

**Regional T-ID camps are happening.**

As we reach the end of one season and begin another, so it is appropriate to review the past year's involvements and activities from a National Standing Committee for Coaching perspective.

The NSCC has been very active on the ground in the past year, assisting several districts to implement coaching courses as well as the T-ID program at club and district level.

NSCC committee members visited Mpumalanga, EGB, BGN, JBA, Sables, NFS, SFS, KZN, NIBA, PN, Boland, SC, WP, Border, EP and Kingfisher during the past year, assisting with courses and also assisting coaches with T-ID practice sessions.

The NSCC also assisted the National Academy with training camps in Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, where several new players of competence and potential were identified.

**Level 1 Coaching Courses during 2010.**

Several districts held Level 1 coaching courses for new coaches in the past year, whilst others held some refresher courses for existing coaches.

Coaching remains a very dynamic process, and with all the new training technology and media that is becoming available, several existing coaches have had to recognise that they need updating in their techniques and presentation methods.

The following districts appointed new coaches during the past year: BGN, Border, EGB, JBA, EP, KZN region, SC, NFS, SFS, NW and WP, so congratulations to all our new coaches.

Unfortunately there are still some districts that have little or no coaching activity going on whatsoever, and these districts will be subjected to intensive scrutiny in the coming year to see how best to assist them.

Unfortunately the following districts have not had any T-ID activity whatsoever in the past year, so we ask the new in-coming District Executives in Sedibeng, Northern Cape and Limpopo to address this issue in the coming year – the NSCC is more

than willing to assist as well in getting the T-ID program into action in these districts.

Remember, Coaching is an experienced-based program that is living and the skills need to be practiced constantly for the coach to remain competent.

Coaches must also become more Internet-literate and more computer-literate, because we now live in a highly inter-active world that has exceptional visual communications options, and many of these revolve around computer-based interfacing.

**New coaching course material to be introduced.**

The NSCC committee has been hard at work for the last year developing a totally re-written Level 1 course, which will be announced and introduced by the end of 2010.

This will also be followed by a new Level 2 course content package, whilst a new Level 3 course will be introduced towards the end of 2011.

In terms of the new Level 1 course material, there will be intensive training courses held around the country during the early part of 2011, where the new course structure and training methodologies will be expanded upon in some depth with the existing coaching fraternity.

We then hope to see an expanding focus on delivering the new coaching material to existing coaches in all the districts around the country in the last half of the year.

**The future of coaching.**

The Department of Sports and Recreation and SASCOC place huge emphasis on the need to increase the sporting activities of our population, especially since it was recently announced that South Africa now has one of the three most obese populations in the world.

It is not possible to introduce a sporting culture if there are not enough coaching personnel to deliver the basic skills required for any particular sporting code – Bowls remains one of the key sports for South Africa, since it allows one of the widest groups of players into the game, since it can be played equally well by children and adults.

Bowls coaches therefore have to be equipped to handle teenagers, adolescents and seniors who wish to learn the game, and the same approach cannot be used for these three quite different social groupings.

However, it is the fact that bowls allows such a wide age group range to all play together in the same game, which is quite unlike most other sports, that bowls delivers it's real charm and value to the South African population.

That said, it is in this enormously wide player age variation that the problem lies.

Coaching today is about people skills, people development and inter-personal skills more than it is about physical skills, which of course will always be needed, but our future coaches need to be able to deal with teaching a diverse range of people with vastly different educational and cultural backgrounds.

This means that all existing coaches need to upgrade their competence to coach not only in the physical skills teaching arena, but they should also develop and extend their inter-personal and people management skills.

And then there is the question about how we present skills training programs to new players: coaches need to be adapt at listening properly, since new people who come to our game have lot of important questions about the sport that they need answered.

This implies that we may have to demonstrate some aspects of the sport, whilst in another instance, we may have to explain in layman's terms what is required of the new player.

Coaches need to also start implementing new technologies, and a video camera, for example, represents a powerful training and fault correction tool in the right hands.

The NSCC will be exploring some of the new video-based recording and analysis methods in some depth over the next year or two, to see how best to introduce such technology at grass roots level in the future.

The age-old challenge of how we integrate the efforts and plans of the National Standing Committee for Development with those of the Coaching Committee still needs to be dealt with – the Development responsibility does not lie solely in the hands of the Development Committees in each district or club, it remains the responsibility of every player in the game as well, but only a few grasp that responsibility and do something about it.

Every time a club has a development drive, we would hope that the coaches in that club are wholeheartedly involved in the development activities as well, because getting someone to play this wonderful game of ours means teaching them a sustainable, repeatable playing method, and the clinic style of play remains highly respected, and it demonstrates its practicality every day.

It is interesting to note that many countries along our borders also now use the Clinic style for their players and it is fascinating to see a national team from Namibia, Swaziland, Botswana and perhaps even Kenya applying the same bowling techniques as our own South African players, which is proof that the Clinic style is universal and appropriate.



*The recent T-ID regional training camp in Port Elizabeth saw 24 players from EP and Border testing their skills in a two day program with the full participation of 12 local coaches, who scored the exercises for the players. Our thanks go to the EP District Executive and Coaches Standing committee.*

Watch out for the new Level 1 coaching material, it is wonderful. Good bowling to you all.  
*Bowls SA NSCC*