

LAWN BOWLS



A Diverse Team Canada in Birmingham

Is diversity in experience the missing piece for a Canadian gold medal? With a variety of veteran players that bring years of international competition experience to first-time commonwealth games appearances, team Canada is set to disrupt the competition. The variety of young and veteran blood will bring forth different approaches and playing styles that will keep opposing teams on their toes. Long time senior squad member Kelly McKerihen has been apart of our National Program for 13 years and will participate in her 3rd commonwealth games. On the men's side, Ryan Bester has been in our National Program for 16 years and this will mark his 6th Commonwealth appearance.

Joining Ryan and Kelly to the Commonwealth Games is 22-year-old Jordan Kos of the women's team and 24-year-old Rob Law of the men's team who will share the honor of participating in their first Commonwealth Games. Although this will be their first Commonwealth Games, Jordan and Rob are no stranger to competition

and success. Jordan, coming off a silver medal at the U25 Canadian championship in the singles division, is ready to make her mark on the international stage. As for Rob, he has seen a podium in the Asia Pacific championships bringing home a bronze medal in both pairs and fours. He has also collected a silver medal at the U25 Canadian Singles Championships. Although young, Jordan will represent Canada in the singles event at the Commonwealth Games demonstrating Jordan's skill and composure. Rob will be representing Canada in two team events, Triples and Fours. Are these two young athletes the missing key for a gold medal? Only time will tell. For now, the young athletes will rely on Kelly, Ryan and the entire team's experience to help them navigate the high intensity of the international stage.

Dates

July 29th to August 7th, 2022

Venue(s):

Royal Leamington Spa's Victoria Park will play the host to the Lawn Bowls and Para Lawn Bowls events during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Number of Events:

Canada will compete in eight able bodied events — Singles, pairs, triples, and fours for men and women.

History

The basic principle of lawn bowling — aiming balls at a target — is the oldest known sport to mankind. As early as 5200 BC, graphical representations show human figures participating in the activity of tossing a ball or polished stones. Although lawn bowling has progressed tremendously over the years, the basis for the sport derives from its beginnings in ancient Egypt. Lawn bowling, also referred to as "bowls" or "bowling on the green" is a sport of accuracy and precision.

The International Bowling Board, now known as World Bowls, was formed in 1905 and lawn bowling has been contested at all Commonwealth Games except Kingston in 1966.

Overview

Canadian bowlers will compete in four able-bodied events at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham: singles, where each player delivers four bowls; pairs, where teams of two compete against one another and each player delivers three bowls; triples where teams of three compete against one another and each player delivers two bowls, and fours where teams of four compete against each other and each player delivers two bowls. Teams always compete over a predetermined number of “ends”, except for Singles where players play up to a score of 21.

Lawn bowling is played on a 37- to 40-metre-square and perfectly flat section of grass called a “green”. A green is divided into multiple sections called rinks. Generally, rinks are between 5.5 and 5.8 metres wide.

Play begins with the first player laying the mat and, while standing on it, rolling a small white target ball, known as the “jack”, up the green where the “skip” (or in singles, the “marker”) centres it. During the delivery of each bowl, a player must have one foot in contact with, or fully over the mat. The first player begins the match with a bowl, which is followed by a bowl of a player on the opposing team and play continues back and forth until both teams have rolled the appropriate number of bowls. The goal of the game is to roll as many bowls as close as possible to the jack. When the last bowl has been rolled, the players determine whose bowls are closest to the jack. One point is awarded for every bowl that is closer to the jack than the opponent’s closest bowl. The score is entered onto the scorecard.

Although the game may seem as simple as rolling a bowl close to the jack, other factors must be considered to ensure an accurate bowl. For instance, in lawn bowling the bowls are deliberately eccentric (lopsided) so they do not roll in a straight line. Therefore, as a bowl slows down, the bowl increasingly curves towards its “non-flat side” (and ideally closer to the jack). Players must determine where they wish the bowl to rest and then roll the bowl according to that “line of aim”. Players must also consider the “feel” of the green and roll the bowl with sufficient “weight” (force). For example, if the green is heavy or the jack is far away, more weight is needed; whereas if the green is light or the jack is positioned closer, less weight is needed. Players may also deliver the bowl using either a forehand or backhand release depending on the position of other bowls in play. The jack can also be moved or knocked away by an opponent’s bowl but may also be moved closer to one’s bowl anywhere on the rink by a delivered bowl.

