

# ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE



USA | CANADA | SCOTLAND | IRELAND



MONDAY 26TH AUGUST - FRIDAY 30TH OF AUGUST  
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BOWLING, NORTHFIELD, AYR

## Overview



The Atlantic International Challenge (formerly the Four Nations Series) is set to start in the next few days. The event will take place from August 25<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> in Ayr, Scotland at Bowls Scotland's National Training Centre. The four participating countries are Canada, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the USA.

The event was developed collaboratively between Scotland, Canada, USA and Ireland as a way to develop high performance athletes and provide opportunities for international play. While the Lawn Bowling community continues to wait for decisions regarding international competition at the Commonwealth Games and subsequently World Bowls, this event will be the first opportunity for 10 athletes named to the 2023-2026 National Squad to compete together.

“We are excited to add this new opportunity for competition in our international calendar and to have 10 National Squad members attend. This will be a great opportunity for skill development for not only newly named members to the squad, but veteran athletes as well. We look forward cheering on Team Canada as our high-performance athletes deliver notable performances” expresses Britany Gordon, CEO of Bowls Canada. " I also want to extend a huge thank you to Bowls Scotland for hosting the inaugural Atlantic Challenge and to the three other participating nations for their collaborative efforts on this event.”

The Atlantic International Challenge is an overall team event, rather than an individual event; as such, nations will be competing to get the most points through the whole event. The event will make use of the World Championship format, where five men and five women will compete from each nation. The five-player format will include 4 days of singles/fours matches running concurrently with pairs/triples, followed by a final day on Friday where there will be a final chance to get points in two single and triples matches.

The men's team representing Canada includes both veteran of the National Squad as well as newly named members. Newcomers to the National Squad Jon MacDonald and Kody Olthof will be attending their first international event and will complement the team with their skillset. The third new member to the National Squad is Mike McNorton who has represented Canada at the World Bowls Indoor Championship for the first time this year and will try his hand at his second international competition during this event. The team is completed with two experienced bowlers, Cameron Lefresne and Rob Law. These two

players have shown dedication to skill development and on-the-greens prowess in past games which suit this event and team greatly.

Wearing the maple leaf for the women's side, we have experienced bowlers and Team Canada veterans in the lineup including silver medalist in triples at the 2023 World Bowls Emma Boyd, Joanna Cooper, and Baylee Van Steijn. A new member to the National Squad, but experienced on the international scene, is Linda Ng who will be representing Canada at the Atlantic International Challenge. Lastly, Jordan Kos who has had exposure and success in competition from local to international, will be rounding out the team.

Make sure to follow along and cheer for Team Canada in their first international competition since being named earlier this year.

## **Athlete Line Up**

### **Team Canada**

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
Jon MacDonald	Emma Boyd
Mike McNorton	Joanna Cooper
Cameron Lefresne	Linda Ng
Rob Law	Baylee Van Steijn
Kody Olthof	Jordan Kos

### **Team Ireland**

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
Ian McClure	Sandra Bailie
Stuart Bennett	Zoe Stratton
Stephen Kirkwood	Zoe Minish
Adam Rankin	Hannah Cochrane
Mark Foster	Sophie McIntyre

## **Team Scotland**

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
Jason Banks	Dee Hoggan
Gary Prunty	Dawn Anderson
Mark Kelsey	Rebecca Houston
Connor Milne	Beth Riva
Daniel Gormley	Lynn Lees

## **Team USA**

<b>Men's</b>	<b>Women's</b>
Bill Brault	Joanne Hedgespeth
Daniel Gorelick	Dee McSparran
Scottie Marzonie	Martha Nilsen
Bob Schneider	Joan Robbins
Corey Vose	Sandy Wall

## **Dates**

Monday, August 26th to Friday, August 30th, 2024

## **Venue**

Bowls Scotland's National Centre for Bowling in Northfield, Ayr.

## **Number of Events**

The event will make use of the World Championship format, where five men and five women will compete from each nation. Teams will compete in eight events – Singles, pairs, triples, and fours for both men and women. The Atlantic International Challenge is an overall team event, rather than an individual event; as such, nations will be competing to get the most points through the whole event.

## About Lawn Bowling

Bowls is a strategic, challenging and fun sport that can be enjoyed by anyone. It is played on a large smooth grass surface called a “green”. Lawn bowls are large, hard resin balls with a bias to them, so that they travel along an elliptical path, rather than going straight. The object of the game is to roll your bowls closer to the target than your opponents. The target is a small white ball called a “jack”. The jack is rolled the length of the green to start each end. Players from each team taking turns rolling their bowls down the green toward the jack until all the bowls have been played.

