



BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Message from the President Boodskap van die President



Piet Breitenbach

The year 2008 will bring new challenges. After the sad loss of Mike Burger we were fortunate to appoint a very capable and dynamic Operations Manager by the name of John Ravenscroft. John, who comes out of a senior managerial position at a financial institution, will definitely add a new dimension within Bowls South Africa's business. We wish him well in his new position.

It is also a great privilege to congratulate John McArdle as the new President of World Bowls Ltd. We believe that John will add value to the international scene and that bowls will go from strength to strength. He can be assured of our unconditional support. John, we are very proud of you.

Fellow bowlers it is also very sad to say goodbye to Lorna Trigwell who will relocate to Scotland with Gary Smith the CEO of World Bowls. Thank you for what you have done for bowls in South Africa, we are going to miss you, but we wish you well in all future endeavours.

We did fairly well in Christchurch during World Bowls by winning gold in the ladies trips and bronze in the men's fours. With a bit of more "I don't know what" we could have won two or three more medals.

The South African Masters was a huge success as were all three Inter District Tournaments. To the organizers, volunteers and players a huge "thanks!" Without you no tournament can be a success.

I also need to mention the Silver Squad's internal tour. They were true ambassadors for bowls under the competent leadership of Jessica Henderson. You made us proud.

To our office staff: Mariette, Debra and Lesego, a big thanks for the support, assistance and loyalty over many months. It does not go by unnoticed.

Then lastly to all our bowlers, thank you for your support and all the wonderful things you do from day to day, to keep our lovely sport going. With this I include Alan Simmonds who is doing wonders with his positive reporting in the Cape Argus. With support like that we 'can go places'.

Fellow bowlers remember: "Dream what you dare to dream. Do what you dare to do. Be what you dare to be".

Until next time.
Piet Breitenbach

In this Issue

<i>Editorial</i>	2
<i>Circulars , Press Releases and other News</i>	2, 3
<i>Photogallery</i>	4
<i>Photogallery</i>	5
<i>Grass Clippings</i>	6
<i>To the Point</i>	7
<i>Coaches Forum</i>	8
<i>Jack Up Bowls</i>	9

"Lawn bowling is like a chess game on grass"

Bob Powlak

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EDITORIAL/ REDAKSIONEEL**Press Releases and
Circulars**

The new year started with us all looking forward to receiving the new printed membership card and the database in full operation. The introduction thereof and the implementing of this advanced system has been a mammoth task spearheaded by Vice President Debra Ferguson. With the issuing of the new and modernized card, several problems came to light mainly through the ignorance and oversight by clubs, who for various reasons, did not have all their members entered into the database. However, as time progressed, many of these hiccups have been solved and clubs are getting to understand their responsibilities in this regard.

Whilst paging through a bowling magazine issued in July 1991, I came across a photo referring to "The four semi-finalists in the **Veterans** Singles". This brought me to a question that I have often wondered about. Why do we in bowls call our over 60's "seniors"? To refer to a "seniors" team or a "senior" player, what are we referring to? If I play for the "Senior team" who do I play for? Is it the top team? Or the team consisting of more experienced players? Or the over 60's? Should bowls not consider using the more descriptive word "veteran", like some other sports codes? What do our "senior" bowlers think?

Ek lees onlangs in Jan Snyman se boek **GROETE VAN MANNETJIES ROUX** dat hierdie roemryke rugbyspeler en sportman van weleer die volgende sê: "Op die rolbaan gaan dit ook nie te vrot nie. Charlotte en ek verdwyn soms vir 'n uur of wat klub toe om gou-gou 'n paar balle te gaan rol." Wat 'n geweldige impak sou dit nie kon wees om beroemde figure soos Mannetjies Roux te gebruik om die belangstelling van sportliefhebbers na rolbal te trek nie! Ek kan onthou toe Kepler Wessels, voormalige Suid-Afrikaanse krieketkaptein begin rolbal speel het. Aanhangers het na die rolbalbane gestroom net om vir Kepler te sien oefen. Stel jou voor die impak wat dit op ons sport sal maak indien iemand soos Francois Pienaar, Jake White, Os du Randt of Shaun Pollock sou begin rolbal speel. Dit is daarom dat die Uitvoerende Bestuur van Rolbal Suid-Afrika aan die Ontwikkelings Staande Komitee opdrag gegee het om meer klem te plaas op sportmanne en – vroue wat ander sportsoorte verlaat. Daar is 'n dokument opgestel wat omvattende planne beliggaam om hierdie veld te betree. Die document sal eersdaags bekend gestel word.

In a document "Marketing Plan for Athletes Exiting Other Sports" clubs will be briefed on the strategy that, if carried out meticulously and enthusiastically, could see our sport growing in all respects. However, like most strategic plans, the outcome is reliant on the bowlers themselves and the club and district executives to ensure the success thereof.

