



# TO THE POINT

Issue 33

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## 1. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS SHOW THEIR COMMITMENT AT SA MASTERS.

During the recent SA Masters tournament at Wingate Park Pretoria the Technical Official showed their commitment and love for the Sport of Bowls by rendering a stunning service to the eighty master players during the weekend 11 - 13 February 2011. A total of 238 singles games were played in four sessions over the 3 days.

In order to render a professional service we used 178 Technical Officials to do duty as Markers, Flip board Operators and Umpires. All the Technical Officials were volunteers who had to provide their own transport and accommodation. The number of Technical Officials was made up of:

122 persons from Bowls Gauteng North

16 persons from Johannesburg Bowling Ass.

40 persons from other districts like WP, EP, S-Cape, Natal Inlands, N- Cape, Limpopo, Eastern Gauteng, SFS, NFS, Sables, Mpumalanga, Border and North West.

A decision was made to have the Junior Masters officiated by under 25 Technical Officials and we are proud to report that the 178 volunteers include 38 under 25 technical officials who performed duty as Markers, flip board operators and umpires for the junior games.

The Technical Officials really showed their commitment after we lost 3 hours of play on Saturday afternoon when play was stopped due to extensive lightning (at one stage the lightning detector at the club registered more than 2000 ground strikes within 25km from the club in 30 minutes). A special appeal was made to the Technical Officials to make themselves available for duty on the Sunday in order to make up the lost time. A lot of them changed their arrangements and reported for duty on the Sunday morning at 06:30.

It was not an easy task to select the Markers and Umpires for the finals, but the selection of the following persons proved to be correct as an excellent job was done by:

Umpires:	Jutta de Meulenaere (BGN) Graeme Upton (JBA)
Markers – Open	Ria de Nysschen (BGN) Gerhard du Toit (BGN)
Markers – Seniors	Lettie Louw (BGN) Gert Badenhorst (NFS)
Markers – Juniors	Rienie Lucas (BGN)

Wihan Fourie (N-Cape)

A word of thanks is recorded to Rea Potgieter and Stan Baragwanath for taking the responsibility of doing all the arrangements and compiling the duty rosters, John Els for managing the name plates and shot indicators and each and all Technical Official who made themselves available for duty. This was a job WELL DONE.

### 1.1 Juniors who did duty as Technical Officials in the finals



**Rienie Lucas**

Rienie Lucas was born on 10 March 1995 and is in grade 10 at Tuine High school. Since she stopped cross country sport, she became a keen bowler. She started playing bowls in 2007 at Brooklyn Bowling Club and during 2007 she moved to Pretoria North Bowling Club where she is still a member. Rienie is part of the u/19 Gauteng North team which will participate in Bloemfontein in April 2011. It will be the fifth year that she represents her district at this tournament. Her team narrowly missed a bronze medal. In 2010 she reached the semi-finals of the BGN novice singles. She was also her club's novice champion and the winner of a few of the other championships at her club. She passed her markers course and is a e TO working at the SA Masters. Rienie is playing for her club in the first league. She also participated in the open singles and was eliminated in the third round. As well as bowls she is also a lover of nature and music. She believes that self-discipline is the key to success. She is also very grateful for the help she received from her coaches and her fellow bowlers.



### Wihan Fourie

Wihan Fourie is op 21 April 1998 te Upington gebore. Hy is tans 'n graad 7 leerling aan Laerskool Op Die Voorpos in Upington. Aangesien beide sy ouers ywerige rolbalspelers is en nou betrokke is by die administrasie van rolbal in hulle distrik het hy 'n groot liefde vir die spel ontwikkel en in 2009, op 10 jarige ouderdom, begin hy ernstig rolbal speel en is in 2010 gekies om Noord Kaap as o/19 te verteenwoordig te Nelspruit. Hy is weer in die span opgeneem vir 2011. In September 2010 het hy met welslae sy vlak 1 tegniese beampte kursus geslaag en is tans die jongste gekwalifiseerde vlak 1 tegniese beampte in die land. Hy is 'n aspirante rolbalspeler en was deel van die viere span wat die seisoen 3de geeindig het in Noord Kaap. Sy groot droom is om sy land te verteenwoordig.