## About Bowls Canada

Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB) is the governing body responsible for lawn bowls in Canada. The BCB mission is to advance the sport of bowls in Canada. For more details on Bowls Canada Boulingrin and the sport of lawn bowls, visit [www.bowlscanada.com](http://www.bowlscanada.com).

### For More Information

Bowls Canada Boulingrin

2451 Riverside Drive,

Ottawa (ON), K1H 7X7

Tel: 613-224-0021

Email: [office@bowlscanada.com](mailto:office@bowlscanada.com)

Website: [www.bowlscanada.com](http://www.bowlscanada.com)

## Meet the Women's Team

### Emma Boyd

#### Athlete Information:

Originally from BC, Emma relocated to Queensland, Australia to bowl year-round down under. In 2018, Emma won the Junior Canadian Youth Championship and in 2019 the U25 Canadian Youth Championship. She also continued to compete at the local and state level in Australia. On the international front, Emma won a bronze medal at the 2023 World Bowls in triples alongside Baylee Van Steijn and Joanna Cooper. She's looking to continue her bowls development journey by competing on the National Squad once again and is excited to attend the inaugural 2024 Atlantic Challenge



**DOB:** 7/29/2000

**Hometown:** Tsawwassen, B.C.

**Residence:** Gold Coast, QLD

**Club:** Club Tweed

**Profession:** Assistant Bowls Coordinator at Club Tweed

**Social media:** Instagram - @emmaaboyd

#### Career Highlights:

- QLD State Mixed Pairs – Bronze Medal 2024
- QLD State District Sides – Winners 2024
- Bronze medal in women's triples at World Bowls 2023
- QLD State Pennant Winners – 2023
- QLD State Triples Runners Up – 2021
- U25 Canadian National Singles Champion – 2019
- World U25 Mixed Triples Champion – 2017

#### Local Media:

**TV:** CBC Vancouver

**Newspaper:** Vancouver Sun, Delta Optimist

**Radio:** Delta 604 NOW

**Fun Facts:**

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Standing on the podium with my teammates after winning a bronze medal in the triples at World Bowls surrounded by the support of friends and family.

**Who is your favourite athlete?**

Serena Williams – her power, grit and determination is inspiring

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Basketball

**Who is your favourite music artist?**

Fleetwood Mac

**What are three things you can't live without?**

My dog, Internet, and Sunshine

**Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?**

I can crack an egg in each hand

**What three words would your teammates use to describe you?**

Funny, caring, and motivated

## Baylee Van Steijn

### Athlete Information:

As the youngest female member of the National Squad, Baylee Van Steijn is once again looking to show the world what she's got on the international stage. In 2022, she competed at the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championships and won the bronze. She also won silver at the 2023 U25 Canadian Youth Championships, losing to National Squad teammate Jordan Kos in the gold medal game. On the international scene, Baylee won a bronze medal in triples with Squad members Emma Boyd and Joanna Cooper, at the 2023 World Bowls Championships. Baylee is thrilled about being named to the 2023-2026 National Squad and the opportunity to represent Canada at the Atlantic Challenge



**DOB:** 2/26/2001

**Hometown:** Gores Landing, ON

**Club:** Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club/ Port Perry Lawn Bowling Club

**Profession:** Welder

**Social media:** Facebook - Baylee van Steijn

### Career Highlights:

- Bronze medal in women's triples at World Bowls 2023
- 2022 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship Bronze medal
- 2023 Canadian Youth Championship U25 silver medal

### Local Media

**Radio:** Cave FM 106.4 Gores Radio Station

**Newspaper:** Today's Northumberland, Cobourg Media

## **Facts**

### **Who is your favourite athlete?**

Christine Sinclair and Hayley Wickenheiser because they are both strong female role models in sports.

### **If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Hockey

### **What is your favourite movie?**

Anything Adam Sandler

### **Who is your favourite music artist?**

Johnny Cash

### **What are three things you can't live without?**

Pickles, Pillows/ fuzzy blankets, friends and family

### **Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?**

I tried and love kool-aid pickles

### **What three words would your teammates use to describe you?**

Dedicated, passionate and encouraging

## Joanna Cooper

### **Athlete Information:**

When Joanna is not working as a geophysicist, you can find her lawn bowling in New Zealand, Australia, and but more locally at the Calgary Lawn Bowling Club. She has competed as a high-performance bowler at various local, nationals level across several countries. After a few years away from the Team, Joanna is once again donning the maple leaf as a National Squad member. Joanna has been selected to attend the Atlantic Challenge and is looking to medal again after her silver medal at the 2023 World Bowls Championships with Baylee Van Stein and Emma Boyd.



