



# NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It gives me great pleasure to finally have an opportunity to communicate directly with you, the bowlers of South Africa. I also take this opportunity to thank your delegates who attended our recent AGM for the vote of confidence in my ability to manage the affairs of Bowls South Africa. I am indeed fortunate to have inherited an outstanding Executive Team and with the inclusion of Sergio Martinengo from Western Province, it is my firm belief that we shall continue the work initiated by my predecessors, John McArdle and Piet Breitenbach. I acknowledge the efforts with grateful thanks of these two distinguished gentlemen.

With thanks to my Executive Committee we have been busy taking time to review our vision for bowls and at our recent "Bosberaad" some productive work was achieved in this regard. The team is excited about the opportunities ahead and I invite you to access our website to study the Business Plans which we have reviewed and up-dated to meet our future needs, on a National level.

It became apparent at our meeting that we needed to convene a workshop with our National Standing Committees. The intention is to establish a common purpose and to communicate our policies and procedures in order that we serve the needs of bowls as a united front. The various Standing Committees will be tasked to review their strategies to compliment the work being done by other areas of administration in general.

I shall report progress to the bowling community throughout the months ahead using the forum of this newsletter. I also invite you to access the articles published by our Standing Committees in the body of this newsletter which should keep you up-dated regarding progress. We have reviewed our structure and the Standing Committees of the Academy and Team Selection have already been consolidated into a single entity.

The Executive agreed that the core function of our Academy is to prepare our national teams and it therefore became evident that these two bodies need to function as a single unit. The structure within the new academy was examined and a fresh and exciting arrangement has been agreed. I shall be meeting with the various squads shortly and exposing our strategies to all the squad members. I am convinced that with the new structure we should be able to identify future potential across the entire spectrum of our membership.

We are also planning a Council meeting early next year to address various issues of a constitutional nature amongst other matters of mutual concern. I'll keep you informed at an appropriate time.

I look forward to future opportunities to address you with developments and invite you to communicate with me on any issues which could improve the sport which we all enjoy.

Debra Ferguson

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PRIVATE WEALTH

In this issue of the newsletter we use the opportunity to feature the career and introduce our new president, Debra Ferguson.

The pride of Suburbs Sports Bowling Club, newly elected president of Bowls SA hails from a bowling family who from an early age overcame countless obstacles as she surged up the ladder of opportunity. Married, with two grown up boys, Debra honed her administrative skills from her teens. Her years of administrative experience at club, national and business levels have prepared her to become the youngest president for more than 100 years. She is a no-nonsense realistic achiever who's prepared to take advice.

A hands-on administrator, she polished her skills in business and bowls, acting

as a club secretary in her first year! Since then the list of offices held and posts fulfilled with honour, is endless.

Under the watchful eye of past president Piet Breitenbach, Debra was coaxed, bullied, shaped and smoothed into the "real deal Debra." She has clear views on streamlining the sport, making it a family-orientated (at the lower end) slick professionally-run outfit at higher level.

Fearless as an adversary, Debra, nevertheless takes advice, is a good listener and above all, has the confidence and support of Bowls' sponsors, vital in this time of economic constraint.

Proof of her worth was exemplified when she was appointed to the World Bowls Development

Standing Committee in 2004 and she exhibits all the qualifications expected of a senior official. She has a mandate from the bowlers of this nation to shape the future and we are indeed fortunate to have her energy and dedication available to our sport.

With the challenge of the Commonwealth Games next year and a need to re-invent the game to "ensure its longevity, Debra has already set in motion the road to the future." Surrounded by a great executive and sound office management, Debra will take bowls ahead, exciting times loom.

In a short acceptance speech the President made it clear to all, "together we can make everything happen."

## MESSAGE FROM WARWICK PRIVATE WEALTH

*As a principal sponsor of bowls in South Africa we have watched with interest and at times some concern, on election events as they unfolded in respect of the presidency. Now this matter is resolved, we at Warwick are delighted to continue our growing commitment and ongoing support for the great sport of bowls to our mutual satisfaction. We wish Debra and her executive members all the best for their terms in office. Thanks also to Piet Breitenbach who laid the foundation for a solid future.*

Ian Kilbride, Chairman and Chief Executive Warwick Private Wealth

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## COACHES FORUM

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### COACHES REFRESHER COURSES

SASCOC is in the process of setting up a Coaches Association with a licence system and is the main controlling body of all sports in South Africa. SASCOC's requirement is that each registered coach should either upgrade or attend a refresher course **every four years**. An urgent appeal is made to District Coaches Standing Committees to ensure that this requirement is met by 31 December 2009.

### COACHES DATABASE

Once again it is this time of the year when all Districts are required to submit details of

the activities of their coaches for the 2009 calendar year. Only the official form should be used and be completed in all respects.

### COACHES STANDING COMMITTEE

We welcome Robert Cosslett, Shaun Kennedy and Merle van den Berg, the three new members to the National Standing Committee and wish them together with Jill Atkinson, Con Dixie and Graham Mackenzie a fruitful term of office.

John Page, the Convener of the CSC decided to hang up his boots and we want to thank him for his contribution on research, time applied to

the production of training manuals and for the general management of the affairs of the Coaches Standing Committee.

