



Sport History

Lawn Bowls

Origins and the sport today:

Initially traced to the 13th century in the UK, national bowling associations were established in the late 1800s. In 1880, the New South Wales Association was formed – the first bowling association in the world. The Victorian Association was formed in the same year. The Scottish Bowling Association was established in 1892.

Today, the sport is played in more than 40 countries, although the home of the modern game is Scotland, with the World Bowls Centre located in Edinburgh.

Lawn bowls at the Commonwealth Games:

Lawn bowls is one of 10 core sports, meaning it has to be included at the Commonwealth Games. The other nine are: aquatics (diving and swimming), athletics, badminton, boxing, hockey, netball, rugby sevens, squash and weightlifting.

Bowls first appeared at the Hamilton 1930 British Empire Games. The all-time medal table is topped by England with 48 (20 gold, nine silver and 19 bronze), although South Africa (39 medals), Scotland (34 medals), New Zealand (41 medals, but fewer gold than Scotland) and Australia (43 medals) have also enjoyed extensive success.

The most prolific men's singles competitor was David BRYANT (ENG), who won five consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medals between 1962 and 1978 (four singles, one fours). In the women's game, Siti ZALINA AHMAD (MAL) won gold at the Manchester 2002 and Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

South Africa has enjoyed success at recent Commonwealth Games, topping the medal table at the past two (Delhi 2010 and Glasgow 2014). In the men's pairs, Alex MARSHALL (SCO) has won three golds, two alongside Paul FOSTER (SCO), and they are defending champions going into the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth Games bowls format has remained consistent, with singles, pairs, triples and fours.

Bowls in Australia:

Governing body Bowls Australia was founded in 1911 and there are more than 2000 clubs and 240,000 registered participants affiliated with member states and territories across the country.

In 1928, the Australian Bowls Council became affiliated with the International Bowling Board, now known as World Bowls Inc.

One man who helped the sport grow in Australia was Ian SCHUBACK (nickname 'Shoey'). The Queenslander won silver at the Edinburgh 1986 Commonwealth Games in the singles, following that with gold at the Auckland 1990 Commonwealth Games in the pairs, alongside Trevor Morris.

Shoey also won five World Indoor Championship titles and even penned a book, entitled *Bowls: Biased + Uncensored*.

Rob PARELLA won Commonwealth Games singles gold at Auckland 1990, as did Kelvin KERKOW at the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. In the women's game, Australia has never produced a singles gold medallist at the Commonwealth Games, although Lynsey ARMITAGE and Karen MURPHY did triumph in the women's pairs at Melbourne 2006.