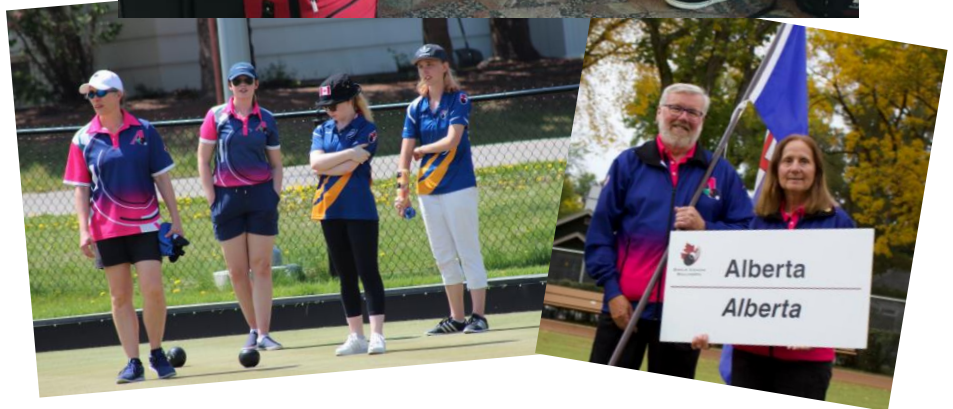




Bowls Alberta

2019 Annual Report





Bowls Alberta



2019 Annual Report Overview

Vision Statement: to advance the sport of Bowls in Alberta

Mission: to promote participation and excellence in the sport of lawn bowls for all ages and abilities

Overview

2019 was the 30th year of the Association operating for the first full year under our new name of *Bowls Alberta*. This was also our first year of increased funding from the provincial government. After many years at the same operating grant level we were very thankful to see the support increased. This was also the first year of increased reporting requirements to Alberta Sport Connection. This required extra documentation and collection of numbers regarding membership and participation data, revenue sources, athlete development work, and coach and umpire support and development.

The Board of Directors met 7 times from Nov. 2018 to June 2019, meeting mostly through telephone conference calls. They met in person before the AGM in October and then once again in early December for the first time as the newly elected board. Some business of the association was dealt with through email correspondence between meetings. This year we had our updated bylaws from 2017 finally filed and approved by Alberta Registries. The significant changes were having the past president position removed and an additional director-at-large position added.

This was the second year into the four-year Strategic Plans which were prepared by the board during the winter of 2017-18. Work on the first goal of 'Sustainable Future for Bowls' continued, focusing on expanding our revenue sources and continued support of our clubs. This past year we had the opportunity to assist in exploring the possibility of resurrecting a lawn bowling club in Red Deer. Under the second goal of a 'Strong and Unified Alberta Bowls Community' we were able to help clubs meet excellence standards by sharing polices with them and assisting with support of leadership. We were also able to meet our goal of increased participation in provincial events. Under the third goal of 'Quality Sport Development and Achievement' we saw an increase of participation in the Athlete Development Workshops that were offered, we celebrated some great performances by members at the Canadian Championships, and we continued plans with BC, SK and MB for development of the Western Triples Championships.

The Bowling Program Committee prepared the 'Conditions of Play' and the 'Calendar of Events' for the season. Pat Bird had chaired the committee for the past two years and did a significant amount of work to condense the 'Conditions of Play'. We are thankful to the committee members that assisted him and continued to ensure a high degree of excellence in all our tournaments. We are also thankful for our member clubs that are always prepared to host the events and we acknowledge the many volunteers at each club that ensured 2019 tournaments were well run.



Provincial 2019 Men's Fours Champions



AB Head Coach Dillon

Our provincial Coach, Derek Dillon, gave a significant amount of his time once again to help lead workshops and develop the skills of players. His dedication to the development of players was evident again through the AB BC Challenge that he helped host this year at his home club in Calgary. He also spent many hours coaching individuals that requested help and he led six skill development camps. His involvement at the Canadian team level continued to grow as he attended a few international events and helped coach the Canadian youth at the 2019 World Juniors.

