheets, entry forms etc). You can email the information or post it in to us for data collation and we can email you back a complete list.

The original deadline was **30 November**, however as this data is very important we are urging all centres to respond with the information if they have it.

This request was originally emailed on 4 November.

Thanks again for your help and please contact Rob Pidgeon rob@bowlsnz.co.nz or 09 571 9954 if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS CLOSE-DOWN

The National Office will close at end of business on Thursday 23rd December and will open again on Monday 10th January.

For any urgent matters during this period please contact Steve Clifton – 021 967 011.

For any urgent matters relating to the Hyundai National Tournament please contact – Allan Griffiths – Event Manager – 021 966024.



May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your assistance during the year and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Handwritten signature of Kerry Clark

**Kerry Clark OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**