Considering that the jack is moveable, the bowls are biased, and no two greens are the same, lawn bowling is a complex target sport involving multiple offensive and defensive strategies.

For more Information:

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Website: www.bowlscanada.com

World Bowls : www.worldbowls.com

Canadian Team Athletes

Women team

Athlete Name: Leanne Chinery



Athlete Information: Leanne is a Registered Nurse who began her Bowls career at the age of 14, convinced by her mom to give it a try. Leanne considers herself very lucky because there was a passionate coach where she was living at the time, who was keen to get young people involved and created many opportunities for Leanne to reach her full potential. Being exposed to the competitive nature of the sport really drew her in. 26 years later she is still going strong! She currently resides in Australia where she still competes.

Sport/Event: Triples, Fours

DOB: November 24, 1981

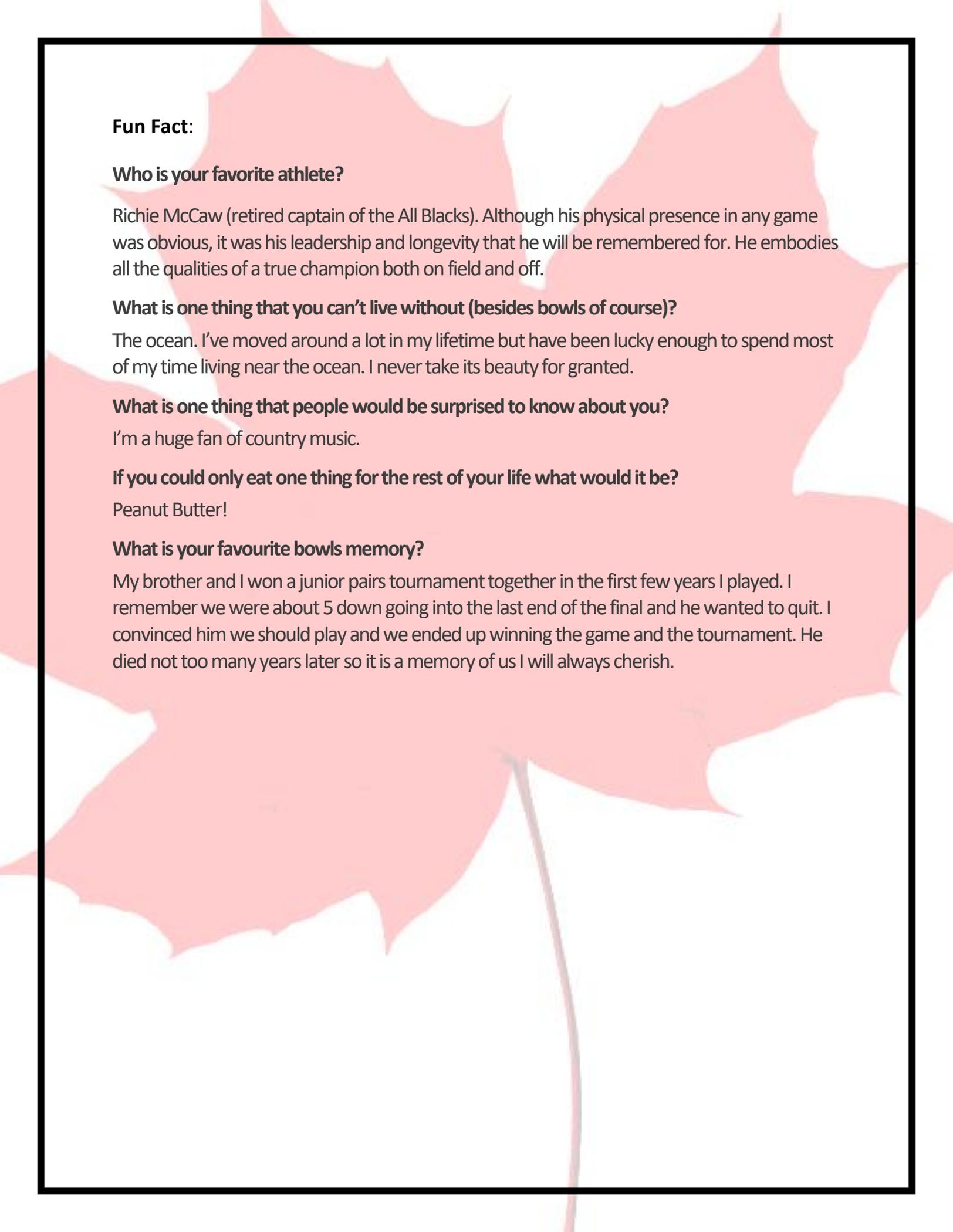
Hometown/Residence: Victoria, BC – Resides in Australia

