**2024 November Library Newsletter**

( 1 )  Good news! Our Canadian team members Kelly McKerihen and Emma Boyd won the Hong Kong International Bowls Classic 2024 women's pairs.

Earlier in 2024, World Bowls established the World Bowls Series. The world rankings are determined by the results of these events over a 24-month period. The Hong Kong event is included in the list. That's why there are elite bowlers from 13 countries and regions who came to compete in this event which concluded last weekend.

Usually, November is the best season of the year in Hong Kong. Not this time - typhoon signals were hoisted during the tournament. The Singles final games were played on wet and heavy greens, while the Pairs finals moved to indoor. No matter what, good bowlers can adjust to different situations and entertain us with a good show.

Let's watch the Pairs final games.

-  First part of the video -  **Women's Pairs Final** - Emma Boyd and Kelly McKerhen ( Canada ) vs Emma Cooper and Harriet Stevens ( England ). They all played some good shots with Emma Cooper and Kelly McKerihen earning more applause. Emma will go to Hong Kong again in early December to play in the U25 World Junior Championships. This is a good chance for her to adjust to bowling greens in Hong Kong.

-  Second part of the video - **Men's Pairs Final** - Darren Gualtien and Iain McLean (Scotland) vs Tom McGuinness and Harry Goodwin ( England )

Iain McLean, the renowned champion bowler who grabbed the Singles title just a week ago continued to play his best. Yet Harry Goodwin, the new England bowling star, fought back with some incredible shots.

*Commentary in English* - [youtube.com/watch?v=a8bxrfMOpXw&t=10589s](http://youtube.com/watch?v=a8bxrfMOpXw&t=10589s)

*Commentary in Cantonese* - [youtube.com/watch?v=83yi\_pw6xJK](http://youtube.com/watch?v=83yi_pw6xJK)

( 2 )   Let's watch the Hong Kong International Bowls Classic 2024 Singles final games.

The green was a bit heavy as It rained on the previous day. It didn't stop the finalists playing their best on an outdoor green.  Continuing the success of last year, another local Hong Kong woman bowler, Cheryl Chan, claimed victory in the Singles. Her opponent Rosita Bradborn from the Philippines is considered the top woman bowler in Asia by winning quite a number of singles games. Considering there are so many top-notch players participating in this event, they must have been playing really well in the past few days.

In the men's singles, Scotland's Iain McLean played against Australia's Kyle Hansen. It is entertaining to watch this high calibre bowler Iain playing those inch-perfect drawing shots. He stole the show.

*Commentary in English* - [youtube.com/watch?v=1HmZ1-Upsak&t=180s](http://youtube.com/watch?v=1HmZ1-Upsak&t=180s)

*Commentary in Cantonese* - [youtube.com/watch?v=LzRE\_So6wnY](http://youtube.com/watch?v=LzRE_So6wnY)

( 3 )  Turning now to local bowling events, the **Pacific Coast Open** tournament hosted by PIBC concluded with success last month. Most of you must have watched some of the games, especially the finals through live streaming.

The **Open Singles** named after Bruce Matheson should catch your attention. There's a short clip attached to the final match video introducing this legendary Canadian bowler. This brought back a lot of my memories of the good old days when, without internet or bowling videos, the only way to see games was to watch top local bowlers. I remember one evening I went to watch a men's pairs game at West Vancouver Bowling Club in which Bruce Matheson paired up with Ted Waterstone. Both of them were real characters - Ted with long curly hair in the image of 60's hippies and Bruce well-dressed, wearing a gold bracelet looking like an old time Hollywood movie star, and they played bowls with flamboyant style. They handled the bowls just like playing with toys - sending out perfect draw shots, trailing shots or heavy shots with ease. They had a good time enjoying the game and so did the spectators. That's the fun of lawn bowling.

The final game of this Open Singles was between Jerome Kirby from Winnipeg and our local player, PIBC member  Will Hall. This is a close and good game. It was Will who finally snatched the title. 46 year-old Will is an estate realtor. He started bowling 6 years ago and only plays indoor bowling as he prefers faster green. He considers this tournament enjoyable as there were bowlers from across Canada and America so he could gain more experience and face good challenges.

[youtube.com/watch?v=XUgnCneOxbI](http://youtube.com/watch?v=XUgnCneOxbI)

( 4 )  The **Pacific Coast Open Mixed Pairs** displayed a lot of good bowling. The competition was keen. Who could come out in the final game?

The team of Cary Mann and Rainbow Lung was the favorite; the combination of two greenhorns Nathaniel Hui and Gillian Poon seemed to have not much chance. Yet, honestly speaking, their performance as a whole in the tournament proved they deserved to be in the final. The final game seemed to be one-sided simply because Gary showed his best, sending out lots of brilliant shots to win.

Nathaniel and Gillian are talented bowlers. 21 year-old Nathaniel was the 2022 V&D novice men's singles winner and Gillian was the 2016 Richmond LBC novice women's singles as well as the V&D novice women's singles winner. They have lots of potential in bowling.

[youtube.com/watch?v=IE5x-hWDFn0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=IE5x-hWDFn0)

( 5 )  November is a busy bowling month. The **Scottish International Open** 2024 took place from November 5 - 7 at the West Lothian Indoor Bowls Club in Livingston.

In the first round, Top 16 WBT ranked bowlers played against qualifiers from the UK and countries around the world including USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada (Ryan Pollard) and Hong Kong China (Alex Lee). Look at the elite bowlers' name list, you know that you won't be disappointed to watch any of their games. Coming to the final, it was a battle between ranked 7 Jason Banks and England qualifier Aaron Johnson. In the semi-final, Johnson played well with good attacking shots to defeat hot shot Stewart Anderson who won the title in each of the last two years. Yet he lost his strength and let Jason Banks dominate in the final game.

[youtube.com/watch?v=V2DJeuG9ZPo](http://youtube.com/watch?v=V2DJeuG9ZPo)

( 6 )  As a rule, a singles game is somehow a drawing game. Good draw bowlers always win my admiration. Let's watch the first match of the Scottish International Open 2024 on Day one. Mark Dawes vs Scottish qualifier Colin Banks. The second set was so brilliant. Both players delivered incredible shots.

[youtube.com/watch?v=Ff\_H7r6lRMg](http://youtube.com/watch?v=Ff_H7r6lRMg)

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PIBC and Richmond LBC library