

TO THE POINT

Issue 32

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1. FINAL "TRAINING OF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS COURSE PRESENTERS" COURSE

From 24 to 30 October 2010 the third and final "Training of Technical Course Presenters" course was presented at Amanzimtoti to twenty seven (27) delegates from 16 districts.

All districts now have at least 3 trained and competent course presenters on their District Technical Officials Standing Committee who can conduct the Technical Official courses in the various districts.

We are already experiencing the return on our investment as we easily achieved our target of training at least 600 persons during the 2010 season. (A total of 675 persons were trained).

The National Standing Committee for Technical Officials has set our target for 2011 to train at least 700 bowlers during the next year.

It was wonderful to have 27 committed persons on the course who want to learn more in order to equip themselves to develop the sport they love.

It was hard work and everyday they worked from 08:00 in the morning till 18:30 in the afternoon.

They learnt about training techniques, how to do assessments, how to do the course administration, assist with the revision of the course material (to come in line with the new laws) and the revision of the assessment questionnaires.

Each delegate had a positive attitude and we did not hear a single person moaning or complaining about the long hours.

Because they worked long hours every day we had an afternoon off that we spent on "Team Building" and even that was a wonderful learning experience.



Our Accomodation



The Red Group at work



The Yellow Group at work



Course Candidates Amanzimtoti Oct 2010



How to do practical assessments



Doing some theory



Learn about the laws



Busy with "Team Building"

2. COMMONWEALTH GAMES

How it was experienced by one of our International Technical Officials – Jeanette Williams

On 30th September this year, I left for Dehli and the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and an experience never to be forgotten.

I could not believe the day I had been looking forward to for so long had finally arrived. I was excited and nervous at the same time.

I landed at OR Thambo Airport in Johannesburg at 8h10 and had to wait around for my flight to Mumbai at 11h50. Mumbai is 6970 km from Johannesburg. We arrived in Mumbai at 2h30 and were met by Commonwealth Games "Volunteers" who herded us through customs so quickly, the poor customs officials hardly had time to stamp our passports. And then Security took over.

I have never experienced such tight security. There were armed guards everywhere, and I mean armed!! AK47's no less!! On the airport bus, along the roads, everywhere.

We left Mumbai at 6h30 and flew to Dehli arriving there at 8h30. There I sat for 2 hours waiting for transport to my hotel!!

Later that day we (all the Technical Officials from Scotland, England, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand) were taken to the Stadium to be briefed!! Once again I was struck by the tight security. Each hotel foyer has scanning machines for bags and suitcases, and a scanning "doorway" one goes through to be body searched on the other side. The same applied to the entrances at the stadium, where one went through two, one after the other. The streets were lined with armed forces and sandbags for them to stand behind.



Jeanette Williams & Trevor Davis

The Opening Ceremony was very good, despite the fact that we had to go through 2 Security checks to get into the Stadium and have all our sweets, biscuits, make up, perfume, bananas we had taken

with to eat as we had to be there at 4.30pm, and bottled water confiscated by the Security Guards. I think someone made a huge profit as they even confiscated any coins we had in our purses.

We were transported to the venue and back by bus. The buses had "special lanes" to travel in – lucky for us as the traffic is something to behold!! There doesn't appear to be any "rules of the road" as long as they honk their hooters they turn in front of anyone so the noise of hooters is unreal and there are not many cars that don't have a good few dents in them. Then of course there are the Tuk Tuks, hundreds of them and also the motor bikes!! Literally millions of them. There are 20 000 000 people living in Dehli and there are 7 000 000 cars on the road and I am sure there are as many tuk tuks and motor bikes and they are all overloaded and all blowing hooters.

The heat and humidity in India is something else. I always thought Durban was bad in the summer but Dehli takes some beating. At 2.30am the temperature was 28 degrees!

All over the Stadium there were fridges with bottles of cold water and Powerade and we all drank at least 8 litres of liquid a day!!

During the first week we each did duty twice a day. 4 sessions were played a day – the worst one was the one starting at 12h30!! Wow was that hot!!! I actually burnt blisters the size of a R2 coin under my feet, from the heat coming up from under the "green".

During the second week, we did anything from 3 to 4 shifts a day and it was really tough in that heat. The evening shift was no cooler, and the insects!! I have never seen so many different kinds of goggas. They would spray the air with an insecticide at 6pm every day. This was for the mosquitoes and other moths and flying insects, however it had a very strong smell and it was not pleasant to breathe in.

