

# COACHES FORUM

**FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS**

**(FROM BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA COACHES STANDING COMMITTEE)**

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## THE FUTURE OF COACHING

We start this Forum with some quotations from Charl Durand who is the editor of Your Sport, the official magazine of Sport and Recreation South Africa. In his editorial for the first quarter of 2007 he writes "Sport is becoming an increasing part of a wide range of careers, from retailing and finance to media, health, and, as we point out in more than one article, the public service. Some experts we spoke to are of the opinion that job opportunities in **core sport areas** such as **coaching** and education are also set to expand. We believe that is true, since the introduction of sport back into schools is a major focus of SRSA".(This could also be said about bowls).

Further on in his editorial Charl goes on to say ".....there is a dearth of advanced skills and experience (within applications for jobs in sport), something that can only be addressed by a strategic approach to sport education and training".

The National Standing Committee for Coaching is often criticised for being too "officious" in our approach and coaching courses but we sincerely believe that if you enter into the coaching arena you should be well qualified and seen as a "professional". Be a respected coach and continually updating your self on changes and advances within the coaching field.

Some of the new sport legislation being put into place may have a minor impact on our sport but none the less we should make sure we are well placed to comply with both new legislation and also its impact on our sport in particular. Let's make sure we are all considered "**Professional Coaches**".

## UPGRADING COURSE 2007

Having started this Forum with the comments from "Your Sport" and all that they imply lets look closer to home.

When we first invited applications for this years upgrade course we had a total of 34 applications. Following the withdrawal of some people at the outset (after receiving the material) we have subsequently received more with-drawls. We are tempted to comment that if people can not find the time to complete Distance Learning Modules, that were originally introduced to make things easier, do they really have the time to coach at all ? Granted some people have requested an extension on time but others have not even been in contact.

Whilst being overly critical in some regards with our comments above perhaps we should also add some accolades. Some of the Portfolios returned for Assessment are excellent and show that people are, indeed, being professional in their approach to coaching, whilst others show a great deal of initiative. Overall it is obvious that we have some top rate coaches out there. Congratulations to all those coaches and keep up the good work.

In keeping with the official document "Coaching Structure and Qualification" that was given to all Districts at last years AGM, we are well along the path in preparing the Level 3 Upgrade Course. The final details, program, and procedures will be circulated as soon as they are finalised but it is hoped to run the pilot program before the end of 2007. The revised Club Coach Course Manual has now been circulated to all Districts and it is hoped that they will all take

advantage of this material in the light of the opening comments in this Forum.

It may be opportune at this time to remind all coaches that their qualification is only valid for four years. Every four years they should at least attend a Refresher Course or choose to upgrade. There are several districts who have taken advantage of the Refresher Course currently in use with excellent results. We also congratulate those districts that have been able to persuade some “old wave” coaches to upgrade to the new phase. Some remarks we have heard in this connection bear repeating, such as “I never realised there have been so many changes” and “What a difference that makes !”. Keep up the good work coaches !

Having started this newsletter with a quotation we would like to close this section with another quote from “Your Sport”. “SRSA hopes to standardise all coaching education, but as yet, the different codes are not aligned with the national qualification standards”. We are happy to report that Bowls is aligned ! We have our Unit Standards in place for coaching and they are the basis for all our new courses.

### **AN APPEAL**

The coaching activity in each district varies considerably due to natural restraints, very often related to distance. However it does not stop all districts having an active District Standing Committee for Coaching. We still have the unfortunate position of having some districts without a standing committee at all and wish to appeal to them to contact their Liaison Coach on the National Standing Committee to see how we can help. Use your coaches, they are there to help and improve the standard of bowls throughout South Africa. Remember, everyone can play bowls – young and old, male and female, able bodied and disabled.

To assist this exercise two documents are currently being circulated to all districts. These are “Guidelines for Modus Operandi of District Standing Committee

for Coaching” and “Coaching and Coaches – A guide for Club Presidents”. It is sincerely hoped all clubs and districts will benefit from these documents and we would welcome any feedback that will assist us still further in improving and growing our sport.

By improving your game you will surely enjoy it more ?

### **DID YOU KNOW TRIVIA**

The South African competitors in the Empire Games of 1930 at Hamilton in Ontario, Canada were confined to those who were in a position to meet the expenses of the trip; but in the 1934, 1938 and the 1950 Empire Games the expenses were borne by the Association.

A Mr. Fitzstevens writing in 1477-8, mentions the curious game of half bowl. This game was played with a perfect hemisphere and 15 conical pins. Twelve pins were arranged in a circle with another pin in the centre of the circle, and two pins at the back. The object of the player was to send the half round bowl round the two pins and then, because of the bias pulling the bowl, knock over the pins forming the circle. The shape of the half bowl gave it a tremendous bias. (You can just imagine !) The only thing missing here is some idea of dimensions of the playing area.

Three of the semi-finalists of the 1936 Singles Championship in the USA were each over 80 years of age. The other, the winner, was only 16 !!

### **REMEMBER**

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