

# 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 South Africa Executive has invested some of the Lotto grants in the Capacity Building Project for Technical Officials.

The Bowls South Africa Technical Officials Standing Committee has used the “off-season” productively to present three courses.

## **UNIFORM VISION AND MISSION FOR ALL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**

In order to ensure uniformity in the training, standards and the application of bowls rules by Technical Officials throughout South Africa 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.

More than forty district standing committee members attended and all of them went back to their respective districts, well motivated and equipped with the necessary knowledge , skills and course material to go and make a difference, not only in their districts, but to Technical official overall in South Africa.

**Eventually all the district Technical Official Standing Committees share the same vision , mission and values**



Technical Officials who attended the Training course in Potchefstroom



Some of the action to ensure uniform practical assessment



One of the Discussion Groups doing problem solving



Technical Officials who attended the Training course at Amanzimtoti



There were time to WORK.....



Time to THINK



Time to RELAX

### **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.

*As seen by one of the candidates - Oom Arnold Clark from Eastern Province.*



A Level 3 Technical Officials Course was held at the Hartenbos Bowling Club, near Mossel Bay in the Southern Cape, over five days from 14 to 18 September, 2009. There were 17 participants representing eleven districts. The course was presented and conducted by the BSATOSC.

Those are the bare facts. They convey absolutely nothing of an experience that deserves to be described in superlatives. That might seem an odd thing to say about a course that includes aspects of the sport of bowls that many would consider dull and uninteresting such as laws and principles. But this course teaches, and is clearly designed to prepare candidates to function as Level 3 technical officials at the highest level with skill and confidence in all areas of the sport and to carry the badge and the status with pride and humility.

Foremost of the lessons is the need to view the role of a Level 3 technical official with a new mindset; to adopt a different perspective; to be creative and to think outside the

conventional parameters; to look at solutions and the logical answers rather than to see problems. That is, to be a professional.

It became clear from the outset when candidates were required to formally introduce themselves to the standing committee and to the other candidates, and later while operating as working groups, that an important aspect of effective communication and training in this day and age is the use of computer technology. Those slightly more advanced in years may have felt some trepidation but in the event there was nothing to fear.

Any technical officials course would not be complete without time devoted to the meat of the game, i.e. the Laws of the sport. Emphasis is placed on **understanding** rather than simply **knowing** the Laws. Based largely on this professional approach, appropriate and interesting assessment tests were conducted on the interpretation of the laws as well as on measuring situations on the green.

A great deal of time was necessarily spent on the control and management aspects of the sport: functions and missions of standing committees; developing modus operandi for planning and arrangement for tournaments; compiling conditions of play; and arranging competition draws, a task which can prove a little tricky without the aid of formulas!

Those who were fortunate enough to be candidates in this comprehensive course would surely be unanimous in the agreement that not only was the course and workshop immensely enlightening but a stimulating intellectual exercise organised and run by a hardworking and dedicated standing committee who must be complimented on their excellent choice of venue on a magnificent coastline at a bowling club that provided catering of a high order. We, a new company of friends, from petite ladies to portly gents, and others in between, salute you. Our gratitude and feelings were eloquently expressed in the emotive address of thanks by Brian Avery.

Let it be recorded, however, that it was not all hard grind and no play. Despite 8-hour working days we did enjoy some moments of good fun. In fine company.

Oom Arnold



Technical Officials who attended the Level 3 course at Hartenbos.



One of the discussion groups



This group seems to have the answers



There was even time to relax

## BSATOSC for 2009/2010

After the 2009 BSA AGM the Executive announced the new Technical Officials Standing committee for 2009/1010

We would like to thank Don Walker for his dedication and hard work on the past committee. Unfortunately Don will not be on the committee for the next term.

Don (Ou Giel) we are going to miss you, but we know that you will always support us.

There is one new member who will serve on the committee for the next term and we would like to welcome Doreen de Power from Western Province on the committee.

The following persons will serve on the committee for the next term:



**Fred Kruis (Convener)**

Represents the following districts:

Northern Cape  
Northern Free State  
North West  
Sables



**Renee Venter (Secretary)**

Represents the following districts:

Limpopo  
Eastern Gauteng  
Bowls Gauteng North



**Bob Radcliffe**

Represents the following Districts:

Natal Inlands  
Port Natal  
Kingfisher  
KZN Country



**Jeanette Williams**

Represents the following districts:

Border  
Eastern Province  
Southern Cape



**Neville Savage**

Represents the following districts:

CGBA  
Mpumalanga  
Southern Free State  
Sedibeng



**Doreen de Power**

Represents the following districts:

Boland  
Western Province

**The Technical Official Representative on the Bowls South Africa Executive for the next term is Isabel Smith.**

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to any of the Committee Members.

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Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this newsletter will find it on the Bowls SA web and District Secretaries will receive a copy from October 2009