

Sue Mates blog – it all comes to an end

At the end of Week One we had a day off which was a great relief. A couple of us decided to visit some extraordinary places including Purling Brook Falls, Mount Tamborine National Park and Glow Worm Cave.



We then headed off to Tweed Heads Bowling Club for dinner. Yes, the building lit in blue is the bowls club!!



The second (and final) week of the World Bowls Championships started similarly to the first one. The initial three days were full on, with 3 starting times across the day and across the five sites.

I was umpiring and marking for the Men's Singles games across these days during which a possible record-breaking game of 34 minutes took place between Ryan Bester (from Canada and the eventual Singles Champion) and Loukas Paraskeva, which Ryan won 21-3.

I not only worked in games with well-known players, such as Sam Tolchard and Ryan Bester, but also with players from much less prominent bowling countries such as Sweden and Cyprus. Although many of the players seemed to manage without the frequent intervention of the marker, others, including Sweden, not only wanted to know distances between bowls, but angles as well!

Other officials had said how it is easy to fall asleep in the heat of sun when you're doing this job, but my games were too exciting to miss, so it was easy enough for me to stay awake.

On Finals Weekend I was allocated only one duty this time; I marked the Men's Singles Quarter Final between Aaron Wilson (Australia) and Andrew Kelly (New Zealand), Andrew was the man who tackled the criminal the week before on the bowls green. Once I had completed this, I was then free to watch the remaining finals as a spectator, which was an enjoyable and relaxing change.

These two weeks have been a fantastic opportunity for me to meet and work with the most amazing and talented bowlers and officials from across the world. I hope that you have all enjoyed reading about my adventures and managed to watch some of the games on YouTube or the finals on Bowls England. If not, I believe that they're still available. Be careful of scam sites asking for money to watch as you should be able to access everything you want for free.

I may have been away from Canterbury, but I have been closely following my own ladies' teams and I am so delighted and proud of their achievements in the Dover League and Mollie Cleggett. I am looking forward to getting home and celebrating the success of the ladies at Canterbury.



So, as the sun sets across Broadbeach for the last time, I will now be moving off to visit and explore other areas and hopefully spot some whales, dolphins and koalas.

Best wishes

Sue