## 2. JUNIORS QUALIFYING AS TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

During the last five months 29 under 25 bowlers successfully completed the Markers course and 2 completed the Level 1 course.

They are from the following districts

Port Natal - 1 Marker and 1 Level 1  
 Northern Cape - 2 Markers and 1 Level 1  
 Sables - 13 Markers  
 BGN - 13 Markers

Well done to these districts and what about the others?



*Rea Potgieter busy teaching Branden du Plessis (13) with Stan Baragwanath at the background.*

## 3. MARKERS

A good marker is a **tremendous asset in a singles game** where the two players are both trying to win and therefore want competent assistance. Marking is a lot more than straightening the jack and writing up the score card!

There are 2 ways to become a marker, but really only one way to become proficient. The easy way is to watch others do the job and then muddle through when your turn comes, or attend a course arranged by your District Technical Officials Standing Committee (Don't wait for a course to be advertised - persuade a few fellow bowlers and then ask the TOSC to come to your club and deliver the course, at the end of which you qualify for a Bowls South Africa badge similar to that worn by the umpires (correctly termed "Technical Officials", usually known as "umpires").

If you do attend a course you will soon realize how many questions you might get asked, and you will be even more surprised to find yourself asking questions too! It is an investment and you are the shareholder! You'll also be surprised at what good fun the course will be and how much you will learn about the game.

So: "If you would a Marker be,  
 Then make it worth your while  
 To do the job quite capably  
 And do it with a smile!"

## 4. SPEED OF THE GREEN

In Appendix B.4.2 of the Laws there is a reference to measuring the speed of the green, i.e. over a distance of 27 metres from the mat line. Nowhere else in the Laws is the pace of the green mentioned, so here is a definition: "The speed of the green is the time in seconds taken by a bowl drawing to the 27 metre mark from the moment of delivery to the moment it comes to rest".

If asked to explain the paradox that on a "fast" green a bowl takes longer to get to a certain point than on a "slow" green when it is quite obvious that on a fast green the bowl travels more slowly than on a slow green, just explain (with a few examples) that a bowl has to travel faster when more effort is required to propel it over 27 metres and consequently gets there quicker than when the opposite applies, ie.. a lush green in summer compared with a green taking much less grass in winter.

## 5. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

Every tournament from the most prestigious to the small fun competitions that clubs run has its own Conditions of Play, for example spotting the jack on the 2-metre mark instead of replaying an end made dead.

These Conditions of Play are **essential reading** for every tournament official or umpire before the tournament begins. It is one good reason to arrive early at the club where you are on umpire duty - in order to familiarise yourself with them.

A great number of players do not even know that Conditions of Play do actually exist possibly because they are not "clearly displayed at all venues, as required in Appendix A.1.2. Too often one has to ask to see them and so it is no wonder that many players are unaware of the existence of the Conditions of Play for that event.

Very briefly the Conditions of Play are set by the Controlling Body for each event and must conform to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls [Law 61]. In Appendix A there is a list of what has to be included including things that we all take for granted. The second list of what could be included is more to the point of what we have come to expect, such as arrangements for practice, warm-up, substitutes, how to deal with slow play and restricting the movement of players to the head during play. Policy could also be spelled out on, for example, the use of tobacco, drug-testing, code of conduct and disciplinary procedures.

## 6. THE BLUE BOOK

In other words the Crystal Mark **Second** Edition which has a blue cover - if you have not yet got yours, your local District Office will have copies. Remember to collect at the same time a copy of the new Domestic Regulations and General Condition of Play.

### APPENDIX C IN THE BLUE BOOK

This Appendix refers to the accompanying chart that shows what action needs to be taken in the event that a bowl or the jack being displaced. The various situations are tabulated clearly and simply; the chart refers directly to the tabulation. So, with the book in hand the correct answer can be given in a matter of seconds, and with confidence.

This Appendix will be an aid to most umpires not necessarily only those newly qualified who might be uncertain of the somewhat complex Laws 28 and 33.