Jenn MacDonald, as Head Umpire for our province, assumed the role as the main contact with the Officiating Committee for Bowls Canada. She organized the umpires required for most of our provincial championships and sanctioned tournaments. She also retested and certified several of our umpires but was unable to offer any training for new umpires. We will be looking for someone to fill her shoes as she goes off to Australia for a year as part of a teacher exchange program.

This season we were again able to send teams to all Canadian Championships, including sending two additional fours teams to the Majors. We acknowledge the support through donations we received from the Edmonton Indoor Club to assist with the expenses of sending 35 of our members to the 6 different championships.



AB Team marching in at the Canadian Championships

The main struggle of 2019 was operating under a board with several vacancies and the pressure that put on the small group of leaders to make certain decisions. It more often led to making the decision to postpone work. Along with this challenge we continued to experience a lack of volunteers to fill various committee which are essential for enhancing our sport. Last spring, we set up a Youth Development 'Council' in place of a 'Committee' and this helped moved us along in meeting some objectives. We are hopeful during this winter to set up a similar council structure in place of the Coaching Committee.



BCB's ED, Anna Mees, leading a Club Development Workshop

As we ended 2019, we were thankful for a full slate of volunteers to stand for Board positions. We were also excited for the continued support we received from Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB), who through their staff, ran several workshops for the new board members particularly for education surrounding safe sport policies and procedures and for leadership training. We were also able, through BCB to host two club development workshops for board members of our clubs and these were well received by almost all the clubs.

We are excited for what's new in 2020 as we continue to expand programs and as we send athletes to represent AB to the inaugural Western Canada Triples Championships in Winnipeg, MB. As we operate under the leadership of a strong and experienced board of directors several governance issues will be attended to. And finally, we look forward to implementing new Safe Sport policies and procedures and ensuring everyone that participates in our sport can do so in a safe and fun environment.

Sustainable Future for Bowls

1. We must continue to increase sources of revenue

Sponsors and Supporters

In 2019 we received the following grants from Alberta Sport Connection:

- Association Development Program Grant
- Coach Support Grant / Respect in Sport CAC Conference
- Hosting Grant for the Canadian Blind Bowlers Championships

Along with the grants we also had opportunity to participate in lunch discussion forums, Coaching Safe Sport Initiatives, and the bi-annual Conference. Appreciation is extended to Marvin Dobish, our Sport Consultant for his continued support.

Through Alberta Sport Connection we have access to the [Donation Fund Program](#) and this past year we received two donations from association members. Donation through this program allows those that donate to receive a donation tax receipt if their donation meets the minimum amount. In 2020 the hope is to share this opportunity to donate to BA to all our club members.

This year the expenses related to two of our provincial championships were again supported. We are grateful to [Dignity Memorial](#) for their longtime sponsorship of the AB Senior Triples Championships. For the second year in a row we also received support for our AB Youth Championships from [Northgate GM](#).



2019 Senior Triples Medal Teams



Four U18's competing at Royal LBC



We were also pleased to have the support of two hotels: the Edmonton Nova Yellowhead and the Medicine Hat Home Stay Inn both offer a commission based on the number of Bowls AB members that stay with them over the course of the 2019 season. This extra revenue covers some costs related to the provincial tournaments we host.



The Community Investment Sports Travel Grant helped with the expenses of sending Edmonton based athletes to the Canadian Championships. We are very grateful for this extra support as travel expenses are a significant portion of sending teams off to national events.

We are thankful for the continued support of the Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis thru our volunteer work at a casino every two years. This funding is vital to our ability to send AB athletes to Canadian Championships.



Our goal for the **Annual Raffle** was \$1,500 and we reached less than 20% of that goal. If we continue with this fundraiser, we'll need to find some key people to help promote it and ensure it is successful.

Our hope to have a **Membership & Marketing Committee** active and helping develop a provincial sponsorship and marketing plan fell way short. Once again finding the key people with the passion and vision for this committee was unsuccessful.

2. Effective Leadership and Direction Setting is Vital

2019 started with the President's and two other positions being vacant and remained that way until the fall. In the spring one of the Vice Presidents stepped down and that further contributed to some tough challenges for the existing board members as they dealt with various issues during the season.

