

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Many feet, many bowls on Awareness Day greens

Greetings fellow bowlers; what a great start to 2011. Maybe we really are doing something positive, as my Executive and I are delighted with news both on and off the green.

In this newsletter I will tell you all about Bowls Awareness Day, held on South Africa's Freedom Day - April 27.

Well, in a nutshell R494 000 has been pledged by the clubs as being raised on the day and more than 450 000 bowls were delivered in an hour ... signed, sealed and authenticated (well to date, mostly).

The plan was to encourage the public to take a look and perhaps take up the sport and for us at the same time to raise money for two deserving charities (Disability Bowls SA and the Cancer Association of SA) by having as many – registered bowlers and non-bowlers (playing without shoes if needs be) – as possible delivering bowls between noon and 1pm.

We also wanted make communities aware of club facilities and to enlarge our national membership base. These days, clubs everywhere encourage corporate bowls evenings, where non-affiliated, but avid players meet for serious, but fun evenings. We would love to have as many of these as possible join official ranks.

By the way, in November 2010 our national membership was 29 287 – a small increase of 420 after the September workshop figure of 28 867. It now stands at 29 488 – the first growth in 26 years.

Of course “Murphy’s Law” dictated it rained countrywide on Freedom Day, but it appears that did not dampen enthusiasm; I am sure even more would have turned out; but it was quite wet in some places ... non-bowlers might have balked at playing barefoot on wet grass.

Nevertheless, it is estimated more than 3 000 bowled for the first time ... about 10% of the official number of registered South African bowlers. If we can add even half, we will be thrilled.

Final figures are not yet audited, but Rob Zimmerman and his company, the team we contracted to run the day, are enthusiastic about the result and your executive committee awaits final returns from some slow-moving participating clubs.

Our media officer, Alan Simmonds, also won us radio and print media coverage before, during and after the event.

Now we all sit down with the paperwork and see if *Guinness Book of Records* accepts our entry for the most bowls ever bowled in an hour.

Morningside Country Club, the headquarters for the day, had close to 300 people of all races, ages and abilities on the green alongside cancer survivor and former radio host, Jeremy Mansfield. The club delivered around 9 600 bowls in the hour but it was the smaller clubs that really impressed everyone.

I think Awareness Day broke the shackles on bowls and gave people a chance to see it's not about rules and regalia, but about having a good, relaxing time with friends and colleagues of any age, at some clubs we had 9-year-olds playing alongside 84-year-olds, which underlines the sport's accessibility.

Thanks to our organiser, my Executive, the Bowls SA head office personnel and all of YOU at the clubs who worked tirelessly to make the day work.

Details on the event may also read about on www.facebook.com/barefootbowls or visiting www.barefootbowls.co.za



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Bowls SA

Newsletter

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- *Clash of the Titans Down Under*
- *Tournament Wrap up*
- *Standing Committees inserts*

WARWICK

PRIVATE WEALTH

EDITOTIAL

Clash of the Titans Down Under By Alan Simmonds; Media Officer

A major “warm-up” for South Africa’s Protea bowlers will be against traditional rivals Down Under in a three-Test series in South Australia from August 30 to September 1.

It could be a vital preparation, since World Bowls 2012 is in Australia and the Australians are sure to ensure the greens resemble those to be used at the upcoming Pacific Games and at New Zealand’s Christchurch.

Described by the Australian media as “a salivating contest” the clash is at the Moonta Memorial Park Bowling Club in conjunction with the District Council of the Copper Coast, with the dramatic Yorke Peninsula providing the perfect backdrop.

The ABC and Fox Sports will televise nine of the international matches from Moonta.

For years the foes have tussled, both in World Bowls events around the globe and in contests both in the Antipodes and in Johannesburg in triangular and quadrangular contests.

Latest battle was at the Delhi Commonwealth Games when the nations clashed in two gold medal play-offs, with the Proteas coming out on top both times.

This did not amuse the tough, usually grinless, former singles great, national coach Steve Glasson, who sees his side benefitting as a prelude for the Asia Pacific Championships in Adelaide in late November.

Queensland’s Nathan Rice returns to the international arena for the first time in almost four years after being selected for Pacific Merdeka Indoor Championships in Kuala Lumpur. With 96 caps, Rice, 31, is in the

three-player line-up that includes Helensvale teammate Lynsey Armitage and world number three Aron Sherriff.

On the Bowls Australia website, Glasson described the SA-Oz meet as “an extremely competitive series,” and went on:

“The South Africans are always a fierce opponent, both at home and abroad, and after topping the gold medal count in Delhi have proven that they are a force to be reckoned with.

“We’re looking forward to heading to Moonta and having the South Australian crowd firmly behind us and it’s going to be a great opportunity for the Copper Coast to see international bowls at its best.”

The tests will include all disciplines, with five men and five women representing each nation over the three days’ competition.