## 7. RIGHT OR WRONG?

This incident happened in a round robin singles match at a District Masters.

Towards the end of the match player A was lying 3 shots with a measure for a fourth shot which would have given her 21 shots and game. Player B asked the Marker to remove the shots from the head one by one as each was conceded. Whether or not the Marker understood the instruction, or the discussion between the two players, is not clear, but the fourth bowl was also removed by the Marker - prior to the start of the measuring. Player B refused to concede the fourth shot as it had been removed from the head without her agreeing and without being measured.

The players did not know what to do and so asked for a ruling from the umpire.

Under Law 28.3.4.1 if a bowl at rest is displaced by a neutral person [the Marker is a neutral person] and the opponents cannot agree on the former position of the displaced bowl, then they should declare the end dead. In other words, the umpire's ruling was wrong when he decided that, as no agreement could be reached on the fourth shot, the three shots conceded should count, and that the match should continue with the next end. What the umpire ought to have done was to explain to the players the two options in Law 28.3.4.1. Having done that, one could have hoped, nay expected, that the two opponents would have used "Their common sense and in the spirit of fair play to decide on the appropriate course of action" [Quoted from the Foreword to the Laws].

Of course had A been familiar with the Law, it is unlikely that she would have wanted to forego three shots by declaring the end dead. It is much more sensible to settle for 3 shots and avoid a disagreement with B over the position of the fourth [displaced] bowl; after all better a bird in the hand than two in the bush as the saying goes! 3 shots would have put her on 20, almost with the match won.

Had B been aware of the terms of Law 28.3.4.1, would she have insisted on declaring the end dead? You see, what has always bothered me about the statement, namely "If they cannot agree, they should declare the end dead" is the fact that **one opponent might not want to declare the end dead!** Then what? The use of "they" means both opponents (or skips) and **implies that there be agreement.** What if there is not? Can anyone advise me on this point?

**Verdict:** it all goes to show how important it is to know the rules, including in this case the possibility of an appeal against the umpire's ruling in Law 56.2.6 where clearly the umpire did not remember the appropriate Law.

## 8. ON LIGHTNING

When the thunder roars, go indoors. Rain simply makes one wet; lightning kills!

The following three examples all happened:

- 4 teenage boys were practising rowing skills on a lake in Gauteng when a bolt of lightning struck the craft and one was killed.
- One Sunday afternoon a lightning bolt hit the green leaving one player dead and another seriously injured and hospitalised for a long period.
- A greens-keeper in Port Elizabeth many years ago was knocked unconscious when a lightning bolt struck the tall trees adjacent to the green where he was supervising work - the two workers assisting him were untouched.

These examples, deliberately vaguely recorded, show that lightning does strike, and that it is unpredictable in its actions. And now for an actual example: reacting to the reading on a lightning meter the umpire at a district competition decided to play it safe and asked players to leave the green during a thunderstorm - there were quite a few protests!

Surely it is better to be safe than dead? And this occurred in Johannesburg where, according to the C.S.I.R. the average number of flashes per square kilometre is 7.5 - compare this with Cape Town at 1.3. George 1.6, and Sabie 3.2.

And just for the record that umpire was at fault! Law 50.1.2 refers to a game being stopped by an umpire because of adverse weather conditions **only "after an appeal has been made by the players"**; the Domestic Regulations are more explicit regarding Law 50.1; "Umpires shall **not** be responsible to call off the players during lightning/thunderstorm activity unless an appeal has been made by a **player(s)**".

So there you have it: it takes **only one player's request** to authorise an umpire to call players off. Since nowhere in the Blue Book is there any reference to lightning and since the Laws are internationally applicable, one has to assume that the paragraph in the South African Domestic Regulations is unique.

## 9. MEASURING TO A JACK IN THE DITCH.

### Question

We have had a couple of incidents at our club where members claim that, measuring a toucher in the ditch against a contesting bowl on the green, the use of a flexible/string measure(Law 40.4) "favoured" the bowl in the ditch as the measure can't determine the nearest point between jack and the bowl on the green(Law 40.5).

