

PLAYERPROFILE

SCOTT EVANS

Onehunga Bowling Club member Scott Evans' skill, dedication, and passion for the sport has taken him near the top; earning him the over-sized cup that comes with winning the 2010 Kittyhawks National Under-20 Singles Men's Championship.

Although, winning the championship was no easy matter for the 19-year-old and he credits a number of people, including his club and his mum, with helping him succeed in his third year at the event. "They've taken me quite far," says Evans. "I trained hard for it and was really focused this time. The first day I wasn't happy with how I was playing, and it wasn't until the first game on the second day that I knew I was going to get close, and I just got better and better in the semi-

final and the final." And in Evans' case, with the increase in confidence comes an increase in volume, as he commands, cajoles and implores his bowls to act appropriately.

"That's a thing that only comes out when I play Singles in big matches. When I get into the game, my passion comes out and it [addressing the bowls] motivates me. I usually play well when I get into it," explains Evans. The bowls also appear to listen, and were certainly all ears during the young bowler's final match against Raymond Martin (Wellington) in the Kittyhawks event.

Evans is already planning his next tournament victory, between studying, training for the event, and helping coach youth/collegiate



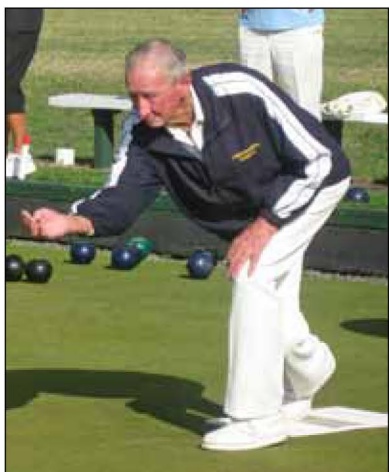
bowlers in the Auckland Bowls programme. Evans will have his hands full, but with the aim of playing at centre and national level in the near future, it's a schedule he's prepared to follow. "I'm doing this for the goal of playing for my country."

Photo: Crispin Anderlini – www.crispinanderlini.com

GEORGE ALLEY

At 85, there can't be many bowls players who can say, "I started about 78 years ago", but George Alley can. And Alley's bowls career is exemplary.

Everything he's done and achieved in the game has been delivered with



drive and distinction, from his time at the top of the game representing New Zealand, Auckland, and the northern regions, through to his lengthy stints serving many different bowls associations and clubs, as an administrator, selector and umpire. "I consider I've played on more greens than anyone else in New Zealand bowls, and no one else has played for longer," says Alley, with his characteristic wry grin and sincerity.

As well as an accomplished player, Alley has been a keen contributing club member, if someone has a task to be done, or advice or coaching is needed, he is more than happy to contribute. He recalls a time at his beloved Mt Wellington Bowling Club where he ran 10c raffles for six years to pay for a new green. His attitude to getting involved in club sport and taking on roles was formed in his early years, when his father gifted part of

the family farm in the 1930s to the district council serving tiny Hikutaia between Thames and Paeroa.

George is still a playing member at Pakuranga Bowling Club and was a member at Mt Wellington for many years, including when he was at the peak of his playing powers winning national championships and gaining New Zealand and provincial selection. He has also been a member at Bucklands Beach and Papatoetoe Clubs. Highlights for Alley include when he was chosen as Mt Wellington Sportsman of the Year in 1978, and when he collected the national fours title in 1977 and the pairs with Cliff Pryce Jones, for Mt Wellington, in 1978. That led to Alley being selected for New Zealand for the World Bowls Champs in 1979, when it was played indoors in Scotland, finishing third.

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