Tys Pringle
Media Portfolio Exco Member

PRESS RELEASES**SOUTH AFRICA WINS GOLD AT WORLD BOWLS
CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

The South African Proteas won the **GOLD** Medal in the Women's Trips at the World Bowls Championships that ended in Christchurch, New Zealand this past weekend. South Africa's Women's Trips team, skipped by the world's top ranked women player Lorna Trigwell, and her team with Loraine Victor & Sylvia Burns, won the finals by beating Australia 15-11.

The South African Men's Fours won the **Bronze** medal when they beat Scotland in the quarterfinals (19-12), but went down to New Zealand in the semi-finals (9-21). The South African Fours team were Brian Dixon, Billy Radloff, Wayne Perry & Clinton Roets. The men's Fours were won by New Zealand with Australia taking the silver medal.

Gerry Baker who played the men's Singles for South Africa, was unfortunate to narrowly lose to New Zealand in the quarter finals (18-21) after winning all his matches in the sectional play-offs. The men's Singles were eventually won by Malaysia who beat Australia (21-10) in the finals.

Other South African teams to reach the quarter finals were the Men's Pairs and the Women's Fours. Both these teams lost in the semi-finals and missed out on the medals.

The New Zealand men were the overall winners in the Men's Championships. South Africa ended up in seventh position. Of the women Australia were the overall winners with South Africa in seventh place.

All the results are available on the website of Bowls South Africa at www.bowlssa.co.za. Follow the World Bowls Website links.

(Tys Pringle, Bowls South Africa. (014) 717 3966 or 083 320 7793)

**Competitive bowls is played mainly on a five and a
half inch rink, the space between your ears**

Author Unknown

IMPORTANT CIRCULARS

The following Circulars have been distributed to District Secretaries since the last Newsletter. If any of these circulars concern you or your club, please ensure that you obtain them from your District Secretary.

Circular 83/2007: Amendment to Circular 82/2007: Bowls Date Stamp Compliance.

Circular 02/2009: Affiliation and Subscription returns.

Circular 04/2008: Zurich Bowls S A Women's Nationals 2008 Entry Information.

Circular 05/2008: Development Bowls Inventory.

Circular 06/2008: Information on Red Card Holders.

Circular 07/2008: World Bowls Results.

Circular 09/2008: Bowls S A Talent Identification Training Camp.

Circular 10/2008: Operations Manager appointment.

Circular 11/2008: Development Tournament 2008.

Circular 12/2008: Venues: National Tournaments / Championships.

Circular 13/2008: Under 25 Inter-District Tournament 2008.

Circular 14/2008: Players Record Forms.

Circular 15/2008: World Bowls Appointment.

Circular 17/2008: Bowls S A Database – Update and Changes Procedures.

Welcome on Board

John Ravenscroft, newly appointed Operations Manager





**World Championship Triples
Gold Medalists 2008**

**L -R : Loraine Victor,
Lorna Trigwell, Sylvia Burns**



World Championship Fours

Bronze Medallists 2008

**L -R : Billy Radloff, Wayne Perry,
Clinton Roets, Brian Dixon (Jnr)**



10 Year Service Award

**Mariette Vorster was recognized at
the 2008 Masters Dinner for her 10
years of service in the Bowls SA
offices**



Lorna Trigwell with the Certificate of Recognition awarded for her many years of outstanding service to Bowls in South Africa, and as an Ambassador for South African Sport



Participants in the Talent Identification Camp held at the Nest in March 2008

GRASS CLIPPINGS 14

Inspections– Assessments and Gradings

Having almost completed our inspections for the 2008 SA Tournaments we have had our usual queries regarding our inspection policy and our weightings of the various items.

Most of our critics do not appreciate the fact that there is a difference between the information found on the inspection sheet and the report we submit to Bowls SA and the Tournament Committee

Preparation for an Inspection

When preparing a green for such an inspection the GKP should glance through the Book on “The Evaluation and Grading of a Bowling green”

This would help him to avoid “silly mistakes” which might cost him a few marks. He must also set out a few rinks as he would for the tournament as proof that he knows how to set out a green for a tournament.

In our inspections this year not a single GKP had consulted the “Evaluation Book” when he prepared his green for the inspection.

Instead of criticising our system would it not have been better if a Club President and his committee had examined our inspection sheet and asked the GKP where he could have avoided “foolish mistakes” and perhaps not have lost those marks

The Inspection Sheet

The Inspection sheet was devised about 50 years ago and although your Greens Standing Committee reviews the sheet every year as far as I can recall only two items have been added to the sheet in 20 years. We have, however, changed the weighting as circumstances change.