**Hometown:** Calgary, AB

**Club:** Stanley Park LBC (Calgary), Rotary Park LBC (Calgary), Calgary Lawn Bowling Club, Northeast Valley Bowling Club (Dunedin, NZ)

**Profession:** Geophysicist

### **Career Highlights:**

- Bronze medal in women's triples at World Bowls 2023
- 2019 Queensland State Pennant – Division 1 Champion
- 2018 Commonwealth Games – 4th in Triples and Fours
- 2018 Wales 10 Nations Test Series – Bronze in Fours
- 2018 North American Challenge
- 2017 Gold Coast 8 Nations – Bronze in Fours
- Multi-Nations Event – 2017
- World Bowls – 2012 & 2016
- Commonwealth Games – 2014
- Asia-Pacific Championships (bronze medal) – 2011

### **Local Media**

**TV:** CTV Calgary, CBC Calgary, City News Calgary, Global Calgary

**Newspaper:** Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun

**Radio:** City News Calgary, CBC Calgary

**Fun Facts:**

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Winning the 2014 Southern Alberta Novice Pairs Championship with my dad.

**Who is your favourite athlete? Roger Federer How were you introduced to the sport of bowls?**

My skip convinced our curling team to join a fun Lawn Bowling league.

**What motivates you to succeed?**

The opportunity to push my limits and find out how good I can become

## Linda Ng

### **Athlete Information:**

Linda is a new member of the 2023-2026 National Squad, however, is not a new player to the sport. Linda has represented Canada most recently at the 2024 World Bowls Indoor Championships where she brought home two bronze medals in women's singles and mixed pairs with teammate Mike McNorton. Prior to competing on the international stage, Linda has won Canadian Indoor Championship titles for 2022 and 2023. Linda is excited to be part of Team Canada and to compete alongside National Squad members as the inaugural Atlantic Challenge.



**Hometown:** Richmond, BC

**Club:** Pacific Indoor Bowls Club

### **Career Highlights:**

- 2024 World Indoor Championships bronze medalist in women's singles
- 2024 World Indoor Championships bronze medalist in mixed pairs
- 2023 Canadian Indoor Championship gold medalist
- 2022 Canadian Indoor Championship gold medalist

## Jordan Kos

### Athlete Information:

Coming off representing Canada at the 2023 World Bowls Championship and the 2023 Champion of Champions last year at 24 years of age, Jordan Kos is looking to make her mark at the Atlantic Challenge. Jordan won the 2022 Canadian Outdoor Singles Championships and most recently won against teammate Baylee van Steijn at the 2023 Canadian Youth Championships Women's Under 25 event. She is looking to carry the momentum from these wins into the Atlantic Challenge and help bring Team Canada to the podium.



**DOB:** 6/25/2000

**Hometown/Residence:** Regina, Saskatchewan

**Club:** Regina Lawn Bowling Club

**Profession:** Student/ Marketing Assistant

**Social Media:** Instagram – jordan\_kos\_2000, Facebook – Jordan Kos

### Career Highlights:

- 2019 Asia Pacifics Gold Medal
- Canadian U25s – 2019 (silver medal), 2023 (Gold Medal)
- Canadian Singles Championships – 2016 (silver medal), 2017 (silver medal) & 2019 (bronze), 2022 (Gold)
- Canadian Championships Fours – 2014 (gold medal), 2016 (silver medal) & 2018 (bronze medal)
- Canadian Championships Forster-Lang Pairs – 2013 (gold medal), 2015 (gold medal) & 2017 (gold medal)
- 2018 North American Challenge
- Canadian U 18s – 2015 (gold medal) & 2017 (gold medal)
- 2017 Multi-Nations Event

- North American Challenge Overall First Place – 2014, 2016
- Silver medal at the Tiger Bowls and China Open – 2015
- Canadian Championship Pairs – 2015 (silver medal)
- US Open runner up in the Championships flight for women’s fours, women’s pairs, and women’s singles. Female player of the tournament.

### **Local Media**

**TV:** CTV Regina, CBC Saskatchewan, Global Regina

**Newspaper:** Regina Leader-Post

**Radio:** CJME News Talk 980, 620 CKRM

### **Funs Facts**

#### **Who is your favourite athlete?**

Bobby Orr. He is the best hockey player to every play the game! He is humble, kind and a real ambassador for all sports.

#### **What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Being drafted at the age of 13 by the infamous, Jean Roney, to play pairs with her nationally which was the start of my competitive bowls career. Also, at the age of 15, being asked to represent Canada at the North America Challenge. This was the first time I represented Canada internationally. Oh, and being selected to compete at the Commonwealth Games and World Bowls.