A suggestion offered was that one arm of the calliper attachment of a telescopic is swung down so it may be placed against the jack, converting it into a giant calliper. However, as the reach of a telescopic is rather limited, it was felt that if there is no other instrument coping with greater distances, a "no-shot" must be declared.

I personally am of the opinion that this will only complicate matters and believe that, one day a measure will go against you whilst on another day in your favour – what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts!

The "concerned" members requested that we submit this to the BSA and Provincial TOSC's.

### Answer

Thank you for your enquiry about measuring to a Jack in the ditch.

This is one of the measures that cause a lot of queries in the past.

As Bowlers are very creative they came up with very creative ideas how to do the measure. I think you can recall the days when knitting needles and all sorts of arched instruments that fit over the jack was part of the content of the umpire's box. Some bowlers also come up with all sorts of mathematical and scientific proof what is the correct way to make this measure. Remember that although bowlers are very creative not all of them are very technically minded.

World bowls in conjunction with representatives of the Member National Authorities discussed this matter in detail and to ensure uniformity throughout all bowls playing countries decided to get a uniform method of measuring.

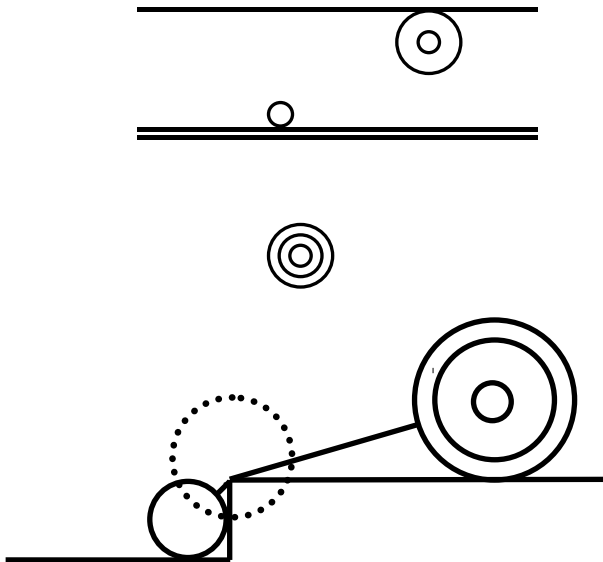
The method decided on was the one explained below, using a bullet measure..

We all know that is not scientifically and mathematically correct, but it is an easy method that will ensure uniformity throughout the world.

The deeper the ditch (Law 3.2.2 – between 50 millimetres and 200 millimetres deep) the more the measure is in favour to the bowl that is also in the ditch

I agree with your opinion that by coming up with all sorts of gadgets will just complicate the matter. At least all bowlers will be aware of the method that is in use and they will know sometimes the measure will be in your favour and sometimes against you.

As South Africa is one of the members of World Bowls, we are obligated to use the method as described below using a bullet measure.



## 10. A SKIP'S FOOT!

What does one do when one comes across a skip who directs his team by placing his foot on the line he wants them to draw (his foot is about 15 to 30 cm behind the jack and away from the head) and who leaves his foot there till each bowl comes to rest. Let's say you are the opposing skip.

Law 36 dealing with the position of players is the one you can look up, not forgetting Law 35 about possession of the rink.

Law 36 deals with the position of players in relation to the rink of play. In paragraph 36.1.3 it states that a player who is controlling play from a position that is level with or in front of the jack should stand behind the jack as soon as the bowl is delivered. How far does "behind" mean? There is no rule except this in paragraph 36.1.2.2: "behind the jack and away from the head if they are members of the team which is not in possession of the rink" - not very informative about distance, is it?

However, back to our skip standing with his foot firmly planted on the rink behind the jack! Nor is he guilty of hogging possession after the bowls of his players have come to rest - see Law 35: "As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink

will transfer to the opposing player or team after allowing time for marking a toucher as soon as it comes to rest".

Therefore, to answer the question about what can one do, the answer seems to be 'nothing' as this appears to have become a habit of that particular skip. If his habit causes annoyance perhaps a quiet word [possibly in jest] might do the trick. There's no point of appealing to the umpires as far as my reading of the Laws is concerned.