I believe that, with so many clubs neglecting their levels, we will soon have to put more emphasis on levels.

Our sheet has more items than the Australian Sheet but I put that down to the fact that their Green Keepers (GKP) are all professionally trained and certain items which their GKP's would take for granted have to be looked at with our relatively inexperienced GKP's.

The inspection sheet virtually covers every aspect of Green keeping and could be regarded as an external audit on the Green and the GKP –

1 Green - Whether there are basic problems in the green which the GKP inherited.

2 The GKP

How he handles the equipment

His management policy

Whether the “Laws of the Game” are observed

It is a confidential document which is given to the club only – Bowls SA does not get the inspection sheet.

When asked by Bowls SA to inspect greens for a SA Tournament we first do an inspection and record our findings on the inspection sheet.

We then consider the format of the SA Tournament –

1 What is the duration of the Tournament - eg. In the old days the SA National lasted 14 days and the greens used at Headquarters had to endure much more traffic than they were used to. For that reason the wearing capabilities of the green plus the experience of the GKP were important

We are also mindful of the fact that the green has to be handed back to the members after the tournament

2 How many rinks would be required – eg. In the Inter-Regionals we need 10 rinks at a two-green club – one can therefore avoid up to two “dicey” rinks which one cannot do in a National

3 For an Inter-provincial and Mixed Pairs two-green clubs are needed – we often find a club with one excellent green but the other green is a bit dicey and we therefore have to discard that club

The kingpin in all this is the GKP.

When we have completed our last inspection the fate of the tournament lies in the competence of the GKP

What is he going to do in the run-up to the Tournament. It must be remembered that when we have approved a green for a tournament we can only “advise” the GKP on what to do we cannot instruct him to do anything. – of course we can still take the tournament away from that club if the “offence” is of such a nature that using that green might jeopardise the tournament

The rest of this Newsletter is available for
download on our website

BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA TECHNICAL OFFICIALS**TO THE POINT**

Issue 22

March 2008

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. (Unknown)****Improving of standards of Umpiring and Marking**

If you want a person to perform a specific task, you must ensure he/she is **Competent** (Bevoegd). If that person has not performed the task previously, the person is **Incapable** (Onbekwaam) to perform that task.

The first step is to ensure that the person acquires the necessary **Knowledge and Skills** (Kennis en Vaardigheden). Once the person obtained the knowledge and skills he/she is **Capable** (Bekwaam) to perform the task, but capability does not guarantee quality and the required standards, which are expected.

The person must become **Competent** (Bevoegd). The only way to become competent is to regularly applying the knowledge and skills in order to gain **Exposure** and **Experience** (Blootstelling en Ondervinding)

Once a person has the required knowledge, skills and experience he/she is **COMPETENT**, but if there are changes in the knowledge and skills required and the person is not re-trained or updated on the changes he become incapable again.

How does this apply to Bowls?

Ensure that all the persons that are required to do duty as an Umpire or Marker have attended the required courses. They are now capable (bekwaam)

Ensure they get enough exposure and opportunities (blootstelling en geleentheid) to gain the necessary experience to become competent (bevoegd). Once the person has completed the course create opportunities for him/her to use the knowledge and skills.

Appoint Umpires and Markers even in social bowls.

Do not use the same persons over and over.

Encourage qualified markers and umpires to volunteer for club, district and National competitions and tournaments.

Ensure that all Markers and Umpires are informed of any changes in the laws or the use of measuring instruments.

Encourage them to attend refresher courses.

Evaluate them on a regular basis to ensure they have the required skills and knowledge.

Remember:

If a person does not keep track of changes in laws and techniques or he/she does not apply it regularly he/she becomes incapable and the quality and required standards cannot be guaranteed.

The rest of this Newsletter is available for download on our website

COACHES FORUM
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF COACHING NEWS
AND VIEWS
(FROM THE NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR
COACHING)

COURSE UPDATE

The recent Level 3 Academy Coach course held at the beginning of February in Bloemfontein was attended by 17 coaches two of whom undertook the course as a Refresher Course.

The course was run under the auspices of the National Academy with presentations made by Sports Scientists from the High Performance Centre in Pretoria as well as members of the National Standing Committee. The candidates still have to complete their Post Course projects but it is expected that all candidates will be declared "competent".

The feedback received from both the candidates and members of the National Academy indicate that the course was well worth while and contained a lot of new and valuable information regarding coaching. It is intended that the Level 3 course will be held on an annual basis similar to the Level 2 course.

The Level 2 course for 2008 is under way but the response from some districts has been poor. So far only five of our 20 districts have sent in nominations but it is expected that there will be several late applications. We also encourage all those candidates who did not complete last years course, to complete their Portfolios and submit them to Bowls South Africa by May31st.