I must say I was very surprised at the Umpiring and Marking done by Umpires from other countries! Clearly they do not have the training we have, and this alarmed me as we all did the same "exam" to qualify as ITO's!! and, I had to wonder at times how they passed theirs!! There were, those that were good at their tasks but I experienced some really strange measuring practices!! Also some strange interpretations of the laws.

I have been asked on many occasion since my return, "why were the players not foot faulted – and why were players not stopped from running after their bowls"? In fact they were, but the position of the TV cameras, and the filming of the games was

such that one only saw one side of the rink at a time, and the interaction between the Technical Officials and the Managers (through whom we had to warn the players) was never evident.

Needless to say I was VERY proud of our teams!! They played incredible bowls, not to speak of that shot Gerry Baker played to win the pairs!! They all played really well in very difficult weather conditions. Energy sapping to say the very least.



In India you do not eat anything that has not been cooked, the breads and cakes and pastries are very yummy. One does not eat any fruit unless you can peel it as the water in the taps is disgustingly dirty so you cannot wash the fruit. You don't eat salad as the tomatoes and lettuce etc, would have been washed in that same water. There is no meat in India, or very little of it. I certainly didn't see any (apart from the raw goats' heads and inners one sees being sold on the sides of the roads). All one gets to eat is Chicken!! Boy was I tired of chicken when I got home, and of course EVERYTHING is either curried or has chillies in it – even the cheese patties!! Then there was the green bread!

The people of Dehli are generally poor and many of them live on pavements and some just sleep on the islands in the middle of the road. The dirt and squalor is absolutely terrible. The dogs that roam the streets of Dehli and the Cows are better off than a lot of the people, as the belief is that everyone must feed the cows and the dogs. The dogs don't belong to anyone and there are many of them and they are all well fed!!

Although it was a GREAT experience, I don't think I would like to go to India on holiday!

3. AN UMPIRE

Being an umpire is an official recognition of the fact that you have taken the time to study the laws of the sport of bowls, and that you have succeeded in passing an officially recognized examination which has qualified you to take on

the responsibility of decision making. Basically, the Controlling Body appoints the umpire. It is the umpire's task during competitive play to attend to the mechanics of the game.

Before the commencement of play the umpire must check that the greens meet the required standard. This includes the width of the rinks, the 2 and 25 metre distance pegs, the availability of mats, jacks, the ditch indicators and the shot measuring equipment.

During the game the umpire may be called upon to measure any disputed shots or possible short distances between the jack or a bowl from the centre of the mat line. The umpire may also be called upon to take specific legal decisions such as whether a jack or a bowl, are in play or not, or if the game is being played in accordance with the laws of the game. The umpire is also there to advise the skips on the laws governing the game when the skips are not sure of what is required under certain circumstances.

At the completion of the game, the umpire will collect the cards and check that the cards are correct. This includes the players names, the skips signatures and the scores on the card as reflected on the board. The umpire will ensure that the cards are then returned to the appropriate representative of the Controlling Body.

Do you know –

An umpire can progress from a Level 1 umpire to a Level 4 umpire by attending training courses designed to improve their knowledge of the laws of the sport of bowls.

Umpires who have previously qualified and wish to up-rate themselves after a period of time or because they are no longer sure of the latest editions of the laws can do so.

That if you would like to become an umpire, your District Executive Body has the means to run courses to train bowlers as umpires. Candidates may want to officiate as umpires or just be more conversant with the laws of the sport of bowls.

There is an official course for bowlers to be taught the correct way in which to mark a singles game.

4. ACHIEVEMENT



Congratulations to Neville Savage from JBA. During the Bowls South Africa AGM Neville was awarded the Level 4 Technical Official Badge. In October 2010 Neville was also accredited as an International Technical Official. Well done Neville !!!!

5. BOLAND-WP GO HAND IN HAND

A 1-day get together was held at Goodwood Sports Club where delegates from Boland and WP S/C's had the opportunity to meet, synchronize, iron out and rehash systems and problems. The days proceedings were further enhanced by Fred's visit attendance and participation.

The introduction of the brainchild of Fred, the handbook which will replace mounds of paperwork in our theoretical application in our courses was well received as was the demonstration of the retractable line which was done on the green.

The changes to the Laws were talked through and the duties of the Skip and his responsibilities with regard to the score card raised plenty discussion. The initiative proved very worthwhile and we feel that we have consolidated even further having had the two friendly factions together, as well as a couple of non-standing committee members who have worked very well with our committees over the past while.