Club/Coach: Taren Point Bowling Club (AUS) and Windsor Lawn Bowling Club (Ontario)

Social Media:

Career Highlights: 3 Commonwealth Games appearances including 2-4th place finishes in 2018; Bronze medal Women's Fours Multi-Nations Event; Bronze medal in Triples at the Asia Pacific Championship.

Major Competitions: Commonwealth Games 2018; Women's Fours Multi-Nations Event; Two-time Canadian Indoor Singles Champion, Under 25 singles champion and National singles champion



Fun Fact:

Who is your favorite athlete?

Richie McCaw (retired captain of the All Blacks). Although his physical presence in any game was obvious, it was his leadership and longevity that he will be remembered for. He embodies all the qualities of a true champion both on field and off.

What is one thing that you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?

The ocean. I've moved around a lot in my lifetime but have been lucky enough to spend most of my time living near the ocean. I never take its beauty for granted.

What is one thing that people would be surprised to know about you?

I'm a huge fan of country music.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Peanut Butter!

What is your favourite bowls memory?

My brother and I won a junior pairs tournament together in the first few years I played. I remember we were about 5 down going into the last end of the final and he wanted to quit. I convinced him we should play and we ended up winning the game and the tournament. He died not too many years later so it is a memory of us I will always cherish.

Athlete Name: Jackie Foster



Athlete Information: Growing up in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, Jackie was exposed to bowls at a young age. Her grandfather was a long-time bowler, eventually convincing her mom to give it a try. And that's how Jackie and her sister got involved. After years away from the sport, Jackie came back to the game in 2005. A bronze medal in singles at the Canadian Championships 5 years later, earned her an invitation to the National Team training camp. Jackie has been a member of the squad since 2011. Along with international competitions, Jackie continues to compete with her mother and sister on the national level. The former broadcast journalist, turned communicator, was a competitive curler who now focuses on Bowls. Birmingham 2022 will be Jackie's third Commonwealth Games.

