

# COACHES FORUM

FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS AND VIEWS

(FROM THE NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COACHING)

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## A NEED FOR COACHING

At the time of writing this newsletter most peoples attention has been on the performance, or lack thereof, of our athletes and teams in various international events. Our rugby and cricket sides have not exactly covered themselves in glory and the performance at the Olympics has left many people shaking their heads and wondering what is wrong with sport in South Africa.

Can we say the same for bowls ? In all probability the answer is yes. Athletes and teams all need, and deserve, quality coaching. Coaches are not there to change your own chosen style but rather to improve your technique. By improving your game and consistency you will improve your enjoyment of the game of bowls so we appeal to all bowlers to make more use of the qualified coaches in your district. If you do not have a coach at your club, approach your District Standing Committee for Coaching and let them help you.

We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Debbie James in the office for all her assistance and co-operation and wish her well in her new position. We are all sorry to see Debbie leave especially as she is a qualified coach. Maybe a little known fact but Debbie was qualified by Bowls South Africa coaches whilst in Botswana and was part of their national team to play in World Bowls in Australia in 2000. We will all miss you Debbie but hope you retain contact through our wonderful world of bowls.

## COURSE UPDATE

The final assessment of both the Level 2 and Level 3 candidates for 2008 is still underway but a final timetable is proving difficult as we try to fit in with district calendars. Assessments and interviews are planned for the following centres.

Level 2 – Practical Assessments in :  
Potchefstroom; Bloemfontein; Durban; Johannesburg; Cape Town and Welkom.

Level 3 – Interviews and Assessments in  
Pretoria; George; East London; Mtunzini and Wellington.

All candidates will be contacted personally in the very near future and we would like to apologise to all concerned for the delays in finalisation.

A very successful Club Course has just been completed in Kingfisher with candidates of the highest calibre and we look forward to welcoming them into the coaches fraternity once their Post Course projects are completed.

It is unfortunate that several districts have recently had to cancel Club Coach courses through lack of numbers but at the same time we reiterate that coaching is a profession and requires dedication and time. We are training quality coaches and as such are held in high regard by other playing countries. One of our top coaches has just returned from two weeks in Malaya and we hope to carry a report back in our next Forum.

Sables have a Club Coach Course planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and people wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should contact Tom Kneen on 011 954 1694 or 082 441 5251 for more information.

Boland have a Club Coach course planned for October 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested in attending should contact Marina van Wyk on 021 8730113 or 072 183 5095.

Natal Inland are holding a Club Coach course from November 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> and the contact details are Avril Deetlefs on 033 345 9677 or 082 974 0464.

## **TALENT IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT**

This program is progressing well and already nine districts have been evaluated. The program takes an entire day and once all the results have been assessed they are summarised and sent to the District Secretary. The program is so designed as to encourage the participants to continually try to improve on their results and also encourage other players to enter into the program. The local coaches are there to assist and to continue with the program after the initial visit. So far many of the results have been encouraging and several players with potential identified.

The Commonwealth Games are not far away and the training schedule for our top players is well underway. It is hoped that districts will also assist in this by planning their own programs around the schedule of national training camps and holding their own academy training camps at least every quarter.

## **COACHES DATABASE**

We now have some idea regarding who the active coaches are in South Africa. Unfortunately we do not have up to date returns from four districts but excluding these a summary shows our status as :

Club Coach : 349 active and 429 inactive.  
District Coach: 111 active and 93 inactive.

Academy Coach : 22 active and 7 inactive.

Elite Coach : 13 active and 6 inactive.

It should be noted that the figures for District and Academy coaches are total and include the original Advanced and Senior coaches.

We must also bear in mind that the average age of our coaches is currently 67 so it is obvious we need to bring younger people into the profession.

## **MORE BOWLS TRIVIA**

The Island Bohemian Bowling Club is situated on de Montford Island in the middle of the River Thames at Reading, a unique and historic setting reached only by the clubs own ferry. The clubs badge depicts a duel that took place in the presence of King Henry II on the island in 1163 between Robert de Montford and Henry of Essex which lasted “from sunrise to sunset” and at it’s conclusion Henry lay badly wounded and close to death. The King charged the monks at Reading Abbey with the task of removing and burying the body but Henry lived and spent the remainder of his days at the Abbey.

The duels fought on the island today are not quite so bloody and the bowlers enjoy a comfortable clubhouse and a green laid in 1908. Until the 1940’s the boundary line between Oxfordshire and Berkshire ran through the centre of the green which gave the bowlers the unusual distinction of bowling, at times, from one county into another. The present boundary however places the island in the county of Berkshire.

## **REMEMBER**

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