

2010 NATIONAL BOWLS AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



RICHARD COLLETT

Following in the footsteps of the likes of world number one Val Smith, Richard Collett has returned the Player of the Year award to Nelson after a year of bowling highlights.

Still in his first year of selection for NZ's Black Jacks, Collett has spent the past year building on his biggest success to date – 2009 National Singles winner. And being new to the international scene hasn't slowed him down at all. From NZ Singles winner in 2009, the 30-year-old bowler capitalised on the success and took his winning game overseas to win the Hong Kong Classic Pairs that same year. At the 2010 National Interclub Championship the Stoke Men's Division One Team took the title, and Collett then teamed up with Danny Delany at the 8-Nations event in Delhi to win gold in the Pairs.

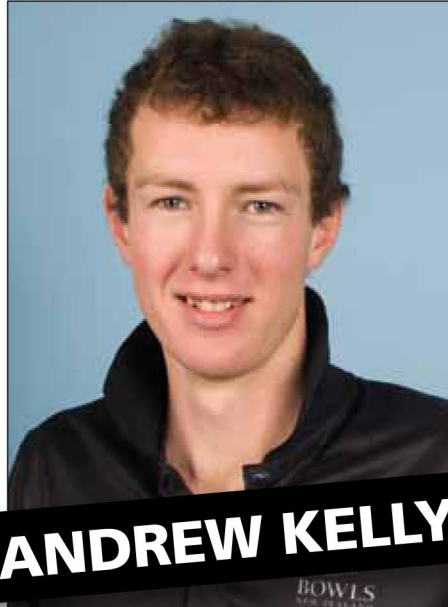
Community Development Officer Steve Smith says, "Since he won the National Singles in 2009, he has not only grown to be a bowler who can compete at the highest level, but has matured into a young man who demonstrates a high standard of sportsmanship and respect for his colleagues and opponents."

In this age of fair play and sportsmanship, commendations like this are of prime importance; after all, a true champion is one who plays hard but plays fair.

It should come as no surprise then that he has been selected to roll beside Danny Delaney as lead in the Pairs at the October Commonwealth Games, and chances are the pair will be bringing home a medal from the searing greens of Delhi come mid-October.

Whatever the outcome of the Games, this savvy, technical and top-notch NZ bowler has a long and illustrious career ahead of him.

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR



ANDREW KELLY

Tall, rangy and confident, Andrew Kelly cuts an impressive figure among New Zealand's finest players, and has now been honoured for the past year's achievements by being named Young Player of the Year. And what a year it has been for the 22-year-old Cantabrian. Beginning in August last year, when Kelly won the PBA Ranking Singles Tournament, the rising star has moved from strength to strength.

Kelly then teamed up with 2010 Player of the Year Richard Collett to win gold in the Pairs at the Hong Kong Classic. It was a monumental win for any player, and augured well for the young bowler from Canterbury Bowling Club.

Kelly was chosen for the NZ Triples team attending the 8-Nations invitational event in Delhi. The team routed the competition before being handed the silver after a finals loss to England. Winning a Singles gold in a blazing, lossless, clean sweep at the Junior World Cup, Kelly has impressed on the international and national scene with his skill and attitude. 8-Nations team mate Jan Shirley is just one of those watching the bowler with respect: "Andrew's commitment to the game is outstanding and his personal growth has certainly shown in his achievements on the green over the last year....and he has displayed a mature attitude in both games he won and lost."

Endorsements like these go a long way towards revealing the character of a player, and in Kelly's case it is the sign of a champion on the move.

Going into the Commonwealth Games as a new member of the New Zealand team (Men's Reserve) then, is just one more step in what promises to be a long and successful career for Kelly.