

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Let's make 2011 a bumper occasion

I as president, anxious, as would anyone be that all was going well for my fellow bowlers and that the clubs were weathering the economic gloom and doom, it's been a good year on the greens.

Our events have gone smoothly and the climax was of course the Commonwealth Games, what an achievement for our teams. 3 Gold out of a possible 6 medals.

Your executive has introduced several innovations, not the least being TV coverage. Watch out for the Namibia test series on Super Sport first airing 30 December 2010.

Our training clinics, assessments and high performance regimen are paying off big time; it was hardly surprising every medal won in Delhi was by a player who had completed a high performance programme.

My executive and I will continue to work hard to assist the grassroots players and ensure wherever possible clubs receive help and

infrastructure to prosper; remember the Executive members will assist you with advice.

We must also be grateful to our wonderful sponsors and the continued assistance we get from SASCOC and Lotto ... the rewards speak for themselves. Please make every effort to give them support.

As I look at the world bowls scene I cannot but marvel how, in spite of falling membership (a global phenomenon) and tight and tighter budgeting, there pervades a feeling of optimism and good spirit ... long may it remain.

Development (in every sense of the word) will continue to be high on our agenda; you too can do your bit by encouraging friends, workmates and family to at least give bowls a try. Moreover, everyone has some expertise in one direction or another; have you thought of how you could contribute to bowls and your club? I urge you one and all to support your Development officers with the National Awareness Day. (27 April 2011) Your

support is needed.

At this time of the year we usually think of kids and small furry beasts, good food, gifts and, hopefully, a helping hand for the less fortunate. Nothing has changed.

Thanks to all for the fantastic support you have given me. With your mandate and trust remember together we can make it work.

On behalf of myself, your fantastic executive and the administrative staff in Dunkeld, God Bless, enjoy your holidays be they Eid, Chanukah or Christmas, drive safely and look forward to a fantastic New Year ... Lets make 2011 a positive attitude year and I am sure if we all pull together bowls (already heading that way) will again be a premier sport in South Africa.



Debra Ferguson

Bowls SA

Newsletter

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EDITOTIAL

Glory comes deservedly from hard work

It is said a sport is measured by the success of its competitors.

Bowls is a code with skill levels from novice to international expert, yet with probably sometimes no more than a measure separating them on any given end, but light years apart in the overall picture. Nevertheless each equally contributes to that final "winning" aggregate of worth.

Coaching at club level has raised the bar. To the standing committees and tireless faithful, too many to name here, but who know who they are, a huge well done. Your tireless approach, commitment and tenacity have made better players of us all.

And, urged by an enthusiastic national executive, district committees and the clubs played their part; it has rubbed off on players at all levels and in all communities.

The SA Masters this year was a revelation for skill, as were the various national events and everything else in between.

On international level we tasted success in India during the Eight Nations Tournament which provided our team with an opportunity to test the conditions. The team next travelled to sunny Spain, hola! Where we singed the Spanish Teams' beards, again in sultry, carpet-based conditions. The Proteas next took part in the African States where we once again made an impact on the tournament.

There was to be no Delhi disappointment. Three gold medals (men's pairs and trips and women's trips). Moreover, our men's singles' player, after having to wait a week to play in the heat and humidity missed out on a medal shot by the thickness of a chopstick; our ladies' pairs failing only at the death after a great run.

Well done to our coaches and management – a job well done. All our preparation leading up to the Commonwealth Games was funded by LOTTO and SASCOC. We thank them for their support and encouragement.

The media took us to heart, club bowlers stopped

murmuring about "why do we go" and instead expressed epithets such as "I told you we were good," and "never it doubt."

Last month our sides demolished a game Namibia side in a two-test series in Windhoek.

And coming up: Bowls SA have invited neighbouring countries to enter the U-19 and U-25 tournaments; a Quadrangular with India, Malaysia and Namibia at home and SASCOC have promised funding; TV broadcasting of the Namibia test begins on December 30; SABC filmed the dinner for the gold medalists and aired it on national television.

Bowls is back; we are back.

There is no room for false bravado, the end to our *Risorgimento* is not yet in sight, but as Winston once said ..." this could be the beginning of the end..."

It's up to us all.

NEWSLETTER

Bowls SA



DELHI DELIGHT

From left, back row:

Gerry Baker, Shaun Addinall, Bobby Donnelly, Gidion Vermeulen, Johann du Plessis, Wayne Perry;

Middle row:

Helen Grundlingh, Tracey-Lee Botha, Santjie Steyn, Colleen Piketh, Susan Nel, Brunhilde Gerber;

Front:

Jessica Henderson (asst. coach), Ron Weddell (manager), Debra Ferguson (Bowls SA President), Allan Freeman (Bowls SA Vice President), Theuns Fraser (head coach), Dr Simon Botha (asst. coach)



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COMMONWEALTH GAMES

What they said about Delhi:

As Humphrey Bogart almost said in *Casablanca*, "we'll always have Delhi..." here's what some of those who were there had to say about the trip:

Bowls SA Vice President, Allan Freeman (East London):

"Accommodation and food at the Games Village was good in spite of concerns prior to the event; people on the whole were friendly and helpful, particularly the Games Volunteers, mainly tertiary students."