Sport/Event: Lawn Bowls - Fours, Pairs

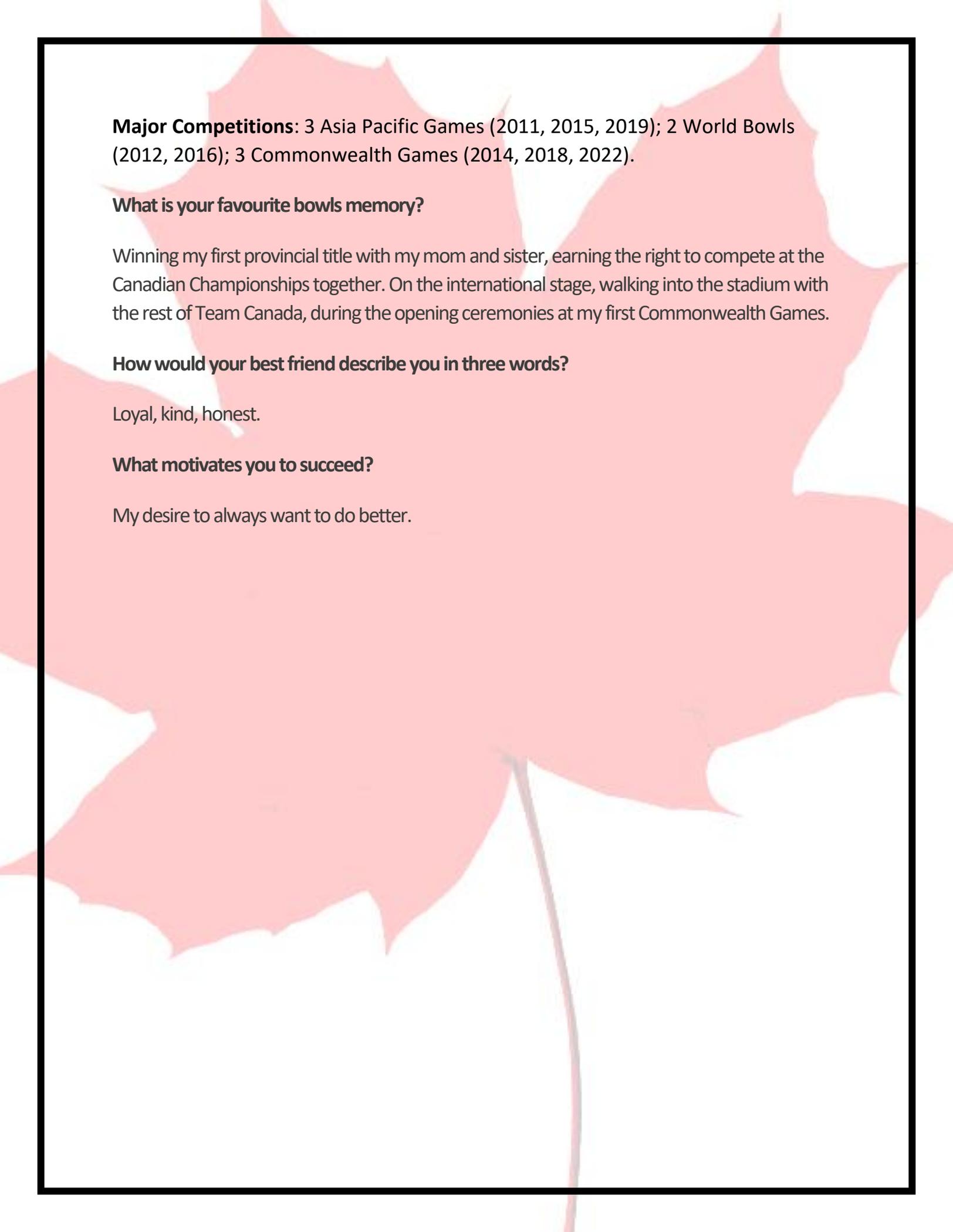
DOB: December 14th, 1975

Hometown: Bridgetown, NS

Club/Coach: Bridgetown Lawn Bowling Club/Terry Scott

Social Media: Twitter – @JackieFosterNS

Career Highlights: Asia Pacific Games - Bronze Medallist (2011 & 2019); Wales Invitational – Bronze Medallist (2018).



Major Competitions: 3 Asia Pacific Games (2011, 2015, 2019); 2 World Bowls (2012, 2016); 3 Commonwealth Games (2014, 2018, 2022).

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Winning my first provincial title with my mom and sister, earning the right to compete at the Canadian Championships together. On the international stage, walking into the stadium with the rest of Team Canada, during the opening ceremonies at my first Commonwealth Games.

How would your best friend describe you in three words?

Loyal, kind, honest.

What motivates you to succeed?

My desire to always want to do better.

Athlete Name: Jennifer MacDonald



Sport/Event: Triples, Fours

DOB: August 14, 1982

Hometown/Residence: Calgary, AB

Club/Coach: Calgary Lawn Bowling Club

Social Media:

Career Highlights: *Gold medal in Women's Fours at the 2019 Canadian National Championships*

Major Competitions: *2019 - Canadian National Championship, Canadian Indoor Singles National Championships, 2017 - Canadian National Championships, Canadian Indoor Singles National Championship*

Athlete Name: Jordan Kos



Athlete Information: Jordan's exposure to bowls is a rather interesting and funny story. The Youth Coordinator of the Regina Lawn Bowling Club put an ad in Jordan's school newspaper. Jordan's mother, who was the newsletter editor at the time, phoned the number on the ad to inform them that they mistakenly advertised in a school newsletter instead of a newsletter dedicated to seniors. Little did Jordan's mom know, that was the start of a prosperous lawn bowling career for her daughter! The club assured Jordan's mom that they were indeed looking for new youth members and invited Jordan and her two cousins to come down and play. As they say, the rest is history. As a former alley bowler, Jordan had a natural delivery which accelerated her progress.

Sport/Event: Singles, Pairs

DOB: June 25, 2000

Hometown/Residence: Regina, SK

Club/Coach: Regina Lawn Bowling Club

Social Media:

Career Highlights: 2014 ,2016 North American Challenge Overall First Place; Canadian Championship Fours Gold Medal – 2014. Bronze medal in triples at the Asia Pacific Championship

Major Competitions: 2016, 2017 Canadian Singles Championships; 2018 North American Challenge; 2017 Multi-Nations

Fun Fact:

What is one thing that you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?

