

26 June 2025



National Tournament Managers Report:

Well, another year has rolled on by, where there have been a number highs and some lows within our sport in the past 12 months.

Some of these have included an international bronze medal at the World Youth Championships in Korea, in the Singles event for Ben Pettit. At the same tournament a perfect game of 300 bowled was by Jessica Marginson, becoming only 8th woman to do so. Our Junior, Youth & Senior teams are continuing to dominate and win their respective teams tournaments in Australia. The TBNZ50 Seniors also performing well at the Asian Zone Championships in Singapore, were just some of the highlights on the international stage. There were a multitude of honour awards achieved over the past 12 months, with 22 awards in all. I mean, even I managed to bag a couple of them.

Whilst we are experiencing a growth in numbers at our TBNZ tournaments, as the recent Senior Nationals showed by topping over a 100 entries. However, we are seeing a decline in the number of centres with the ability to host these tournaments,. This may be partly to do with this growth or is time for some format changes to find a balance between what is best for the host centres, the athletes, as well as time & costs. As a sport we want to see these national tournaments rotated to as many places as possible.

Is it a case of, are we fast becoming an aging sport? As there is an ever increasing in numbers each year entering into the Senior & Grand Senior divisions. Whist, there is growth in numbers within the Junior grade, with some centres investing time into having a succession plan for the future. The concerning issue is the stagnant numbers of ages 30-45 year olds not participating in our national events. Is it just simply a time, cost, family or work commitments that prohibit these bowlers the ability to enter? I ask you what is the solution moving forward? Is it format changes, scheduling or something else?

Listed below are the tournament winners from over the past 12 months, including the 2024 Open Nationals, which have moved now to Labour weekend from this year. Ironically, back to where they were held when I first started in the sport, so many years ago.

TBNZ Championship tournament winners.

Open Mens: Connor Frith – Manukau

Open Womens: Sarah Young – Waitakere

Classic: Zharkobi Ewington – Manukau

Graded: Jade Lang – Tauranga

TBNZ50 Teams overall - Waitakere Muriwai

TBNZ50 Mens division - Tauranga Blue

TBNZ50 Womens division - Waitakere Muriwai

Junior Boys: Ben Pettit - North City

Junior Girls: Natasha Goggin - North City

Junior Graded: Lane Anderson-Tule – Tauranga

Junior Bantam: Harmony Herewini - Manukau

Youth Mens: Ben Pettit - North City

Youth Womens: Jessica Marginson – Waitakere

TBNZ21's Teams overall - North City Ice

NTC Teams overall - Manukau Meteors

Senior Mens: Mike Gibbs - North City

Senior Womens: Alice Margiolas – Australia

Graded Mens: Nelson Navalta – Northland

Graded Womens: Lyn Alforte - Lower Hutt

Grand Senior Mens: Greg Nicolas - North City

Grand Senior Womens: Judy O'Rourke - Tauranga

As we approach the upcoming TBNZ50 Teams tournament at Pins, where 11 teams will be representing 7 centres. With the Junior/Youth Nationals and teams tournaments to follow also at Pins, with the finale being the Open Nationals at North City in late October. So there plenty to look forward to on the lanes.

Off the lanes, there is always an opportunity to have your say or to get involved, as the sport relies on volunteers to make it tick. Whether that's just helping out at your local centre, stepping up for a role on the TBNZ Management team or even a seat on the TBNZ Board. In saying that, I would like thank the Tournament Committee for their dedication and support over the past 12 months. To the centre partners, thank you for your unwavering support to ensure our sport has an opportunity to excel on the National & International stage.

Kind regards

Pete Richardson

TBNZ Tournament Committee