#### **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.

#### **What is your favourite movie?**

Wedding Crashers

#### **If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

I’d go where the money is!

#### **What are three things you can’t live without?**

Bowls. Money. Glaxal (google it).

#### **Any other fun facts you’d like to share about yourself?**

I've never said "No" to a good slice of pizza. I studied Latin for four years. I hate spontaneity  
– It takes the fun out of planning.

**What three words would your teammates use to describe you?**

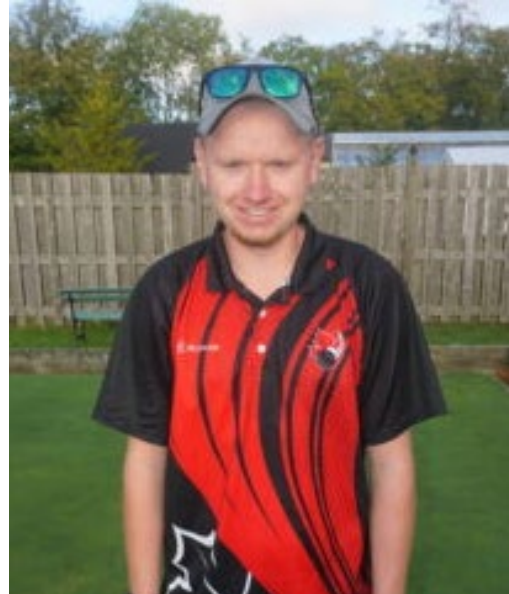
Shy. Quiet. Sensitive. And I can wear every color!

## Meet the Men's Team

### Cameron Lefresne

#### Athlete Information:

Cameron was first introduced to the sport of lawn bowling at the age of 6 by his grandmother, but since has continued to thrive in the sport. Cameron has played in numerous international events since 2016 and is looking forward to fighting for a win for Team Canada in Scotland at the Atlantic Challenge. Cameron will make use of his experience at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2023 World Bowls Championships for this upcoming competition. In addition to being a high-performance athlete, he is also involved at the provincial level, where he is currently the president of Lawn Bowls Nova Scotia.



**DOB:** 6/30/1994

**Hometown:** Enfield, NS

**Residence:** Bridgewater, NS

**Club:** Wanderers Lawn Bowling Club

**Profession:** Survey Technician

**Social Media:** Facebook -

- Asia-Pacific Championships Fours – 2019 (bronze medal)
- Commonwealth Games – 2018 (4th in triples); 2022
- Multi-Nations Event – 2017
- Canadian Championships U25 – 2017 (gold medal)

#### Local media

**TV:** City News Halifax

**Radio:** City News Halifax 95.7

**Newspaper:** The laker news

**Fun Facts**

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Playing in two commonwealth games

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Soccer

**What is your favourite movie?**

Men in Black

**Who is your favourite music artist?**

Toby Keith

**What are three things you can't live without?**

Pizza, Coca-cola, Bowls

**What three words would your teammates use to describe you?**

Quiet, Easy-going, Calm

## Rob Law

### Athlete Information:

Rob was introduced to lawn bowls at a local club in Manitoba when his grandmother brought him to a “buddy day”. He started playing at the age of 9, and at 12 he started competing at higher levels locally, provincially, and nationally. While initially from Winnipeg, Rob has bowled at clubs in Halifax and Calgary while at school pursuing a career as a lawyer. He has represented Canada as a national team member at various internal games including Commonwealth Games, World Bowls Championships, and now at the Atlantic Challenge. Outside of our sport, Rob has served on the Board of Directors for AthletesCAN, an organization dedicated to national team athletes from all sports in Canada.



**DOB:** 10/16/97

**Hometown:** Winnipeg, MB

**Residence:** Calgary, AB

**Club:** Norwood LBC/ Calgary LBC

**Profession:** Lawyer

**Social Media:** Instagram - @bobby.law

### Career Highlights:

- Asia Pacific Championships – 2019 (bronze medal in fours and pairs)
- Canadian U25 Singles Championships – 2018 (silver medal)
- Canadian U25 Singles Championships – 2017 (bronze medal)

### Local Media

**TV:** City News Winnipeg, CTV News Winnipeg, Global Winnipeg

**Radio:** CBC Radio One Manitoba

**Newspaper:** City News Winnipeg, CTV News Winnipeg, Global Winnipeg

**Fun Facts**

**Who is your favorite athlete?**

Danny Ric, he brings passion, positivity and good vibes.

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Competing at my first major championship as part of Team Manitoba with my grandma.