Travel....and of course, lip balm.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Bethany Hamilton as she got back into the water after a devastating shark attack proving that the love for a sport will always outweigh the fear of failure.

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Hugging Coach Harriette after winning the National Female Junior Singles Championship for the first time.

How would your best friend describe you in three words?

Shy! Quiet! And Sensitive! (And I can wear every color)!

What motivates you to succeed?

I never look at what I have previously accomplished; I only look at what I want to accomplish.

What is one thing that people would be surprised to know about you?

I scored a supporting role in the Corner Gas Movie as Trumpet Player #2.

If you're not at the lawn bowling club, where can we find you?

Hopefully on an airplane travelling to an exotic destination.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?A

Pepperoni and Mushroom Pizza at the best restaurant in Regina– Houston Pizza.

Athlete Name: Kelly McKerihen



Athlete Information: It is fair to say that lawn bowling has been a part of Kelly's life since 1986 – her birth year. Growing up in a family of bowlers, Kelly's earliest memories are those of her parents and grandparents on the green playing bowls. Like most of the members of our squad; Bowls brought Kelly opportunities to travel the world

Competing at the highest levels and creating friendships that will last a lifetime. Kelly now resides in Melbourne, Australia and will represent Canada for the third time at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Sport/Event: Triples, Fours

DOB: May 5, 1986

Hometown/Residence: Toronto, ON – Residence: Melbourne, AUS

Club: Clayton Bowls Club (AUS) | Toronto: Port Credit Lawn Bowling Club

Social Media: [Kelly McKerihen](#) | [Facebook](#)

Career Highlights:

International:

- 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Semi-Finalist (Singles & Pairs)
- 2012 & 2016 World Championships: Bronze (Singles)
- 2019 World Bowls Challenge Team (Australia vs World)
- 2019 Gold Coast Multi-Nations: Silver (Singles)
- 2017 Gold Coast Multi-Nations: Bronze (Fours)
- Debut for Canada: 2006

Domestic:

- 2021 Australian Championships Gold (Mixed-Pairs) & Bronze (Triples)
- 2019 Australian Championships Silver (Fours)
- 2017 Australian Indoor Singles Championships Silver
- 9-Time Canadian Champion Port Credit Lawn Bowling Club

Major Competitions:

Commonwealth Games: 2014, 2018; World Championships: 2008, 2012, 2016;

World Cup: 2013, 2014, 2015

Fun Fact: My dad, my sister and my brother have all played bowls for Canada and my fiancé currently plays for New Zealand.

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Thai Food

What is your favourite bowls memory?

I'd have to say that one of my favourite bowls memories is walking out as Team Canada at the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Walking out wearing the maple leaf, into a packed Celtic Park Stadium was an incredibly proud moment and a surreal feeling!

How would your best friend describe you in three words?

Friendly, Competitive, Determined

Who is your favourite athlete?

Roger Federer

What motivates you to succeed?

The quest to continually improve, become the best player I can be and ultimately win a World Championship or Commonwealth Games Gold medal

Men's Team

Athlete Name: Rob Law



Athlete Information: Rob Law is the youngest athlete on this year's men's team. His grandmother introduced him to bowls when she brought him down to her local club on "buddy day" in Manitoba. He watched his grandmother play and started playing himself at around 9 years old. It wasn't until Rob was 12 years old where he started competing at the highest level. Rob competed in his first Nationals in Montreal.

Sport/Event: Triples, Four

DOB: October 16, 1997

Hometown/Residence: Winnipeg, MB & Calgary, AB

Club/Coach: Nordwood LBC

Social Media: [Rob \(@bobby.law\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

