

2013 **Senior Teams** **Managers Report**

2013 saw 6 of Queensland's Senior bowlers make the trek north to Townsville to join two of their Northern based peers for the TBA Nationals and Seniors Challenge event, which was held at Kirwan Tenpin and Squash.

In contrast to previous years, it was a better year for the teams as far as medals went. Whilst our bag was not overflowing, we did have some stellar performances which enabled the Queensland team to make several top 3 finishes. Geoff Mure used his home town advantage at Kirwan to pick up a silver medal in the mens' singles event, only 5 pins behind the gold medal position. Our best finishes in the doubles event was 8th in the men, and the ladies pairing of Narelle Qualischefski and Barb Richmond missed a bronze medal by a margin of only 34 pins. The final event of the program, the teams challenge, was where the real excitement lay – our mens' team finished in second position, a mere 2 pins behind the winners from Victoria. This solid team effort was enough to keep the Queensland men in the silver medal position in the mens' overall team points, 3 points ahead of fast finishing Northern Territory. The ladies team finished in 4th place in the teams event – and whilst never in the hunt for a medal placing in that event, the ladies were able to do enough points wise to keep Queensland in the bronze medal position in the overall Combined points tally.

Many of the bowlers were very frustrated with their results in a centre that was stifling hot, and which appeared at times to struggle with the volume of players inside. The domination by the Victorians again illustrated the result of good preparation – they had regular practice sessions prior to making the trip north, and a capable coaching team on hand at all times. This is something that we in Queensland need to take on board if we want to re-attain the dominance that we showed in the early years of the competition.

Despite our team having practiced on the advertised pattern on a regular basis prior to going away, most team members were of the opinion that, even taking into consideration the variables such as weather and lane topography, what we played on was not the advertised condition. TBA of course, were quick to dispute this. As in previous years, the senior team travelled without a coach – the Seniors team, in the previous 2 years, has been given some great on lane and motivational support by Morty Douglass, both by way of informal coaching on the lanes during the event and ongoing ball surfacing adjustments. Morty is held in high regard amongst the seniors, and his help and advice has been always been appreciated and well received by all. However this year, even though he was at the centre during the event, his time was taken up with other duties associated with the tournament, and he was not as available to the team as he has been previously.

As usual, the teamsmanship in both sides was exemplary, and there was no hiding the pride the bowlers had in representing their State, irrespective of the overall results. All team members were more than happy with the standard of the accommodation provided for the teams, and its location with respect to the bowling centre.

It was a pleasure (once again) acting as Manager for the 2013 Queensland Senior Challenge teams; the group that went away all have many years of experience both with this format and that of Rachuig, and it was nice to have a group of 8 players who bonded well and played as a team for the entire tournament...there were no "I's" in this group of players!

I would like to wish those who are successful in trialing for the 2014 team and their support personnel the very best of luck at Lidcombe later this year.

Broni Morgan

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Queensland Seniors Challenge Team Manager