

Sue Mates blog – The hard work begins

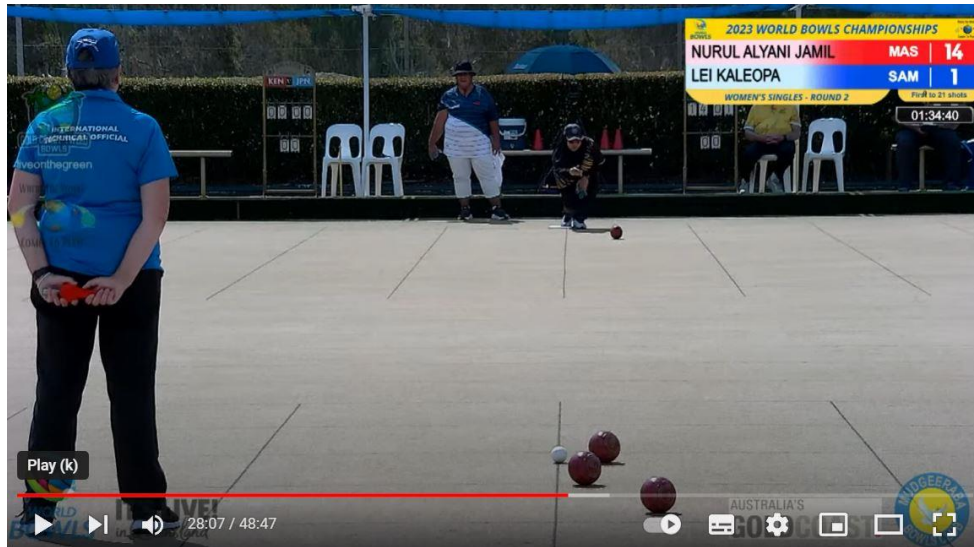
I attended the Opening Ceremony on Monday evening with the rest of the 50 International Technical Officials (ITO's). This is more than the number who attended the Commonwealth Games and I guess that's because there are many more games at any one time. It was relaxed, but formal, affair with a range of speeches, music and performances, with the opportunity to mix with others afterwards.



Then it was back to our accommodation and preparing for a 5:30am wake up and then leaving on buses at about 6:30am for our first duties.

Games are being started at 08:30, 11:30 and 14:45 each day which is 11:30pm, 2:20am and 5:45am respectively in UK time. There are 5 different sites for the games all within the Gold Coast, and between 50-60 games being played at any one time! That's a lot of games.

My first duties were at Mudgeeraba where I was umpire on Green 2 and then I had two Marking duties. The first Marking duty was between Malaysia and Samoa in the Ladies Singles Round 2 and this was where the cameras were. So I have been filmed straightaway on Day 1.



Day 3 on 31st I will be at Mudgeeraba again and the cameras are on Green 1 again. I am due to be umpiring at 11:30 on this green so you may see me again.

So, you will see that the schedule for the ITO's is very busy with very early starts every



day.

I hope you all enjoy watching - the programme for the competition can be found here: <https://world2023.bowls.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2023/08/2023-WBC-program-compressed.pdf>

Best wishes
Sue