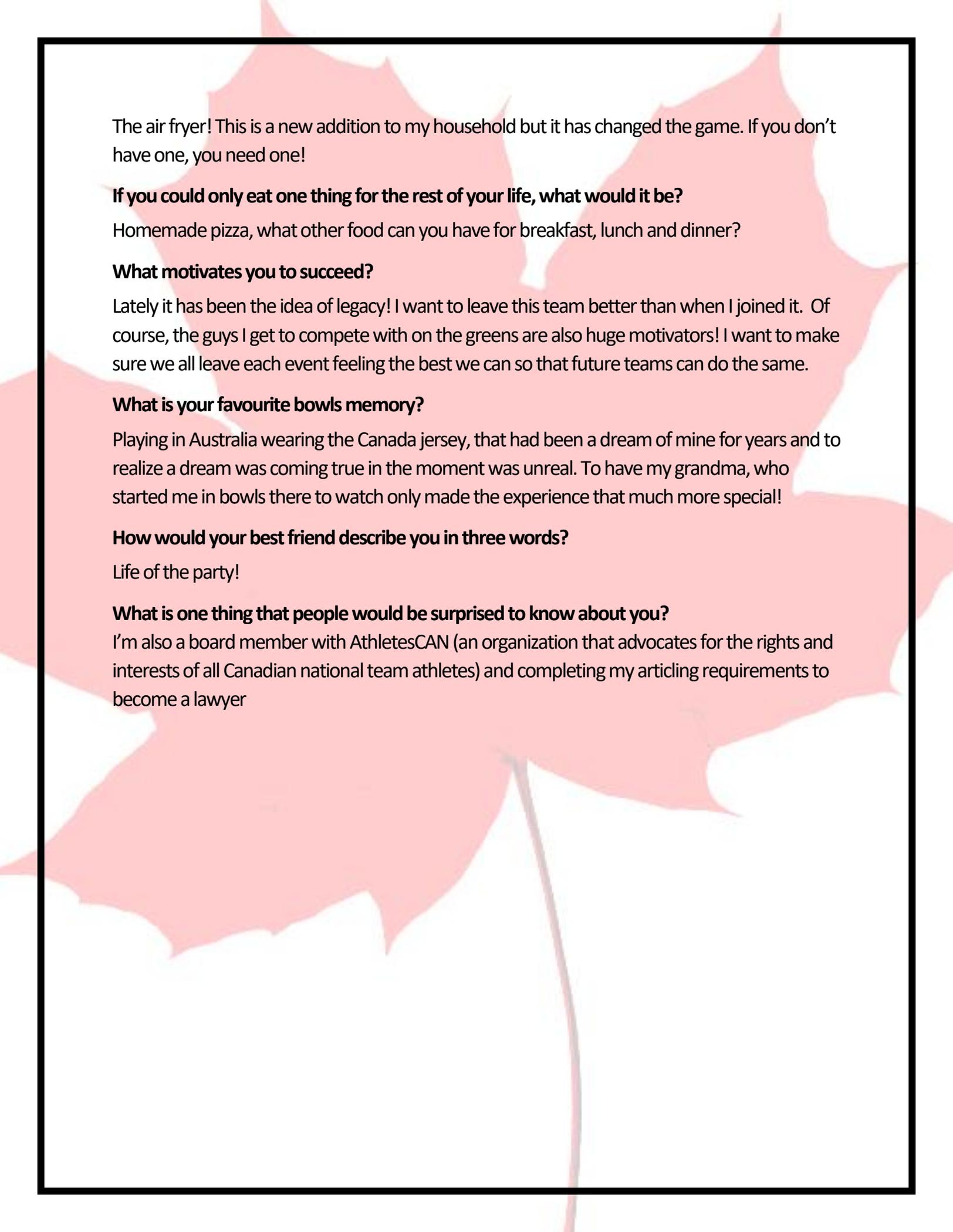
Career Highlights: 2019 double Bronze at the Asia Pacific Championships (fours & pairs); 2017, 2018 Bronze and Silver at the Canadian U25 Singles Championships

Major Competitions: 2019 Asia Pacific Championships (Bronze in fours and pairs); 2018, 2017 World Junior Championships; 2018 North American Challenge; 2018, 2017 Canadian U25 singles championships

Who is your favorite athlete?

Daniel Ricciardo, the attitude, joy and passion he brings to every race is incredible.

What is one thing that you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?



The air fryer! This is a new addition to my household but it has changed the game. If you don't have one, you need one!

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Homemade pizza, what other food can you have for breakfast, lunch and dinner?

What motivates you to succeed?

Lately it has been the idea of legacy! I want to leave this team better than when I joined it. Of course, the guys I get to compete with on the greens are also huge motivators! I want to make sure we all leave each event feeling the best we can so that future teams can do the same.

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Playing in Australia wearing the Canada jersey, that had been a dream of mine for years and to realize a dream was coming true in the moment was unreal. To have my grandma, who started me in bowls there to watch only made the experience that much more special!

How would your best friend describe you in three words?

Life of the party!

What is one thing that people would be surprised to know about you?