Thankfully the nominating committee did a great job of targeting some new board members with specific skills for the election held at the fall AGM and by the end of 2019 we had all positions filled and a strong board in place to help ensure 2020 would be a year where some significant growth in several areas would be realized.

Updating the association policies was a goal that was postponed until 2020. We did adopt the Concussion protocol that Bowls Canada prepared and began a review of the Safe Sport policies which we would need to update or develop before the start of a new season.

3. Supporting Thriving Clubs are Essential to the Association

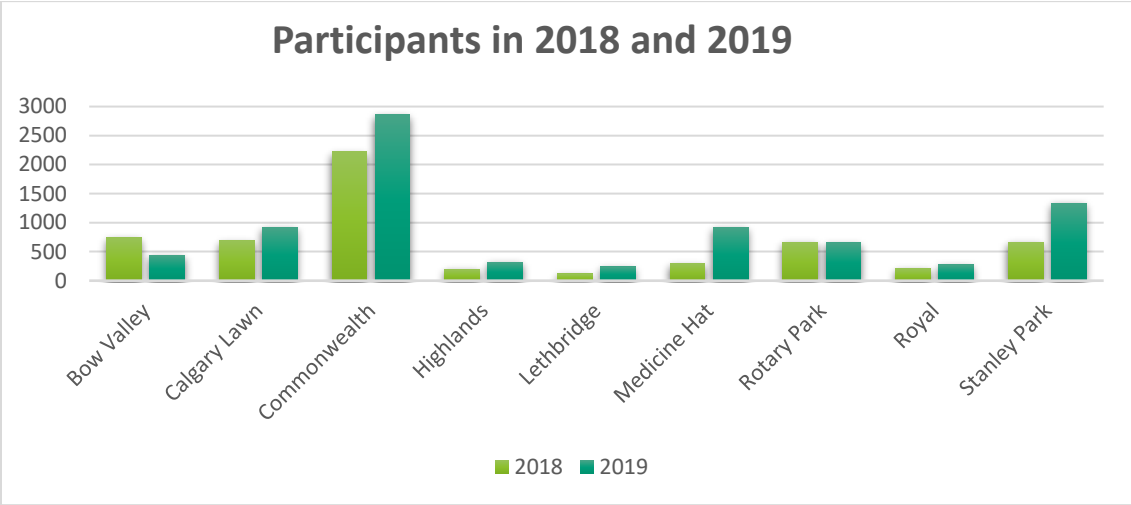
Our goal for the year was for 35% participation of all club members in provincial events. We easily reached that goal seeing a continued increase from the previous year. Many 'novice' members participated for the first time in one of the championships and/or sanctioned tournaments.

One of the most successful tournaments was the Memorial Triples hosted by the Medicine Hat club. This special tournament is geared to those in the Bowls for Life stage and continues to involve a large group of players from Edmonton along with those down south. This event is one of the highlights of the year for many members as it includes extra social events along with the fun and friendly competition.



4. Increasing Albertans Awareness of our Sport Needs to be More Intentional

We continued to encourage our clubs to host fundraising events, corporate groups and school outings. Tracking the demographics of the participants that came out to their clubs helped them reflect on those numbers and target groups, the volunteer commitments it takes to host groups, and the overall impact on their clubs with the intention and hope of some membership growth. The chart below shows the participation numbers at the clubs as reported for the past two seasons.



The reported numbers show an increased interest in our sport in large part due to large corporate groups that enjoyed the team building experience of learning and playing the game. Increasingly school groups are also booked trips to the clubs particularly in Medicine Hat and at the Commonwealth Club in Edmonton.

*In 2019 there were **7962** reported participants at the Bowls AB member clubs up from 5794 in 2018.*

The essential question for our clubs:

Are you providing a great sport experience for participants?

Is the time they spend at your club planned, comprehensive enough, and a fun inclusive learning experience?

