

BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA

(www.bowlssa.co.za)

September 2, 2015

JOHANNESBURG. - Lawn bowls and disability lawn bowls are in the programme for the 2022 XXII Commonwealth Games, to be hosted by Durban - the first international multi-sport Games to take place on African soil.

Says Bowls South Africa president, Kallie Haupt: "This is fantastic news and great for lawn bowls. At the 2014 Games in Scotland South Africa's Proteas' and disabled Proteas won five gold medals and two bronze – and unrivalled achievement in the Games' history. On home soil, with local support, we might exceed even that milestone."

The Commonwealth Sports Movement is assured of a strong and impactful future as key decisions were taken today, (September 2), at the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand.

Decisions included the unanimous approval of Transformation 2022, the Games Federation's ambitious new strategic plan, the election of a new president for 2015-2019 and the appointment of Durban.

Transformation 2022 is a seven-year strategic plan that aspires to broaden the federation's focus from the four-year operational cycle of hosting Commonwealth Games to a more far-reaching role as a global movement – focused on partnerships, engagement and value generation - that unites athletes, citizens and communities. It includes proposals for a new sports programme of compulsory and optional sports, which now sees the number of compulsory sports at a Commonwealth Games increased from 10 to 16 - and the implementation of a sports quota system for 2022.

Delegates received a final candidate city briefing from Durban, South Africa – including contributions from Alec Moemi, Director-General for Sport and Recreation for the South African Government and Durban's Mayor James Nxumalo - before the Federation's 71 members Unanimously award the hosting rights.

Welcoming the awarding of the XXII Commonwealth Games to the South African City of Durban, CGF President HRH Tunku Imran said: "... Our friends from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa are now primed to make the most of that responsibility and opportunity, and it gives me very great pleasure to welcome the South African City of Durban as proud host of the XXII Commonwealth Games. As a movement, we stand together to welcome and support the very first Commonwealth Games on African soil."

Louise Martin CBE was elected to the post of President, the first female leader of the Commonwealth Games Federation; elections overseen by honorary legal advisor Sharad Rao.

Says Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) President HRH Tunku Imran: "We are assured of an inspiring and sustainable future for the Commonwealth sports movement, as athletes and sports are empowered to deliver a positive impact on the citizens of 71 Commonwealth nations and territories."

Joining the newly-elected President will be vice-presidents Bruce Robertson (Canada) and Gideon Sam (South Africa) who were re-elected and Kereyn Smith (New Zealand) who joins them for the first time on the executive board for the 2015-2019 cycle.

Many participants now depart New Zealand for Apia, Samoa for the Vth Commonwealth Youth Games taking place from September 5, in which two South Africans, Aimée Shnetler (Ncundu Bowling Club, KwaZulu-Natal) and Rowan Watkins (Goedemoed Bowling Club, Southern Free State) will compete.

Issued by Alan P Simmonds, Media Officer, Bowls South Africa (0818621942)