Gold medalist Shaun Addinall (Cape Town):

"Incredible India! Incredibly challenging conditions in terms of dirt, dust, bugs, tough opposition and tricky surfaces but also incredibly rewarding in winning gold."

Gold medallist, Gerry Baker (Johannesburg):

"Delhi was the toughest tour that I have ever encountered (security, Delhi belly, heat, bugs etc,) which we turned into an advantage. We are generally used to that environment and South Africans are tough naturally."

Gold medallist and youngest Protea, Tracey-Lee Botha (Johannesburg):

"It was a great honour to be there representing our country; a fantastic experience and then coming back with a gold something amazing."

Unlucky singles star Bobby Donnelly (Johannesburg):

"All cynicism regarding shoddy construction, suspected corruption and incompetent organisers were swept away by a breathtaking opening ceremony and state-of-the-art athletes' village. Training facilities provided for bowlers were first class and complemented the custom-built artificial surface greens which the SA bowlers embraced. The gold medals brought home by the SA bowlers were not a flash in the pan, but a result of two years' meticulous planning and training under the eye of Theuns Fraser and his team. Theuns had a vision to bring back medals - his oft controversial methods must surely have won over the skeptics?"

Bowls SA President Debra Ferguson:

"Wow! To be there, to watch, to smell the intensity; I still have the goose bumps..."

Brilliant Colleen Piketh (Johannesburg):

"Thanks - it was Delhi-tful; to be part of the Commonwealth Games is an awesome experience."

Assistant coach Dr Simon Botha:

"Delhi was the culmination of 18 months of planning and hard work for coaches and players. The system is proven to be correct. Australians at the games said they had not seen such a bond between players and coaches as that within the South Africa side."

FROM THE SPONSOR

"It seems that 2010 came and went in the blink of an eye, but what a great year! Warwick has further developed its understanding of bowls and also what its players require, as a result our service and products have become more tailored to their needs. 2011 will be our 10th full season in the sport and we will again, for the 5th year in a row, be by far the largest commercial sponsor nationally and again we remain totally "Inclusive".

We will again be sponsoring the BSA Membership Card, the Nationals and Masters as well as several hundred tournaments and clubs.

We also learnt this year, via Bill Kilbride as he travelled the country visiting all sponsorship managers we have been remiss at communicating the massive scale of Warwick's commitment to your great sport.

Finally, thanks to Scottish Leader and Evergreen our two great partners in 2010 and again in 2011, two great products that are totally compatible with the bowls community and as committed to bowls as Warwick, have been and will continue to be, you will be seeing a lot more of all three of us in 2011!

Have a great Christmas and New Year and see you in 2011 for superb bowling"



NEWS FROM THE BANK

MASTERS ALL, BUT WHO WILL TAKE GOLD?

On the surface it appears as though 13 of 32 men and women have a clear chance of taking a pot at being crowned Warwick Bowls SA Masters champions in the open divisions next year ... but write off the remaining contestants at your peril.

The event will be held again at accommodating Wingate Park Country Club, Pretoria from 11-13 February 2011 under the baton of maestro Jeff Terner.

As usual the events are a mix of "old" and "new" ... the draw might settle some scores early; nothing can be taken for granted.

Johannesburg leftie Gerry Baker (four gold medals, 5 silver) can look back on his last shot of his final at Delhi to win Commonwealth Games gold in the pairs as maybe his greatest in a glittering career, but he will do well to remember his lead, Cape Town's Shaun Addinall (two gold, two silver) put in a bravura performance and is always thereabouts in the Masters.

There again, what about the other gold medalists from India?

Port Natal's Gippo Vermeulen' (two silver), Free State's Wayne Perry (holder, two gold) won the gold medal for the trips in India without disturbing a charmer's cobra; can they have a say?

How about the Free State's Roets brothers? Aggressive, with talent to dream of and keen, Clinton (one gold) and Zaine (junior champion) can blow anyone away.

Had enough?

Wait, Johannesburg's singles specialist Bobby Donnelly might hit top form, Southern Cape's Billy Radloff (one silver) is a lurker and the biggest threat of all Bruce Makkink of Durban (two gold), back as SA Singles champion after a long absence) will put a shudder down the

spine of the entire field.

Other rookies and hopefuls will trouble anyone ... perhaps the strongest field for 10 years.

If the elder statesmen among the women think they can muscle in on their event they may be mistaken.

Champion Tracey-Lee Botha, 22, of Johannesburg, player of the entire African States Tournament, lauded at the 8-Nation event in India prior to the Games and a gold medalist in Delhi is without argument the most exciting and talented young woman player in the world.

Nevertheless, no event is cut and dried and she has serious opposition.

Her opponent of 12 months in a turnabout final Bronwyn Webber of Natal will have learnt that 9-0 up does not mean victory and a trio of Steyns – Cape Town's Trish (one gold) a fabulous player with an amazing record in every discipline at highest level, Johannesburg's Esmé (one gold) and World Trips champion Santjie from far-flung Boland each stakes a claim, as has Susan Nel, a two-time winner and another of the Delhi gold brigade.

