

COACHES FORUM

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS

(FROM BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA COACHES STANDING COMMITTEE)

No. 18

JUNE 2008

CLUB COACH COURSES

Many Districts are holding Club Coach Courses and for convenience we list them below with contact details.

Southern Cape (will probably be complete before publication of this Newsletter) from June 9th to 12th, the contact person is Kallie Haupt on 044 874 0649.

Eastern Gauteng the weekends of July 12th/13th and 19th/20th, contact is John Gairns on 011 609 8096.

Western Province from July 15th to 18th contact person is Dr. Doug Coghlan on 021 556 3727.

Central Gauteng the weekends of August 9th/10th and 16th/17th, contact person is Sue Upton on 011 7910473.

Kingfisher from August 18th to 21st, contact is Ray Ferris on 039 314 4981.

Districts with courses planned include Sables, Northern Free State and Northern Cape. We advise all coaches to keep in contact with their District Standing Committees to keep up to date with the latest techniques and also to assist wherever possible. The value of coaching at all levels is fast becoming the accepted way of improving your bowls and therefore results. We urge all bowlers to make use of both their Club Coaches and also others within their District.

This years Level 2 Course is being undertaken by seventeen coaches and it is also hoped that some of the candidates who did not complete last years course will submit their Portfolios for assessment.

NEW INITIATIVE

Members of the National Academy, in conjunction with the National Standing Committee for Coaching are now busy with a countrywide Talent Identification and Assessment Program. Every District is involved and the top nominated players at all levels, are being invited to be part of the day-long exercise. All bowlers should keep in touch with their respective coaching committee to find out when and where these events are taking place. After the initial visit, the program will be run by the District Coaches using the laid down procedures, with regular reports to Bowls South Africa Coaches. Now is your chance to show the rest of your colleagues just how good you are !

LEVEL 3 UPGRADE COURSE

Following the successful completion of this years course, planning is well underway for running the 2009 course early in the year, with much of the work being of a Distance Learning nature similar to the current Level 2 Course.

This course will be the most intensive ever undertaken by the NSCC and it is hoped will be of tremendous benefit to bowlers at all levels.

DATABASE

Once again we have struggled to obtain the required information from some of our Districts but it is hoped that the new initiative being undertaken at present for Talent Identification will bring more coaches back into the Active category. We would like to remind all coaches that they should use their current badge

number and not their original number if they have upgraded, or converted from “old wave”. Also a coaches qualification is only for four years and at the end of this time they must either upgrade or at least take a Refresher Course with their District Coaching Committee.

Coaching is, and never should be, static and new ideas and subtle changes are taking place on a fairly regular basis, make sure you are up to date.

SOME COACHING HISTORY

We have recently been able to reconstruct part of the “old wave” database after it was lost due to a “computer crash”. It is interesting to note that the first badge of the “old wave” was issued as long ago as July 1985 and there are no surprises when noting that the recipient was Julius Sergay. The next four are perhaps also considered as the backbone of coaching being Salhus, Mackenzie, Braithwaite and Basil Knight.

So what has changed with regard to coaching in the last 23 years ? The basics are still there but we have added a lot of refinements and improved on the standard of teaching and training.

Most important though is the growing acceptance by bowlers of the benefits derived from Quality Coaching.

The Assessment Program mentioned earlier should be a regular part of all bowlers practice and training sessions, with the top results being forwarded to both their local Coaching Standing Committee and also their District.

Much of our bowls history can be attributed to the Scots so too with other bowls playing countries.

In 1745 after Prince Charles defeat in the battle of Culloden many Scots left the country hoping for a life free from starvation and destitution, while others were compulsorily shipped off to live a life on their own resources. There was a common saying in those days saying that the emigrating Scot invariably took with him “his Bible, his bowls and his Burns”. The oldest club in Australia is located in Melbourne and was founded by a

determined Scot, John Campbell who is recorded as having mortgaged his home and borrowed 60 dollars for this purpose. There is an interesting and amusing description of a Scotsman that says :

“Give us one Scot and we have a block of granite, give us two and we have a debating society, but give us three and we have a bowling club !”

To close off this bit of history – maybe our bit of famous history of Drake is not so true as we think.

The evidence of that famous game on Plymouth Hoe is more against than for.

Drake who was a Vice Admiral hadn't the authority to decide what steps were to be taken when the Armada was sighted. The decision would have had to be made by Lord Howard of Effingham as High Admiral. It is also a fact that in the 14th and 15th centuries laws had been passed forbidding bowls to be played and as a Senior Naval Officer, Drake would hardly have broken the law in such a public place.

None the less it is a great story and one that has supported and advertised bowls for many years. Some of our clothing and bowls equipment continues to support this story and we will never lose that important part of our history.

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