Strong and Unified Bowls Alberta Community

1. Encouraging our Clubs to meet Excellence Standards

One of our objectives in 2019 was to continue supporting our members clubs to ensure they were thriving. We offered support to the four clubs in Calgary and the three in Edmonton by hosting planning meetings with some key board members to ensure they were supporting each other and offering a variety of events for all their members to participate in. We encouraged the clubs to keep their own identity and to complement each other. We also challenged them to consider their membership and participant fee structure and ensure they were not competing with one another. We encouraged the clubs to offer coaching and support to their members so that those that wish to be more competitive would participate in more provincial events with greater success.

At the end of November and early December we helped host both Leadership and Club Development workshops for our clubs' leaders. These sessions were led by Anna Mees from Bowls Canada and proved to be very valuable for most of the clubs. The Club Development workshop offered lots of information in several areas to assist clubs with their organization and potential to grow. Bowls Canada will follow up with further online resources and workshops in 2020 and we will encourage clubs to continue and finish some of their projects. We will also continue to support the clubs by setting up a club resource section on our website where board handbooks, procedural manuals, policies, strategic plans and club bylaws can be shared and accessed.

2. Develop a Greens Maintenance Training Manual

The plan to prepare documentation for our clubs to assist them in their greens maintenance was suspended as our national sport association made it one of their objectives. They are in the process of developing a manual to be available for the 2021 season.

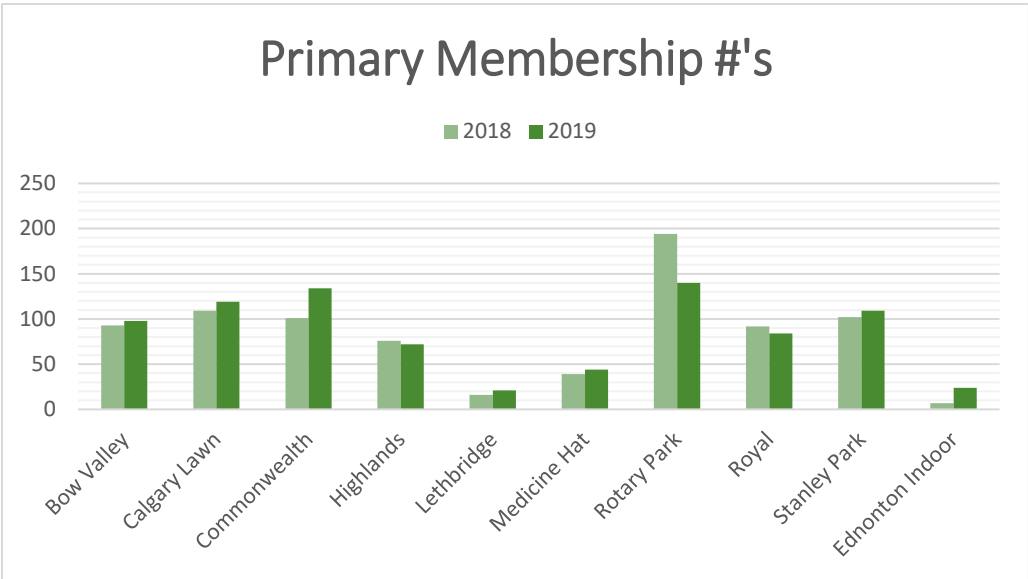
We did become aware that not all clubs understood what the 'speed of a green' meant. Our goal in 2020 is to be more intentional with including this in the umpire training and also to prepare a video presentation so all clubs have greenskeepers or members that can determine the 'speed' and work towards a higher standard of greens for the enjoyment of the game.

3. Membership and Participation Overview

We have nine outdoor clubs which all have ties with their cities through leases except for one club in Edmonton on the Legislative Grounds so they are under the provincial jurisdiction. We have one indoor club that operates in the off season in Edmonton and they rent three different indoor soccer clubs. The indoor club is comprised of members from the three Edmonton outdoor clubs but also attracts a few new members each year.

Overall membership numbers went from 829 in 2018 to 845 in 2019. We continued with the small yearly increase we've seen since 2017 when the membership was at 812. A 4% increase over those years signifies steady growth but a lack of intentional membership drives.