Several districts have been running, or will soon run, Refresher Courses and it is pleasing to note that at some of them, previous "old wave" coaches were upgrading to the new system. Other courses planned so far include a Refresher Course in Natal Inland on March 24th and Bowls Gauteng North is running a Club Coach course from March 31st to April 3rd. Anyone wishing to attend these courses should approach the relevant District Standing Committee.

One of the biggest challenges we face in coaching is the acceptance by the average bowler of the benefits of coaching.

Just because you know how to play the game

and are relaxed and enjoying the sport does not mean that there is no room for improvement. You can also increase your enjoyment by fine tuning your delivery with the aid of a qualified coach. Don't be shy. You may well experience a dramatic change of fortune !

It is worth repeating here some comments from Kallie Haupt, the Executive Member charged with the responsibility of coaching. In his closing remarks at the recent course in Bloemfontein he reminded the candidates that "Coaching is not a "HOW TO" taken out of a Manual; it is not about following a set of rules or directions – IT IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE and people demand to be treated with respect.

The role of the coach is to listen to the diversity and interpret all the signals in order to produce the best possible outcome for the person being coached".

He went on to add "You must lead by example. To be able to demonstrate effectively you must be fit and look after your own life-style".

Comments we should all take note of !

DATABASE

Once again we are at the end of February and very few Districts have submitted their annual returns for their coaches. PLEASE try to help us help you and submit your returns NOW. Remember we also have to report to SASCOC in this regard. If your data is not in you are automatically placed on the redundant list and will not be considered for future events or upgrading.

The rest of this Newsletter is available for
download on our website

**Twenty-one ends of match play
will teach you more about your
foe than 19 years dealing with
him across a desk -**

Author Unknown



Jack up Bowls!

We're on a roll'.....

Bowls SA Development Standing Committee

Extracts from this Newsletter

THE HABIT OF DEVELOPMENT

HERMAN VAN RENSBURG

Convenor: Bowls SA Dev SC

Once again, I want to emphasize the responsibility of Development in Bowls.

Development Committee's responsibilities are to **market**, influence, prompt and promote necessary change to enable more people to join bowls.

Therefore, we need to encourage and **establish a habit** to develop the sport of bowls and to accept it as part of a process of the existence of the sport. All Districts need a programme to raise the profile of the sport so that it is well known, respected and recognized by the public. We must recognize the fact that the image of bowls is not a positive one. Too many see Bowls as a sport for older people rather than for all ages

We all must have a common goal, namely, to increase the retention rate of players and get more people to play the sport.

Over the past years the following long term programs were launched to enable Districts and Clubs to promote and market the sport.

The Short Mat – were taken to shopping malls, ext, so the public can get a feeling of Bowls.

Youth Program – Bowls were introduced to schools and currently successful programs are been run by most Districts.

Bowls Development Guidelines Handbook –

Guidelines to help Districts and Clubs on development projects.

Programs to follow in the near future are:

- Athletes Exiting other Sports
- Corporate Leagues

To further assist Districts and Clubs, we have decided to set up a webpage with all relevant information regarding **Marketing** and **Development** of Bowls. This will only be for guidelines as each District and Club will have their own circumstances. Keep an eye out for this.

HOW TO RETAIN AND RECRUIT MEMBERS

Extracts quoted from

Bowls Australia Perfect Delivery Resource Kit.

“The challenge is to keep people coming back.”

Outline a range of ideas to help **retain** the membership at your bowls club

Outline a range of ideas to help **recruit** new members for your bowls club

Guidelines to retain and recruit members

Members are **‘the club’**. It is important to look after members so that they will remain at your club and encourage other people to join as well. Listed below are a few items that can help retain and recruit members:

- set a yearly membership goal
- market your club in the local area in order to attract new members
- emphasise the facilities and benefits of the club
- welcome new members and help them fit into the club's social structure
- get to know members and the special skills and qualities they bring to the club
- involve members in decision making and the organisation of events
- keep membership details up-to-date - use a computer database
- make sure members' contributions are acknowledged
- encourage members to bring friends to social events and competitions
- make sure your club caters for a wide cross section of your community (e.g. ethnic groups, people with disabilities, etc.)
- provide guidelines on behaviour and dress rather than strict rules and regulations — you want to encourage membership, not turn people off with an authoritarian attitude

The rest of this Newsletter is available for download on our website

**Bowls South Africa
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"I shot a wild elephant in Africa 30 yards from me, and it didn't hit the ground until it was right at my feet. I wasn't a bit scared. But ask me to put another 12 inches on my last bowl and it scares me to death—

Author Unknown

**Die
Sport
vir
ALMAL**

**The Sport for
a Lifetime**

Supported by National Lottery
Distribution Trust Fund