Biggest threat here may be Colleen Piketh ... almost back to best last year (bronze); write her off in 2011 at your peril.

There are others unmentioned there on merit – Cape Town's Sylvia Burns for one.

The junior and senior events are as equally fascinating amid a quagmire of facts and figures.

To study the draw go the Bowls SA Website, under 2011 Tournaments, you will find the link to the Masters website.



COACHES FORUM

Another new season of bowls is well underway, and with the start of each new season comes lots changes at Executive committee level in many clubs, most districts and this year, at National Selectors level in particular.

Congratulations to all the new office-bearers, many the next 12 months treat you kindly and give you lots of satisfaction as you apply your mind to the many new tasks ahead of you in 2011.

Congratulations to all the new District Standing Committees around the country that will be looking after district level Coaching matters, we at the NSCC wish you lots of fun and satisfaction as your next year of coaching gets started.

May I express my thanks to my NSCC committee members of the past year, it has been a pleasure working with you and getting to know you all.

There has been a small change within the NSCC with Rob Coslett leaving after a year, and he has been replaced by another respected EGB coach, Brian Sayce.

Thank you Rob Coslett for your efforts in the past year, they were indeed appreciated and we wish you good bowling in 2011.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

THE UNDERWORLD OR ROOT ZONE

This time we delve into the Underworld or root zone.

Few Green Keepers (GKP) have taken the trouble to learn much about it but none of them can afford to ignore it. It is an area limited by the availability of oxygen.

The root zone is populated by a myriad of organisms living peacefully together while their balance is maintained.

Each of these organisms will contribute to the maintenance of the eco-system while growing peacefully in it's natural state in the veld.

Unfortunately, in his efforts to produce a bowling green, the GKP will upset this delicate balance and even obliterate some of the more

benevolent organisms, leaving a void which might be filled by virulent pathogens.

The article stresses –

- The importance of allowing nature to take it's course before resorting to fungicides.
- The need to nurture the mycorrhiza fungi to maximise the area of the root zone from which nutrients can be absorbed.
- The need for organisms to be available to digest the nutrients before absorption.
- The disposal of waste is as important to the inhabitants of the root zone as it is above the ground.



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JACK UP BOWLS

NAME CHANGE

National SC Development (NSCD) will now be known as
National SC: Promotion and Development (NSCPD)

NSCPD WORKSHOP

BEGINNING OF 'A NEW LIFE FOR THE SPORT OF BOWLS': Debra Ferguson, President of Bowls SA, was amongst the special guests. In her welcoming address she said that the workshop would have a decisive impact on the future of bowls. It needed exposure and it was essential that people need to know about our sport.

NSCPD 2010 WORKSHOP SUMMARY:

The **outcome and targets** of the workshop must be cascaded down to clubs and districts who are requested to set measurable targets for membership in 2011. Summary of important items from the workshop:

- ❖ **Sixteen crucial points** identified to increase membership (See the 16 point **Outcome and District Commitments** on Bowls SA Website www.bowlsa.co.za under the **Development Tab.**)
- ❖ **Bowls SA U19 Unaffiliated Dev Players database** since 1 October 2010.
- ❖ **New Age Bowls** for all surfaces introduction of bowls to schools.
- ❖ **Awareness Day 27 Apr 2011** – Documents to be circulated shortly.

TO THE POINT

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

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 have 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. *(Read more about this in the December 2010 Edition of "To The Point")*

2. COMMONWEALTH GAMES

How it was experienced by one of our International Technical Officials – Jeanette Williams. *(Read more about this in the*

BAREFOOT BOWLS AWARENESS DAY

27 APRIL 2011 and BOWLS SA RECORD ATTEMPT (BOWLERS AND NON-BOWLERS PARTICIPATION)

As part of the Awareness activities, a world record will be attempted by all the clubs in South Africa for the most bowls delivered simultaneously in one hour (between 12:00 and 13:00). It is also suggested to link this day with charity.

National Inter-District U/25 and U/19 Development Tournaments – 4 to 8 April 2011:

The tournaments will be held in Bloemfontein from 4-8 April 2011. Entry forms and documentation are now available. Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe Bowling Associations have been invited to participate.

**GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP is our main aim!
SPREAD THE VIRUS!**



A large consignment of development bowls have arrived and are now in stock. Districts can apply for development bowls by contacting the NSCPD subject to certain criteria.

December 2010 Edition of "To The Point")

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. *(Read more about this in the December 2010 Edition of "To The Point")*

4. 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. *(Read more about this in the December 2010 Edition of "To The Point")*



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OTHER NEWS

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To keep our 30 000 members up-to-date, we require interesting news (any) from all Districts.

It can be about personnel, administrators, greens or Clubs, but not specifically internal Club news.

Please allow us to judge what is newsworthy by sending whatever you have to:

simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za

Or

info@bowlssa.co.za

on a regular basis.

In this way we can all learn about the Sport's progress nationwide.

Allan Simmonds is your newly-appointed national media officer and will also assist you with whatever information you are unable to acquire, for whatever reason.



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