I'm also a board member with AthletesCAN (an organization that advocates for the rights and interests of all Canadian national team athletes) and completing my articling requirements to become a lawyer

Athlete Name: Cameron Lefresne



Athlete Information: Similar to some of his team members, Cameron was exposed to Bowls at a very young age (around 6), introduced to the sport by his grandmother. He continued to play bowls with his grandmother, grandfather and sister. Cameron can't help but think back to the time where he played for the bronze medal game at the Commonwealth Games. The cameras and the grandstand atmosphere are embedded in his memories forever. Coming up just short that year leaves Cameron hungry and determined for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Sport/Event: Triples, Fours

DOB: June 30, 1994

Hometown/Residence: Enfield, NS

Club/Coach: Wanderers Lawn Bowling Club

Social Media: [\(20+\) Cameron Lefresne | Facebook](#) -

Career Highlights: 2017, U25 Gold Medal; 2018 4th place Commonwealth Games (Triples); 2019 Bronze medal Asia Pacific (Fours). These are his second Commonwealth Games. **Major Competitions:** Commonwealth Games: 2018; 2017 Multi Nations Event; 2017: U25 Gold Medal

Fun Fact:

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Pizza

What is your favourite bowls memory?

The 2018 Commonwealth Games

If you're not at the lawn bowling club, where can we find you?

Working

Athlete Name: Greg Wilson



Athlete Information: Greg's introduction to Bowls came later than most. When he was 17 years old, his dad had just started his own business. He shared his rented workspace with Dave Burrows, an accomplished Canadian bowler. Greg's dad teased Dave for playing an "old man sport". Dave proceeded to invite Greg's dad to a green to try out the sport. Luckily for Greg, his dad had invited him and his brother to join him. Greg instantly fell in love with the game and has not looked back. Greg will compete in his second Commonwealth Games.