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Skeleton

**Who is your favourite music artist?**

Matt Maeson and Vance Joy

**What are three things you can't live without?**

Mountains, the gym, and lawn bowls

**What three words would your teammates use to describe you?**

Live, Laugh, Love

## Jon MacDonald

### **Athlete Information:**

Hailing originally from Baden (ON) but now residing in Calgary (AB), Jon will be making his national team debut and will have his first experience at an international event this August in Scotland at the Atlantic Challenge. Jon has had prolonged success in local, provincial, and national competitions. He has represented Alberta eight times at Canadian Championships and has brought home three medals. Jon is excited to continue developing his skills as a bowler and to add international championship wins to his resume.



**DOB:** 05/29/1981

**Hometown:** Baden, ON

**Residence:** Calgary, AB

**Club:** Calgary Lawn Bowling Club & Rotary Park Lawn Bowls Club

**Profession:** PhD Student

### **Career Highlights:**

- Canadian National Championship – Triples – 2017
- Canadian National Championship – Pairs (Gold) – 2018
- Canadian National Championship – Singles, Fours – 2019
- Canadian National Championship – Fours (Gold) – 2022
- Canadian National Championship – Fours (Silver) – 2023

### **Local Media**

**TV:** CTV Calgary, CBC Calgary, City News Calgary, Global Calgary

**Newspaper:** Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun

**Radio:** City News Calgary, CBC Calgary

**Fun Facts:**

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Being with friends and family outside and standing on the podium for the first time

**Who is your favourite athlete? Why?**

Bill Murray – he’s a golfer, right? His depth of character is inspiring. Hugh Jackman – he’s a weightlifter when he trains as wolverine, right? His depth of character and commitment to pushing and growing is inspiring.

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Modern Pentathlon

**What is your favourite movie?**

‘Old School’ or ‘The Hangover’

**What are 3 things you can’t live without?**

Family, Burgers, and security

**Any other fun facts you’d like to share about yourself?**

I love to learn new hobbies.

## Mike McNorton



### Athlete Information:

Mike has been involved in the sport of lawn bowling at the club level in Kitchener, Ontario as well as San Jose, California. While this will be the first year he has been named to the National Squad, Mike has had a long and successful career at the local, provincial, and national level participating in various events across Canada. More recently, Mike has had the opportunity to compete on the international scene at the 2024 World Bowls Indoor Championship where he won a bronze medal in mixed pairs with fellow squad member Linda Ng. Mike looks forward to bringing his A-game to the Atlantic Challenge and helping

Team Canada to the podium.

**DOB:** 1990

**Hometown:** Kitchener, ON

**Club:** Heritage Greens LBC (Ontario) & San Jose LBC (California)

**Profession:** Software Engineer

### Career Highlights

- 2024 – Bronze – World Bowls Indoor Mixed Pairs
- 2023 – Gold – Canadian Indoor Singles
- 2023 – Gold – Ontario Indoor Singles
- 2023 – Silver – Ontario Outdoor Singles
- 2022 – Bronze – Canadian Singles
- 2016 – Bronze – Ontario Indoor Singles
- 2015 – Silver – Ontario Indoor Singles
- 2014 – Silver Ontario Indoor Singles

### Local Media

**TV:** CBC Kitchener-Waterloo, CTV News Kitchener

**Radio:** CBC Kitchener-Waterloo

**Newspapers:** The Record

**Fun Facts**

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Mountain Biking

## Kody Olthof



### **Athlete Information:**

Kody is a new member of the 2023-2026 National Squad and will be making his first appearance at the 2024 Atlantic Challenge. Kody has been performing at a high level in Bowls in Canada for over a decade and has played at a few internal events. Hailing from Woodstock, ON, Kody is excited to compete alongside his new teammates and compete at a high caliber of bowls. He is looking forward to developing his skills and confidence as bowler not only on the international stage but bring it back to his sport when playing in Canada.

**DOB:** 09/18/1990

**Hometown:** Woodstock, ON

**Club:** Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club

### **Carrier Highlights**

- 2012 – Tiger Bowls Silver Medal
- 2009 – Canadian U18 Gold Medal
- 2012 – Canadian Indoor Bronze Medal
- 3x Ontario Indoor Gold Medal (2011, 2012, 2014)
- 2016 – North American Challenge

### **Local Media**

**TV:** CBC London

**Radio:** 104.7 Heart FM

**Newspaper:** The Woodstock Sentinel Review

### **Fun Facts:**

**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Competing at the World Indoor Championships in Potters

**If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?**

Football

**What are 3 things you can't live without?**

Bowls, Family, Friends