### COURSES

A very successful upgrading course for Academy Coaches [level 3] was held at The Nest from 25 -29 October 2009.



## GRASS CLIPPINGS

There is an urgent need for clubs to assess the levels on their greens and, if necessary to do something constructive Grass Clippings 19 addresses this problem. It starts off with a brief historical survey and mentions how the cessation of Municipal aid left a large hiatus in Green keeping in the major cities.

One cannot over-emphasise the importance of each club knowing what their levels are – in fact – I find it difficult to believe how a new Green keeper will accept office without knowing whether he is facing a problem with levels or not.

A level profile should be taken by a competent person at 2.5 m intervals. The profile should be studied and the various variations in the levels identified.

Having studied the profile the GKP and his Club Committee should have a better idea of what is required of them. Once they have decided on a course of action they should take into account how long the green will be out of commission and how to fit this operation into their club calendar.

The various levelling procedures including the availability of Laser Levelling machines in the country, are then discussed including the knowledge that the easiest way of levelling a green is by levelling the green without any grass on it. This would entail killing off all the old

grass – levelling the ground base and re-planting with an acceptable fine grass.

This method lends itself if the existing grass is not suitable or a Heinz green plus the fact that the levels are suspect.

The article then goes on to discuss the importance of having a Level Profile available when inspecting a green for an SA. or other Tournament.

Comparisons are also made with the criteria adopted in some other bowls playing countries and one is struck by the attitude to Levels and Heinz greens in Australia. Where any green with discernible foreign grass, it would not be acceptable for a State Tournament. Likewise they will not look at a green which has not been laser levelled in the passed year. 3

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# JACK UP BOWLS!

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## U/25 INTER-DISTRICT AND U/19 TOURNAMENTS, GEORGE, JULY 2009

A big thank you to Bowls Southern Cape and the Tournament Committee for hosting a very successful tournament!

### IT WAS AN ALL WP MEDAL VICTORY!

Both the WP u/25 and u/19 men teams took the GOLD. The driving force behind these two WP teams were Managers Nico Ferreira u/25s and Paul Cohen u/19s.

Eastern Gauteng won the Gold Medal in the Under 25 Ladies Inter District. It was the first time that the ladies were given the opportunity to grace the greens and to show

their exceptional bowling skills at the tournament.

## BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT'S U/25 WOMANS TEAMS AT THE INTER-DISTRICTS



**Back:**  
P Breitenbach, J Jumat, S le Roux, H Muller, S Woodley, D Ferguson  
**Front:**  
J Koekemoer, P v Aswegen, E Matinka, M Botes

## WHAT DID ALAN SIMMONDS HAVE TO SAY?

by courtesy Sunday  
Argus

*"It's a pity the chicken day and bar brigade, existing only for their own selfish social ends, who pooh-pooh development, was not with me at Bowls SA's U-25 Inter District and U-19-Development tournament played at George.*

*It was a bowls epiphany."*

# TO THE POINT

## CAPACITY BUILDING – TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

In order to create and maintain a well trained and competent squad of Technical Officials in each District, Bowls SA Executive has invested some of the Lotto grants in the Capacity Building Project for Technical Officials. The Bowls SA Technical Officials Standing Committee has used the "off-season" productively to present three courses.

Two "Training of Technical course presenters" courses were conducted, one in Potchefstroom during August 2009 for the ten northern Districts and one in Amanzimtoti during October 2009 for the ten southern Districts. The purpose of these two courses was to equip the Course Presenters of the various District Technical Official Standing Committees with the necessary knowledge and skills to run courses successfully in their Districts and also to ensure a uniform standard throughout South Africa. Two delegates per district attended these courses and nineteen of the twenty District Technical Official Standing committees attended these two courses.



Technical Officials - Potchefstroom



Technical Officials – Amanzimtoti

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## TECHNICAL OFFICIAL Level 3 course

During September 2009 a Level 3 course was conducted at Southern Cape (Hartenbos). Seventeen candidates from eleven Districts attended the course. As the objective was to give the technical officials from the Southern Districts preference to attend the course the objective was achieved as there were eleven candidates from seven out of the ten southern Districts. The candidates that attended are the cream of the crop and all candidates were found competent and is definitely an asset for Bowls South Africa. As soon as all final assignments have been received the successful candidates will be issued with their Level 3 badges.



Technical Officials – Hartenbos

## OTHER NEWS

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To keep our 30 000 members up-to-date, we require interesting news (any) from all Districts.

It can be about personnel, administrators, greens or Clubs, but not specifically internal Club news.

Please allow us to judge what is newsworthy by

sending whatever you have to:

[simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za](mailto:simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za)

Or

[info@bowlssa.co.za](mailto:info@bowlssa.co.za)

on a regular basis.

In this way we can all learn about the Sport's progress nationwide.

Allan Simmonds is your newly-appointed national media officer and will also assist you with whatever information you are unable to acquire, for whatever reason.

*Send us your views  
or any interesting  
news to  
info@bowlssa.co.za*

## "BOWLS" THE BEST SPORT FOR ALL

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### **Bowls South Africa Executive Committee:**

*President: Debra Ferguson, Vice President: Allan Freeman*

*Members: Kallie Haupt, Sergio Martinengo, Isabel Smith, Ron Weddell*

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