Sport/Event: Triples, Fours

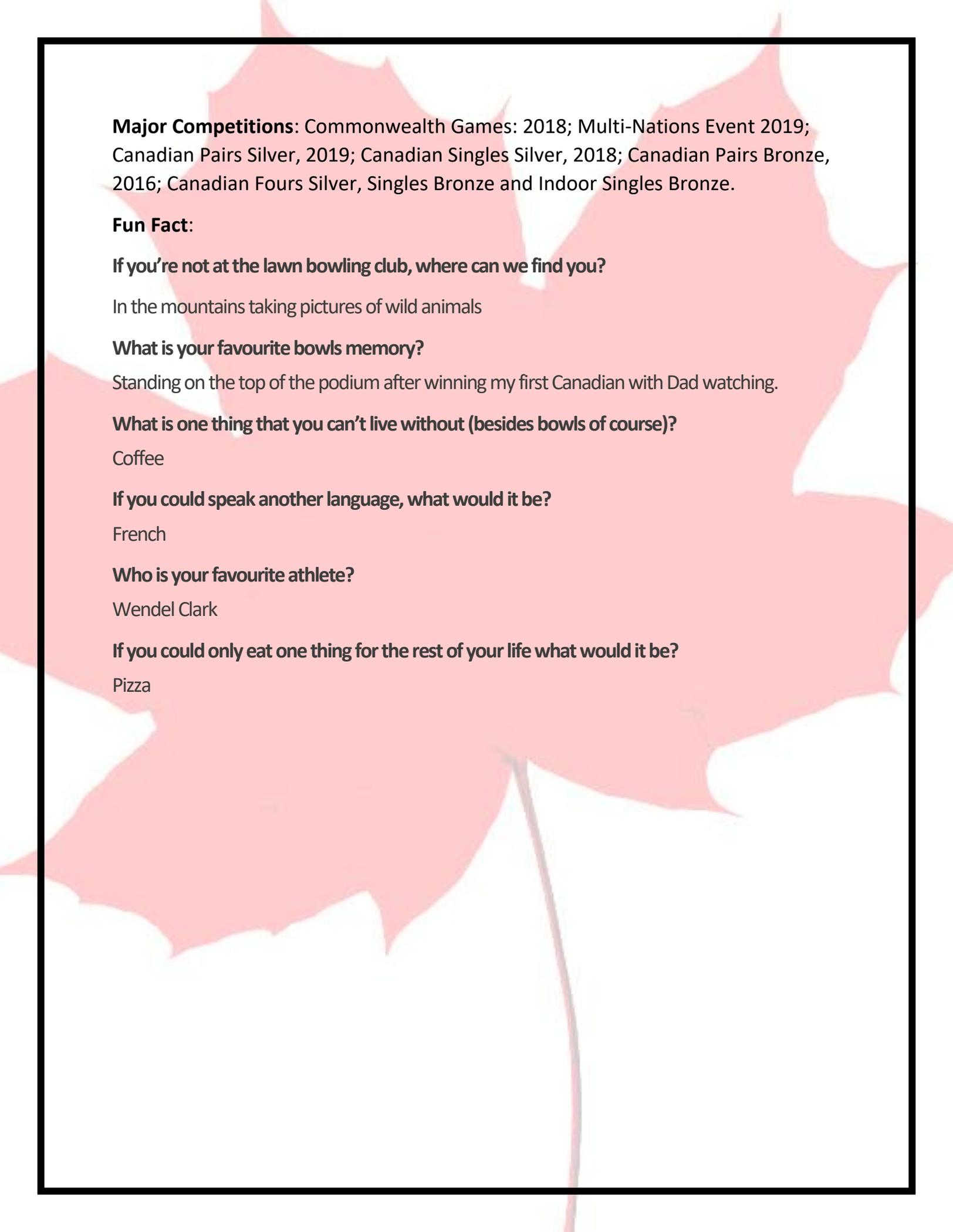
DOB: March 2, 1982

Hometown/Residence: Cochrane, AB

Club/Coach: Calgary Lawn Bowling Club

Social media: [\(20+\) Greg Wilson | Facebook](#) @GregorBowls | IG and Twitter

Career Highlights: 2011 Asia Pacific Fours Bronze; 2015 Canadian Pairs Champion; has medaled in Men's 4's, singles and indoor singles



Major Competitions: Commonwealth Games: 2018; Multi-Nations Event 2019; Canadian Pairs Silver, 2019; Canadian Singles Silver, 2018; Canadian Pairs Bronze, 2016; Canadian Fours Silver, Singles Bronze and Indoor Singles Bronze.

Fun Fact:

If you're not at the lawn bowling club, where can we find you?

In the mountains taking pictures of wild animals

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Standing on the top of the podium after winning my first Canadian with Dad watching.

What is one thing that you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?

Coffee

If you could speak another language, what would it be?

French

Who is your favourite athlete?

Wendel Clark

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Pizza

Athlete Name: Ryan Bester



Athlete Information: Ryan Bester's family is no stranger to bowls. His maternal uncle and grandfather were bowlers and introduced him to the sport. In addition, Ryan's two older brothers were also part of Team Canada. Ryan and his father both took up bowls two years after his older brothers. The Bester family went on to win gold in Fours at the 2006 National Championship in Regina. Ryan now calls Australia home. When not competing, Ryan is the Head Pro at the Broadbeach Lawn Bowling Club in Gold Coast, Australia, which is one of the largest clubs in the world and was the site of the 2018 Commonwealth Games bowls competition! Ryan will represent Canada in his 6th Commonwealth Games

Sport/Event: Singles, Pairs

DOB: July 12, 1984

Hometown/Residence: Hanover, ON

Club/Coach: Hanover (CAN) | Broadbeach (AUS)

Social Media: [Ryan Bester | Facebook](#)

Career Highlights: 5 Commonwealth Games appearances: 2018 Commonwealth Games singles Silver Medalist; 2006, 2014 Commonwealth Games Bronze & Silver Medalist; 2012, 2016 World Singles silver medalist; 2007 Atlantic Rim Singles Champion; 2005 Asia Pacific Singles; champion and 2004 World Pairs Champion *(Include top 3 rankings, records or achievements, number of Commonwealth Games appearances if more than 1)*

Major Competitions: Commonwealth Games: 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018: Australian Open *(Major Competitions in the past 5 years - In order of importance =*

Commonwealth > Olympics > Pan Am > Worlds > Junior Worlds > Nationals)

Fun Fact:

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Pizza

What is one thing that you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?

Music

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Winning the Canadian Fours with my two brothers and Father

If you could speak another language, what would it be?

Italian

Athlete Name: John Bezear



Sport/Event: Pairs, Fours

DOB: August 29 1979

Hometown/Residence: Kitchener, ON

Club/Coach: Heritage Greens Kitchener – Coach Darryl Fitzgerald

Social Media: No social Media

Career Highlights: *Gold Medal Mens Pairs – Multi Nations 2019, RU Canadian Mens Fours 2019*

Major Competitions: *Nationals and Multi Nations*

Fun Fact: I love cooking