

COACHES FORUM

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS

(FROM national STANDING COMMITTEE for coaching)

No. 10 MAY 2006

THIBOLOHA

Thiboloha is a school for the disabled situated in Qwa Qwa, in the eastern Free State. The school has 270 learners with the majority being deaf. They also have blind and partially sighted learners together with a few with cerebral palsy and dyspraxia. Both the Principal and her husband are bowlers and realised that bowls has a wonderful therapeutic benefit for the deaf.

They approached the coaches for assistance after obtaining the loan of a short mat and bowls from KZN Country bowls. The mat is used on a daily basis by both learners and staff with a competition being held to determine who will travel 50 kilometers to Harrismith Bowling Club to experience the proper game.

The enthusiasm and ability of all age groups has to be seen to be believed and is such, that in a "Business Tournament" held earlier this year, the team from the school came third out of 52 teams !

The benefits, enthusiasm and motivation have resulted in them forming their own club using the facilities in Harrismith. Their major requirement is now a green at the school itself where they have plenty of space.

The official launch of the new club took place on May 27th at Harrismith Bowling Club in extremely cold and windy conditions. Teams were invited from all the neighbouring clubs, some travelling long distances to be part of the day. Some 25 sponsors contributed to the costs of both prizes and the tournament and a full green of seven rinks had a wonderful day of bowls as a result.

The teams were made up of three recognised bowlers with the lead being

drawn from the Thiboloha bowlers. All the leads, without exception, played magnificent bowls and surprised many of the skips with their line and drawing ability. They are to be congratulated on achieving this standard after very little coaching and that taking place mainly on a short mat !

At the prize giving an appeal was made to all the visiting clubs to invite teams from Thiboloha to enjoy a tabs game to give them more experience of "the real game".

It is hoped that with such enthusiasm and support the building of a green on school premises will not be long in coming.

COURSES

The National Standing Committee for Coaching has now completed, and had approved, modifications to the Club Coach Course, the upgrade course to Advanced Coach, and a standard Refresher Course designed for all coaches, both current and "old wave". It is hoped that the Refresher Course can be run on a regional basis but first the various Standing Committees will have to be informed and trained in the presentation of the material.

More Districts are applying to run a Club Coach Course in the near future with Eastern Gauteng scheduled for September 22nd to 25th, KZN Country at the end of August, Port Natal also sometime in July / August and Limpopo still to determine dates.

DATABASE

It is disappointing to see that some Districts did not respond with their updates of coaches. Many districts also failed to use the correct form with all the relevant data with the result that we have

had to report many coaches as inactive and place them on the dormant list. Our current database indicates that we have a total of 1448 coaches at all levels but only 34 % of these can be recorded as active. Districts will shortly be receiving their lists according to the database and we would like to encourage the District Standing Committees to try and bring back a lot of the dormant coaches especially as we now have the new Refresher Course and a lot of new material.

JUNIOR CAMPS

From the beginning of the year, during school holidays, the National Academy has organised talent identification camps for all districts. These were designed to identify both players and coaches for further advancement. The calibre of the players was very high and a lot of new talent was seen on the green.

The first camp at George for the Cape districts was attended by juniors from Boland, Southern Cape and Western Province and proved to be an excellent training ground for both players and coaches alike.

The camp at Lekkerbreek was attended by 19 juniors whilst at Rustenburg there was a large contingent of 51. The talent was such that the selectors had a hard job but welcomed the fact that they had such a large number to choose from !

Opportunity was also taken to bring the coaches present up to date with current developments regarding coaching in general and some of the new material and ideas.

Districts should be encouraged to hold their own form of junior talent identification camps for the benefit of coaches, districts and of course the players themselves. We trust that the coaches will be proactive in creating their own pool of talent to enter into development sides or even the B Provincials !

We would also like to use this forum to appeal and encourage districts to make more use of their coaches. We are here to assist, not hinder, your bowls and should be seen as one of the leading and

innovative sports when it comes to coaching in general.

JUST A THOUGHT

One of the most important aspects of coaching is to ensure that a bowler is playing with the right size bowl. How do you determine that fact ?

Consider this : (the four C's) - the bowl must be **Comfortable** which leads to **Confidence** which leads to **Control** which leads to **Consistency**.

Just a thought.

COACHES FORUM

Remember this is YOUR newsletter so how about some information, or news, from the districts. Maybe just news, items of interest, controversial questions or statements, whatever it is let's hear from you. A success story is always worth printing and repeating. We should work together and share ideas. We get a lot of criticism, which is not a bad thing, as long as there is an alternative suggestion. One of the current gripes is the cost and length of courses but what are the alternatives ? These things cost money (like everything else these days) and someone has to cover the costs, so what are the alternatives ? Please let us know your thoughts. Many times, in past Forums we have asked questions and asked for input but rarely, if ever, have we had any usable feedback.

REMEMBER

LETS WEAR OUR BADGE, AND PLAY THE GAME, WITH PRIDE.

Be proud of your achievements and also strive to reach higher goals.