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Lawn Bowls / World Championship place at stake in Atlantic Rim Games

By Norman Spiro

Israel's bowlers will be in action in the opening rounds of the biennial Atlantic Rim Games in Ayr, Scotland, today with the 6th series of the competition including men's teams for the first time.

The games now are of primary significance, as they serve as a critical qualifier for those countries allowed entry in the quadrennial World Championships, where only 24 teams are allowed to participate from among the World's 44 affiliated bowling nations.

The competition opened in 1993, caters to countries bordering on the Atlantic Ocean and follows the pattern of the corresponding Pacific games. While Israel does not belong to the region geographically, it was honored with a special invitation in the 1995 games to round off a 12 nation contest.

The games have since been expanded to include 14 nations in both the men's and women's tournaments. The competition gets underway with two 7-up round robin preliminary rounds. The the top four in each section proceed to the quarterfinals.

Ruthie Gilor is allocated the challenging single slot, and is in a testing section with England, Ireland and Scotland. Irit Grencel leads for her in the pairs, and in the triples Tami Kamzel skips for Yael Bar-Ner and Beverley Polatinsky; the latter three are joined by Grencel in the fours.

The Israeli girls would dearly like to emulate their previous 2005 achievement when they earned Israel's first ever medal at the tournament - a silver in the triples skipped by Tami Kamzel. They aim also to improve on their previous overall log position when they finished 7th out of 16 teams.

Playing in the singles for the men is Boaz Marcus who will be leading for Colin Silberstein in the pairs, while in the triples, Raymond Sher will be skipping for Haviv Takin and Arie Ben-Dor. The latter three will be joined by Silberstein in the fours.

The competition gets off today with the pairs and triples, and will continue with the singles and fours over the nine-day stretch.

Team managers for the men's and women's teams are respectively Seymour Fisher and Yaffa Lavin.

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