The chart below shows the membership at each club based on their primary members only. Several clubs have members that are registered at more than one club along with some social members.



There was growth in membership numbers at 7 of the clubs with slight decrease at 2 clubs and a large decrease at one club. The decrease was in large part due to a weather-related late start to the season resulting in several of their leagues having a significant drop in numbers. They are hopeful to turn this around in 2020.

Membership #'s in zones:	Calgary	466
	Edmonton	314
	South *	65

* The south zone consists of the clubs in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge

The Lethbridge Club has not shown any significant growth for nearly ten years and so a renewed focus on helping that club grow will be part of the 2020 plans.

With the prospect of a club reopening in Red Deer and the opportunity to working with the Grande Prairie club we hope to increase membership across the province *and* have participation from two more Alberta zones. There used to be a lawn bowling club in Lloydminster, included in that zone, but we have not been able to determine the status of that club or if there is any hope of resurrecting it. We will continue to try and determine if there is someone there to help support that club.

4. Interclub Leagues and Tournaments Increases the Opportunity for Player Development

Our goal was to have 70% of our clubs offering city competitions geared towards specific LTAD stages. The leagues and tournaments the clubs plan are essential to complement the provincial events.

Our two southern clubs continued to organize a couple of interclub tournaments throughout the season and the Medicine Hat held their first Novice Tournament for their new bowlers and those in the learn to compete stage. The Calgary Lawn club again held a Novice Tournament as well for their members. They also held a competitive pairs league which included members of the other Calgary Clubs. For the first time the three Edmonton Clubs held a competitive pairs league which rotated from club to club once each

month. It was a great start to complement the tournaments that are held at two of the clubs for members from all three clubs. Last of all the Calgary Lawn Club hosted a great province wide tournament the August long weekend which attracted players of all stages to come out and compete and enjoy all the social aspects of the game as well. We met the goal as members from 7 of the 9 clubs were involved. We piloted a Youth Development League in the Edmonton area. Three events were held but participation was always low. Commitment from coaches, parents and from the youth themselves is essential to see a Youth League be successful. In 2020, increased communication along with clear expectations set for youth that seek support to attend the Canadian Championships, will help build on the small successes of this past year.



Pairs League play in Edmonton

Quality Sport Development and Achievements

1. Bowling Program delivers Provincial events that attract increased participation



The Mixed Pairs Championship was held at Calgary Lawn

The traditional eight provincial championships were held from mid-June to mid-September to determine the Alberta champions that would represent the province at the corresponding Canadian Championships. These events were hosted by clubs in Edmonton and Calgary and supported by many volunteers. The number of competitors in the singles events and in the youth events continues to increase.

Six sanctioned tournaments were scheduled mostly as zone events. As usual the Medicine Hat Memorial Triples attracted the most entrants and Northern and Southern Cash Triples Tournaments successfully met

the goal of attracting a selection of players from the various LTAD stages. For several players it is their first opportunity to participate in a structure and competitive event alongside players that have attended several Canadian Championships. Attracting competitors into the Novice Pairs Tournaments continues to be a struggle and may improve if clubs begin to work more closely and encourage their novice players (Learn to Bowl and Learn to Compete stage players). That should be a set goal for 2020.

All these events are supported by club greenskeepers, who do an excellent job in preparing the greens, as well as the appointed drawmasters and umpires. Many outstanding volunteers are always a huge part of each successful event as well especially at the clubs that serve lunch to the players. We are very thankful for the clubs and their members as they host provincial events on behalf of Bowls Alberta.

Five conference call meetings were held throughout 2019, with representatives from BC, AB, SK and MB, as work continued on organizing the Western Canadian Triples Championships. This new championship is ready to be held in Winnipeg in 2020. This event will increase the opportunity for players in the Learn and Train to Compete LTAD stages to gain valuable competitive experience.

Bonus for the Year: Clubs' Member Support Provincial Championship Trophies

The presence of a trophy at a championship, that lists the champions from years past, always catches the eyes of the players and spectators. Memories of past champions are highlighted and celebrated in story sharing and sometimes just in smiles. Up until this year we had only three such trophies to annually present. So being able to present and see new championship trophies hoisted up this year was a highlight.