It makes a tremendous amount of sense that our National Standing Committee members are seen in the Districts mingling amongst the people that are working tirelessly towards our cause.



All the Technical Official Standing Committee members from Western Province and Boland attended the workshop



Fred Kruis addressing the Workshop members



Eric Jason from Western Province Standing Committee demonstrates to the workshop members how to use the Retractable Boundary String

6. QUESTIONS FROM BOWLERS

Markers to pick up bowls during trial ends

Please explain new rule that markers must pick up all bowls and carry them to the back in trial ends but when playing the game, players kick the bowls to the back behind the mat. This does not make sense. It also plays havoc with ones arms. What is the sense in this rule ?

Firstly it is not a rule or a New Rule.

It is plain etiquette.

We teach all markers that when they mark a game to respect the players they are marking for.

Therefore it is etiquette or good manners not to kick the player's bowls.

In trial ends once a player's bowl comes to rest, the marker must pick it up and when the next player has delivered his bowl, place the bowl that you have picked up in the position where they will play from (plus minus one meter from the ditch and to the side of the number peg.

What the players do with the bowls during the game is not the markers concern.

BUT, if the players burn an end and it must be replayed, they (the players) must pick up the bowls

and carry them over to the mat end to replay that end.

This is a rule and it prevents the players randomly throwing back the bowls, which can interrupt the play in the adjoining rinks. Law 31.3 in the old law book or Law 31.2 in the new Law book.

Contracting out of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls

It is very difficult for some bowlers to understand the apparent contradiction between new Law 17.2.2 and Law 61 - Contracting out. The new Law 17.2.2 states that the Controlling Body can set aspects of play which are different to those described in the Laws.

Firstly Law 61 states:

No Controlling Body or individual has the right or power to contract out of any of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

As Our Member National Authority (Bowls South Africa) is affiliated to World Bowls all the Controlling Bodies affiliated to BSA must adhere to the Laws as published in the Law book. This is to ensure all MNA's affiliated to World Bowls play to the same rules, so we cannot change the rules to suit us.

Law 17.2.2 Conditions of play (For organizing "fun" competitions

Controlling Bodies that govern club competitions which are purely social or recreational (that is, competitions that do not directly or indirectly lead to the winners being awarded a club title or qualifying to compete for a district, national or international title) can set Conditions of Play which include aspects of play that are different from those described within the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

It is common that clubs are currently and will continue to run "fun" competitions and they should be allowed to accommodate games to promote the game noting that they can only be varied if the winners are NOT to compete at any level above the days "fun day"

World Bowls acknowledge the fact that we want to deviate from the laws sometimes to attract new bowlers. That is why they brought in Law 17.2.2

Just a word of caution!!!

If a controlling body arranges a fun day and the conditions of play for that day deviate from the laws they must adhere to the requirements of that law. Be careful that that deviations don't become a norm and some players think that is law.

It can become a "Bad Habit" and all of you know that to get rid of a "Bad Habit" is very difficult

CONTACT PERSONS

If you need any information regarding Technical Official courses or any other bowls related queries please contact your District Technical Official Standing Committee.

If they cannot assist you or you do not know who they are or you do not have their contact numbers, you are welcome to contact your district representative on the National Standing Committee for Technical Officials who will assist you.

National Technical Official Standing Committee for 2010.



Fred Kruis (Convener)

Represents the following districts:
Northern Cape
Northern Free State
North West
Sables



Renee Venter (Secretary)

Represents the following districts:
Limpopo
Eastern Gauteng
Bowls Gauteng North



Bob Radcliffe

Represents the following Districts:
Natal Inlands
Port Natal
Kingfisher
KZN Country



Jeanette Williams

Represents the following districts:
Border
Eastern Province
Southern Cape



Neville Savage

Represents the following districts:
CGBA
Mpumalanga
Southern Free State
Sedibeng



Doreen de Power

Represents the following districts:
Boland
Western Province

The Technical Official Representative on the Bowls South Africa Executive for the next term is Isabel Smith.

Any comment preferably positive, or if negative, with the solution, may be E-mailed to any of the Committee Members.

Fred Kruis fredkruis@wam.co.za

Bob Radcliffe radcliffe@worldonline.co.za

Renee Venter reeneventer@mweb.co.za

Jeanette Williams jeanettetee@telkomsa.net

Doreen de Power 23dor@cybersmart.co.za

Neville Savage savagenk@icon.co.za

Any bowler who would like to get a copy of this newsletter will find it on the Bowls SA web and District Secretaries will receive a copy from October 2010