

PLAYERPROFILE

GENEVIEVE BAILDON

Eight years ago, as a young Cambridge High School girl, Genevieve Baidon hoisted the National Secondary School Singles title aloft and so began the journey that would eventually lead her to represent her country and wear the black shirt at the Commonwealth Games in India later this year.

"Quiet and calculating", is how 24 year old Black Jack and Hillcrest Bowling Club member Genevieve Baidon describes the way that she plays bowls and given her string of notable achievements, it certainly is effective. However, it isn't by chance that Gen is such a good athlete; it is through her hard work and dedication that she has proven herself to be a steadfast and key member of the Black Jacks.

Along the way Gen has celebrated many successes, with her most memorable being winning the World Junior Cup in 2009. In fact, in her 5 years attending the event, Gen has never placed lower than third and has been runner-up three times. Gen's dad Keith passed away when she was 16 and he was the reason for getting into the game. Gen wears his wedding ring on a chain around her neck and before each international match, she kisses it, her personal good luck charm. Her black shirt is dedicated to him.

Gen' believes the person who has most influenced her view on life is her mum, "she's such a strong person and I admire the way she tackles whatever life throws her head-on and still comes out with a smile on her face. She is a true inspiration to me". Gen's family, friends, and club are totally behind her, supporting her through the rigours of training and life.

When asked which other bowler

does she most admire Gen responds instantly; Val Smith, "she is such a gutsy player and a true asset to the sport". Gen believes that it is due to Val's words of wisdom that she has got to where she is today.

A sign of how complete a person and athlete Gen is can be best expressed by her greatest off-the-green achievement, which was completing four years of tertiary study while balancing her bowls and international commitments. Gen is a product of Bowls NZ's High Performance programme and spends around 4 hours on the green in peak training times with competition or more training on the weekends. Gen in her usual quiet way expresses how grateful she is to have her fellow Hillcrest club members supporting her, their support and pride has ensured her love of the game continues to grow. Gen wanted to acknowledge the support and expressed a heart felt regret that she isn't able to be as involved in her club as much as she'd like, which is as a result of having to work full time as a small animal technician with AgResearch, while maintaining her training and playing commitments. Gen is a true champion, a world beater, who harkens back to the days where New Zealand's international super sports stars were humble quiet achievers who had to overcome every obstacle just to compete.

For the developing bowler, or someone looking to improve their game, Gen offers this advice "a good, solid delivery is the most important aspect of your game. Work on developing and perfecting that and the rest of your game will follow," Very wise words from the 'quiet and calculated' young bowler who has a very bright future in our beloved sport.

Quick Facts:

Cap: #45

Favourite Movie – Romeo + Juliet

Favourite Food – Chocolate

Dream job – Zoo Keeper

Dream destination – Africa, to see the big 5 in their natural habitat.



Gen shows her love of animals.



"She is a true inspiration to me" – Gen speaks of the most influential person in her life, her mum Marcia.



The Trans Tasman Triples Team.