Greg & Derek capture Pairs

A few members graciously sponsored these trophies.

We were pleased to be able to award the following new trophies to championship teams:

Men's Fours Championship in memory of Art Wieliczko

Women's Pairs Championship in memory of Melissa Ranger

Men's Pairs Championship in memory of George Shillabeer

We also had a member's assistance in obtaining a donation from Endura Paint so that we could purchase and present a trophy to the Women's Fours Championship team.



AB Women's Fours championship Team

**ENDURA
PAINT**

2. An Active Youth Development Committee



What follows is a report from various members of the committee. They planned some new initiatives for the year and were encouraged in their work.

'This year, in place of a committee, we set up a council with representatives from clubs with youth members or interested in attracting youth. Making up the council were Heather Mackie and Judy Smith from Calgary Lawn, Cecilia Gillespie from Highlands, and Barb Moll of Medicine Hat. With no chairman for this group the ED was asked by the board to help facilitate meetings. We met once at the BA 'work weekend' and then a few times over the phone to set out some specific goals for the 2019 season.

Report from Calgary Lawn Club:

In conjunction with Bowls Alberta, the Calgary Lawn Bowling Club hosted a Junior Lawn Bowling Day on Saturday August 24th, 2019 from 10 am until noon. Nine (9) juniors ranging in age from 8 to 17 participated in the day's activities. Three of the juniors came and participated with their families (parents/grandparents) and the rest did not have guardians participating. Three (3) instructors were present and hosted the activities and game play.

One of our greens was set up with seven (7) activity stations and the second green was open for game play. The juniors, with family members participating, played games while the other juniors present played shorter pick-up games including singles and cutthroat. Snacks and water and lemonade were provided to the juniors. Overall a successful and fun day for all!



Three Calgary Club Juniors

Report from Highlands Club:



The Highlands Youth Crew

Highlands had 5 junior members this year with three of them participating in the AB Youth Singles Championships held in June and two of them going on to compete in the Canadian Youth Championships which was in August in Victoria, BC. We are proud of Alexis Gallacher who secured a spot on the Canadian Youth Development Squad with her 4th place finish at the Canadians. Alexis will also be representing AB at the Indoor Championships later this month. It is exciting to see the development of our youth into competitive players!

Each youth in the Edmonton area was invited to partner with their own “Pro” to play in a special evening event. This created quite a buzz amongst the youth as to who they were inviting. The first Pro-Am Tournament was held on July 17. It was great fun despite a rain delay getting started and a downpour that cut the tournament short. Six youth from Highlands and one from Commonwealth competed along with their ‘pros’. Fun was had by all and they requested we do it again next year. This event was part of the Youth League Pilot Project that was set up for the Youth in Edmonton.

Report from Medicine Hat club:

Bowls camps on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of July. We only saw four youth come out but they all came out more than once. We used the youth development kit for ideas and used a few of our own to get kids hooked. One of the youth did join as a member.

Youth Bowls day was another focus, although the date chosen was a poor one and it is recommended that this type of day be held in late May or in June. We saw a family come out and bowl for an hour. The boy in the



Wheelchairs on the green was great to see.

family was one of our youth bowlers from July.

We also had some special needs participants that we welcomed to the club to give bowls a try. One of them came with an adaptive device as used in Boccia as seen in the picture to the left.

Curling to Bowls was another area we looked at. We contacted the Medicine Hat Lawn Bowling Club and did have some interest from the youth program but didn’t see anyone come in July. We did, however, have some adult curlers try bowls.’



Making a splash was a fun way to roll.

3. Athlete Development continued to be a focus

Although the Athlete Development Team was not active this past year, several specific events were successfully planned and held. Through the work of the provincial Head Coach and the office, and with the support of the clubs, many players across the province had opportunities to develop their skills.

Finding coaches and past Canadian Team members to serve on this committee will be a focus again in 2020. We did have two players assist with the work on the committee by serving on the selection committee for the Development Athlete Squad.

