

COACHES FORUM

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS

(FROM BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA COACHES STANDING COMMITTEE)

No. 16

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COMMUNICATION

Once again we start this Forum with an appeal to District Standing Committees for Coaching to improve their lines of communication to ALL bowlers and Coaches.

Notification of courses and coaching events are sent to all Districts and Standing Committees at regular intervals but very often the information stays with the committee members and coaches are unaware of events that could assist, inform and generally be of assistance.

Members of the National Standing Committee have visited districts recently and heard that the coaches are even unaware of the Bowls South Africa "Coaching Purpose Statement" that was issued to all Districts over two years ago. Another essential document for coaches is the "Bowls South Africa Coaching Structure and Qualification" document that was handed to all delegates at the 2006 Annual General Meeting.

Yet another omission is the lack of our basic coaching information held by Districts. As a reminder, please ensure that coaches have access to "An Introduction to Bowls", "The Etiquette of Bowls", "Markers – Guide for Beginners", "Laws of the Sport of Bowls", "Play Bowls", and of course, Logbooks.

Stocks of these books are held at the office and should be readily available within all Districts.

Please, bowlers and Coaches, let's improve our lines of communication.

COURSE UPDATE

The final practical assessments of the 2007 Level 2 Upgrade Course were recently completed but it was

disappointing to note that of the original 32 applicants only 19 completed the course. Of these 19 four candidates were already Level 2 coaches and completed the course as a Refresher and also qualified as a "District" coach.

Through the medium of this Newsletter we appeal to those candidates who were unable to complete the Portfolio in time to submit their documentation for the 2008 course that will be announced shortly.

The Level 3 Course (Academy Coach) is scheduled to take place in Bloemfontein from February 3rd to the 8th but applications to attend **MUST** be received by December 11th and so far, at the time of preparing this Newsletter, we only have one candidate ! Is this also indicative of our poor communication channels.

A Level 1 Club Coach course is scheduled to be held by Central Gauteng over the weekends of December 1st/2nd and 8th/9th at Johannesburg Country Club with about 12 candidates, but we are sure that late applications could be considered. Successful Refresher courses were held recently in both Mpumalanga and North West and we are very pleased to report that as a result we now have Coaches Standing Committees operating in both Districts where none existed before. It is hoped that the other districts without committees will follow suit soon.

Eastern Province has also just completed a very successful Level 1 Club Coach Course and we are awaiting their Post Course Projects soon for final evaluation.

With the introduction of new material and formats for our various courses it is essential that all coaches keep up to date with current requirements and recent

changes. To give one example, the current method of assessing players at ALL levels is the 20/20 – are YOU familiar with this method ?

DATABASE

It is that time of year again and we need your inputs so please ensure your information is given to your local Standing Committee in good time for forwarding to the National Committee. Incomplete data means your name will be placed on a “dormant” list. In a recent survey of our database we can report that, “on paper” we have 1265 Level 1, 312 Level 2, 35 Level 3, and 20 Level 4 Coaches. BUT, of these an approximately 28 % could be considered active !

As another reminder, your coaching qualification lasts for four years and in that time you should either attend an Upgrading Course or at least attend a Refresher Course.

We are sure we sound like a “cracked record” because we have appealed for all these things in previous Forums but, once again, is it a symptom of poor communication ?

DID YOU KNOW TRIVIA

How many of you stop to think about some of the terminology used in bowls ? Some of it comes from centuries ago and was used in Scotland and the north of England, but the origins are sometimes obscure. We are sure many of you have heard the story of the “Wrong Bias” and the reference to “Skipper” but is this the true origin of the name ? Why do we use the term skipper ?

How about “toucher” ? Some of the earliest references go back to 1628 when the game was considerably different to the one we know today. At least it is recorded in literature of that time.

One term that seems only associated with South Africa (but of Scottish origin) is that of “peels”. Where did this come from and how did it come about ?

A total nightmare for green-keepers would be “Potshare Bowling” This is a game in which the object is to throw (not roll) the bowl a set distance in the least number of throws !! This game goes back

to the 1800’s and was mainly played on waste ground (you will be pleased to note) in the north of England. Similar to this is the story of a farmer of Croydon, in England, who, on August 4th 1739 successfully accomplished the feat of bowling a bowl from Croydon to London Bridge, a distance of 11 miles, in 445 bowls, starting each bowl from the place where the previous one stopped. He undertook this for a wager that he could not perform the feat in 500 bowls.

There does not appear to be a record of the state of the bowl, or bowls, at the end of the event !!

GREETINGS

As this will be the last Newsletter of 2007 it is appropriate to close by wishing all our readers a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday period with a new year filled with good health and good bowls. To those travelling, drive safely and return to your homes rejuvenated and in good health and humour.

REMEMBER

**LETS WEAR OUR BADGE AND
PLAY THE GAME WITH PRIDE**