RECORD EQUALLER:
Protea Player Gerry Bowler holds a record equaling fifth SA men’s Masters trophy at Wingate Park CC

NEWS FROM THE BANK

TOURNAMENT WRAP-UP

WARWICK:BOWLSSA MASTERS, Wingate CC, Pretoria

At home, it was *déjà vu* as Delhi Commonwealth Games Pairs gold medallist skip Gerry Baker (Johannesburg Bowling Association) won a record-equalling fifth Men's Masters Singles Championship after three days at a sunny, windless Wingate; defeating Bobby Donnelly (JBA) 21-17 in 25 thrilling ends.

Left-hander Baker, also holder of five silver and three bronze medals since the 1990s said: "It is an honour to equal the great Doug Watson's record in the No 1 event in South Africa. Thanks to our sponsor, this event improves annually. It is getting tough for me to continue to raise my skill level, but perhaps next year I can break Doug's record?"

Donnelly, a former Commonwealth Games Singles champion, roared into a 5-0 lead, led again briefly 9-8 after nine ends then played catch-up, which the experienced Baker refused to permit.

South Africa's Tracey-Lee Botha (JBA), 22), who later finished fourth in the World Junior Championships in Australia, retained her title with a supreme display against multiple champion Colleen Piketh (JBA) with a 21-14 victory over 21, underlining Botha's talent and potential.

Bowls SA president, Debra Ferguson, thanked Warwick and the Wingate Park organising committee superbly led by Jeff Terner for a sixth straight year.

The seniors' events produced long, ding-dong matches before the enthusiastic bank of some 2 000. Eddie Fann (Kingfisher) defeated rookie Simon Botha (Gauteng North) 21-12 in 23 ends, to make it three victories and a silver medal in four years. Former world champion Loraine Victor (Gauteng North) had too much nonce for first timer Wilma McLachalan (EP), who after an unblemished sectional run, was forced to bow the knee 21-17 after 29 ends.

In the Junior Masters finals Desmarie Rosenblatt (EP) was too strong for Hazel Muller (NW) winning 2-0 in sets, while an impressive Shawn Janse van Vuuren (Mpumulanga), edged able Eugene Ferreira (WP) after a tiebreak.

PERFECT DELIVERY/BOWLSSA INTERDISTRICTS, Constantia, Cape Town

There was disappointment for both men's and women's defending champions, WP (women) and JBA (men), each losing in the in their finals before packed banks at Constantia, Cape Town.

Eastern Gauteng beat JBA 3-2; Gerry Baker's victory to no avail as his teammate Bobby Donnelly's four lost by just one tantalising shot too many to Des Day. But the JBA women made no mistake, their power-packed sides turned it on when it mattered and they won 5-0 against the host side.

In the play-off for the bronze medals WP's men continued their fine form-finding streak with a whitewash of a strong S Free State team; North West, who had played well throughout the event accounted for Gauteng North by a similar margin.

At the end of the qualifying rounds, JBA's men (holders, Blue, 37 points) and women (Red, 36 points) had sauntered through; each clinching first spot with a match to spare – expected, since between them the men and women fielded 10 Proteas. WP's women needed a mathematical miracle to get through – they got it.

Defeating Sedibeng 5-0 they could only wait to see how Port Natal, leaders by two points would fare against third placed North West, themselves one point behind WP. NW obliged, winning 5-0 and vaulted past Port Natal to grab second spot.

NATIONALS

Bruce Makkink (Port Natal) not only retained his SA Singles title, but brilliantly skipped his fours side to victory in the Warwick/BowlsSA National Men's Championships in Johannesburg.

"*Victor Ludorum*" without a doubt, Makkink inspired his side to overcome teams skipped by Constantia districts player Neels Kotze, JBA world and Commonwealth Games champions in Bobby Donnelly, and Donny Piketh and then provincial star John Connellan (Stella Park, PN) before overwhelming Gerry Baker, Bill Moseley, Johnnie Pieterse, David Renaud (Belgravia, JBA) 21-9 ... incredible.

The 2010 SA Mixed Pairs champion and WP Seniors Masters champion Danie Loubser

NEWS FROM THE BANK

NATIONALS (CONT.)

(WPCC), 61, leapt into the SA selectors' eyes by taking the Open Pairs, with highly promising Joel Roebert from a Protea-laden play-off field, skipped his club side to the fours' play-offs and losing in only the quarter-finals of the Senior Singles.

In Cape Town, the Women's event saw Esmé Steyn (Linden, JBA) repeat her 2009 Mother City singles success in a bravura display to defeat Louise Larkin (RDLI, P Natal) 21-18. Pat Stallwood, 54, (Durbanville) in her first nationals, produced a sublime performance to win the Senior Singles, beating Doreen Salmond (Amanzimtoti, Port Natal) 21-15 and then annex the Open Pairs with Margaretha Thomas, defeating (Glenda Matthews/Bronwyn Webber (RDLI, PN) 18-14. The fours was an all Natal event with Jean Stander (Margate, Kingfisher) downing Nanette Roos (Vryheid, KZN) 23-19.