**After-thought** - let's suppose the jack is say 5 metres from the rear ditch and there is a toucher in the ditch. That toucher is part of the head (Law 1.3.13), so where in theory should everyone stand? Law 36 is not explicit enough and readers are invited to refer to it themselves. Could every player now be expected to stand on the bank? After all the toucher in the ditch or a bowl well behind the jack might be hidden from view thus limiting the skip's option to drive the jack into the ditch. Of course a wide-awake skip would be aware of the distant back bowl, and if not the third should be his reminder. All this still does not resolve the conundrum - where should the players stand at the jack end of the rink.

## 11. TOUCHER -YEA OR NAY?

This did happen - the jack was a line jack to which my opponent drew magnificently to obtain a "toucher", the only problem being that the bowl remained in the other rink. He was ecstatic, delighted to have pulled off a great shot. Sorry, his bowl was dead - his remarks upon being told the truth are not for print!

## 12. ABOUT A NEW BOWLER

Do you know the words of the new bowler's prayer? It starts like this: "Lord, please make all bad bowlers a little better, and all skips a little easier to live with!"

## 13. POSITION ON THE MAT

How often the rule is ignored - "Before delivery a player should be standing on the mat with **one foot fully on the mat**" [Law 20.1] Now what is so difficult about it?

## 14. DEPENDS ON YOU !!!

Any team/side can be beaten;  
any singles match can be won;  
anyone can become an umpire - **it really all depends on you, doesn't it?**

## 15. WESTERN PROVINCE RE-INSTA TE OPEN UMPIRES MEETING ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2011.

The Western Province Technical Officials Standing Committee took the initiative to re-instate the Open Umpires Meeting for **all** or any members of the bowling fraternity. Meetings of this nature will be held twice in each season.

The date of our event was well timed and advertised throughout the District and was well communicated man-on-man by the Standing Committee. Resultantly they had an attendance of 71, high above expectations.

They maintained a simple theme of 'the changing face of technical officials and umpiring' backed strongly with a **no detour on the Laws, or no changing the Laws or our practical methods** would or could be accommodated until the Third Edition of the Laws in four years time became available. This averted a lot of the normal back-lash and nit-picking of the Laws that usually comes about when new Law books come into being. In depth recapping was done on the changed Laws and background to these changes was explained thoroughly. Normal issues around the telescopic were dealt with and clarified as was the subject of measuring into the ditch with a string, the disadvantages discussed thereof, but we can rest assured that this method will never be fully accepted by the die-hards of the Umpiring fraternity, no matter how much convincing they wish to do. The importance of players, officials and Club administrators making themselves familiar with the Conditions of Play appertaining to the various District competitions was stressed very strongly as there seems to be very little attention being paid to the importance of this. There was little arising from the side of problems on Practical issues, other than stated above and an outside demonstration of the Retractable line was done with varied comment from on-lookers. Some in favour, others not, mention being made of it being labour intensive (requiring two people), the wind was influencing the stability of the line which was a pity, and the upped price now to R180 also raised a few eye-brows. The good that came from the exercise naturally is that it

has been viewed by more numbers in the bowling fraternity, so they will wait and see how the grape-vine spreads.

The next Meeting of this nature will be held in June on a Saturday morning when they hope to capture the working fraternity of their Bowlers. To conclude, They feel confident that they achieved and accomplished their goal and that this exercise has made the S/C as such more visible.

It is of the opinion that these collective 'outings' that they have enjoyed recently (as in WP-Boland workshop) and now our Open Umpires Meeting will assist them in their plight to keep Umpiring and its related issues alive and reasonably well in the District.



The group that attended the Western Province Open Umpires meeting



Johan van den Vyver discuss some of the practical issues with one of the delegates

## CONTACT PERSONS

If you need any information regarding Technical Official courses or any other bowls related queries please contact your District Technical Official Standing Committee.

If they cannot assist you or you do not know who they are or you do not have their contact numbers, you are welcome to contact your district representative on the National Standing Committee for Technical Officials who will assist you.

### National Technical Official Standing Committee for 2010.



**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:  
JBA  
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 2010