The Alberta vs British Columbia Development Match

A team of 5 men and 5 women played in a series of games against British Columbia at Calgary Lawn in May this year where players under development were given training and competition to advance their games. This weekend of games was proven to be a valuable investment into developing our players as a number of the athletes went onto winning Provincial and National titles. Feedback from the athletes show that the competition was well worthwhile. It is planned to continue with this event so that, players continue to advance their competition skills. BC won the event due to their superior singles performance.



AB 2019 Development Team

Player Development Workshops

There were numerous opportunities for athletes of all abilities to receive extra training and support throughout the 2019 season. Most of the sessions were run by the Head Coach and included:



Warming up at the Development Camp in the Hat

Development Training Camp held in May in Edmonton

Youth Training camp held prior to the Provincial event held in June in Edmonton

6 Development camps held throughout the summer and across the province with approximately 100 athletes taking advantage of the opportunity to develop and/or improve their skills

Training session with the Canadian Head Coach held in Calgary early August for the Alberta Development and Canadian senior Squad and Development Squad athletes

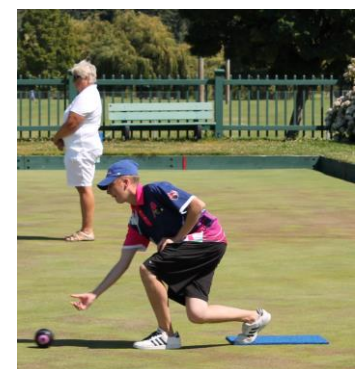
Alberta Team Support

A practice session was held prior to the Canadian Championships led by Pat Bird, National Team player. Information was provided to the athletes regarding game plans, tactics and strategies, visualization, and team concepts. Individual team discussions were also held prior to the Canadian Championships. Coaching was provided for the youth and the athletes competing at the Canadian Singles Championships.

Highlight of the Year: AB Players continue success at the Canadian Championships

The provincial champions represented AB at 6 national events from early August through to the end of October. We acknowledge the support all the players received from the Edmonton Indoor Club through their donation to cover the players' assessment fees.

First early in August, our head coach and a team manager accompanied five youth to the Canadian Youth Championships in BC. Each player there experienced a good measure of success and growth with Alexis Gallacher again securing a spot on the Canadian Youth Development Squad.



Brad rolling in the Men's U25 Singles



Canadian Women's Pairs Champions

Later in August, twenty athletes, accompanied by a team manager, competed at the Canadian Championships in pairs and fours. The AB Women's Fours & Pairs teams both were golden! The Men's Pairs team achieved a silver medal while the Men's Fours team earned the bronze medal. Our second Women's Fours and Men's Fours teams both finished in 4th place. This was one of the best overall performances by AB teams at the 'Majors' Championship as all six teams sent were still in the run for medals on the last day!

Six AB players competed in the Canadian Singles Championships following the competitions for Pairs and Fours teams. Greg Wilson secured his second silver medal within one week making AB's Head Coach very proud & putting a check mark behind his name as a member of the National Squad.



Another Silver medal!



AB vs QC in Senior Triples

The second week of September saw six senior members off to Montreal to compete in the Canadian Senior Triples Championships. The men's team from the Commonwealth Club narrowly missed out on the bronze medal. The women's team returned as the 2018 Canadian Champions but met some stiffer competition this year and missed out on the medals.

During that same week our provincial Mixed Pairs Champions put in a strong performance at the Canadian Championship held in Saskatoon, SK. They earned a berth in the gold medal match but fell short to a strong team from BC. This was the second year in a row that Keith, who represented AB at this event both years, took home a silver medal.



AB takes home the silver medals



AB Junior rolling with ON player

And the 2019 Canadian Championship season ended with five players representing AB at the Canadian Indoor Singles Championships held at the Vancouver Pacific Indoor Club, the only dedicated indoor facility in Canada. This year we missed out on the medals as 5 out of the 6 were swept away by players from BC. But two of our outstanding youth competed at this championship and gained valuable experience as they strived to adjust to the fast-indoor greens.

We are thankful to the Edmonton Indoor LBC that makes a donation to Bowls AB to support sending multiple players to this annual Championship.

4. Coaching development and support is essential

Our goal for 2019 was to have 70% of the clubs represented on a coaching committee or council to improve communication and support to the active club coaches across the province. The work was postponed until 2020.

We did not offer any coach course during the year. Two clinics for the coaches were held, one in Edmonton in the spring and one in Calgary in August. Fourteen coaches took the opportunity to learn from AB's Head Coach and the Canadian Squad Head Coach. Drills and game simulations were the focus as those in attendance observed the two Head Coaches in action.



AB Coach Derek and BCB Coach Terry

Coaches Recommendations and Goals for 2020

- More clubs to utilize Head Coach – not enough requests for assistance received from clubs.
- More athletes to utilize coach on an individual basis to work on specific aspects of their game.
- Increased standardization of coaches within Alberta.
- More coaches to complete NCCP modules to improve their knowledge. It's not enough just to do the 2-day Club Coach course.

5. Officiating Committee's Head Umpire Report

Umpiring Training: over the summer the three Level 2 Umpires were certified in Calgary. The two existing umpires in Calgary were recertified as Level 2 umpires for an additional four years.



Measuring the length of the jack.

Umpires officiated at all Provincial Championships and at most sanctioned tournaments. The dedication of our umpires is noteworthy and much appreciated.

Bowls Canada's Head Umpire, Nick Watkins conducted an evaluation of the umpires in action at the Canadian Championships held in Ontario in August. The findings from his observations and evaluation were released to the Provincial Officiating Committees. This information will be reviewed and used to structure additional umpire training moving forward.

We say farewell to Umpire, Dave Cox, who officiated in our province for over ten years. We wish him well as he moves to Australia where we are sure he will continue his enjoyment of our sport.

Officiating Committee recommendations and goals for 2020 and beyond:

- Appointment of a new Head Umpire
- Conduct training sessions in Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat for new umpires; the long-term goal is a minimum of one umpire at each club.
- Certify new umpires with a focus on Edmonton and the South.
- Continue to update and provide resources to bowlers with a focus on clarifying rules and conditions of play.



Umpire Dave Cox

6. Targeted Support for Para Athletes

Two try-it events were held along with ASRAB (Alberta Sport and Recreation Association for the Blind) at the Commonwealth Club in Edmonton. Two of the 6 participants went on to receive extra coaching with one going on to compete in the Canadian Championships. A try-it event was also held in Calgary and one young lad enjoyed the game and was coached over the summer.



Canada's Summer and Winter Gold medalist Para Athlete Vivian Forest (center) gave lawn bowls a try.

We held a provincial event, again with support from ASRAB at the Highlands Club in Edmonton. With the limited number of players in each of the male and female 4 divisions it was challenging to set up meaningful competition for all but still the players and their directors were thankful for the opportunity to meet up on the greens.

Three AB players and their directors, along with two other Albertans who directed players from ON and NB, participated in the 2019 Canadian Blind Bowlers Championships held the last week of August at the Commonwealth club in Edmonton. We co-hosted this event along with BBAC (Blind Bowlers Association of Canada) and were very thankful for a hosting grant from AB Sport Connection and support funds from the City of Edmonton.

We look forward to 2020 as BCB (Bowls Canada Boulingrin) will take over as the official umbrella organization for para bowls. They will hold two pilot projects for athletes with a disability one being at the Commonwealth Club in Edmonton. They also are organizing the first Canadian wide competition for para bowlers in all 8 disability divisions, which includes 4 divisions for athletes with mobility issues and 4 for the athletes with visual impairments. We look forward to working with BCB in these new adventures to ensure our sport truly is accessible to all.

At the end of the 2019 season, Bowls AB completed 29 of their 46 key actions items identified in the annual plans with an additional 12 items still in progress. Five of the action plans were postponed to 2020 while two were not completed. In most instances, actions were incomplete or postponed due to insufficient resources. The biggest struggle of the year was operating without a President and reduced board members along with several inactive Committees.

90% of the action ideas in the 2019 Plans
are complete or in progress.