No fewer than 10 Proteas competed.

Cape Town tournament convenor Doreen de Power and her organising committee produced an outstanding event; Anslem Maclean did likewise at HQ Morningside in Johannesburg.

UNDER-25 AND UNDER-19 INTERDISTRICTS, BLOEMFONTEIN

The juniors again showed their skills with Free State sides capturing the main silverware.

The final results were: Under-25 Men: Gold: Southern Free State B, Jason Key, Xenophon Paunewitz, Francois Potgieter, Petrus Pule; manager: Clinton Roets; Silver: Border, Conrad Potgieter, Tarquin Ormston, Gareth Joubert, Chad Wakeford; manager: Neville Hort; Bronze: Bowls Gauteng North A, Mike O'Connor (jnr), Phillip Bailey, Pieter Fourie, Nico Beetge; manager: Justin Alberts.

Under-25 Women: Gold: Northern Free State, Adrie Van Niekerk, Natasha Jonker, Talia Russon, Michelle Scheepers; manager: Erika Russon; Silver: Bowls Gauteng North, Hazel Miller, Petro van Aswegen, Bianca Du Plessis, Dorcus Phelane; manager: Hugh Smith; Bronze: WP, Mariette de Villiers, Juanita Du Toit, Samantha Olivier, Sarah Stringer; manager: Nico Ferreira

Under-19: Gold: Bowls Southern Cape, Jason Erasmus, Willem Fick, Brandon Marques, Reginald Jonck; manager: Johan Havenga; Silver: Bowls Gauteng North, A Llewellyn Geyer, Corlize Fourie, Rienie Lucas, Stephanus Botha, manager: Mynx Marais; Bronze:

Northern Cape, Charles-Peter Mathewson, Daniel Koekemoer, Luther Abrahams, Alexander-Pierre Mathewson.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

World Indoor and Junior (outdoor) Warwilla, Australia

Pierre Breitenbach (North West) won a brilliant bronze medal Tracy-Leer Botha (JBA) ended a tantalising fourth in their junior events. Both Bobby Donnelly (JBA) who competed fiercely as did Helen Grundlingh (Port Natal), were without luck in the World Cup.

AFRICAN STATES TOURNAMENTS, NAIROBI CC AND KAREN CC, KENYA

Southern Free State's Clinton Roets, SA Masters gold medallist at Edenvale in 2003, and a star at national level, steps up again to the big time when he skips South Africa's fours and trips at the African States Bowls Tournament in Nairobi from August 1-6.

Roets showed good touch at this year's Masters and has been entrusted with a young, but talented side.

Seven nations, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Swaziland, Namibia and Botswana competed last year in Zimbabwe at which SA's women won gold overall, but SA's men won only an overall silver in an event they had dominated for a decade.

Jason Evans (Johannesburg BA) retains his place at second, while Nic Rusling (Sables), a former SA champion is at third and the reliable world junior bronze medallist Pierre Breitenbach (North West) is at lead. Roets, Evans, Breitenbach play the trips event; Rusling skips double SA Singles and Masters champion Wayne Perry (Southern Free State); Perry plays the singles.

The women's side, which plays at Karen CC (Nairobi) from August 15-20, sees the emergence of Louise Larkin (Port Natal) after prominence in the SA Masters and the nationals this year.

She is third to veteran international Susan Nel (Sables), with the tall Esme Kruger (Gauteng North) at second and a return for Cape Town's superb Sylvia Burns (WP) as lead.

Nel, Larkin, Burns play trips and last year's Bowler of the Tournament, the 24-year-old prodigy Tracey-Lee Botha (JBA) skips the pairs with Esme Kruger (JBA). Botha, fourth in the world junior championships handles the singles.

COACHES FORUM

- A schedule of Train - the -Trainer Courses to empower districts to present level 1 courses after attendance is given.
- Graham Mackenzie's Coaching Corner explains how to play either just inside or outside the normal line – the "Ghost Draw".
- News from the districts comes from both Boland (in Afrikaans) and Port Natal. Boland's news is about a day clinic that was held at Bonnievale, and Port Natal's is about the T.I.D. and the fact that Hazel Lillig processes an average of 300 assessments each month.
- Next is a Newsflash about the level 2 Training Course to be held in November this year.
- An interesting article by C H Dixie is entitled "Starting Players on a Psychological Journey". An example of a Delivery Routine is also given.
- There is interesting filler about Mind Power.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

This issue of Grass Clippings is aimed at inducing the Green Keeper to take another look at the Soil Analysis and plan his greens management around the information contained in the analysis.

It is all very well for a Laboratory to prescribe a fertiliser programme but the actual application of the programme is left to the Green keeper.

The object of this Grass Clippings is to create an awareness of the possible pitfalls which might lie waiting for the unwary Green Keeper eg:

1. A pH outside the ideal parameters must be treated before fertilisation can be contemplated.

2. A low CEC would force the Green Keeper to adjust the frequency of fertilising to avoid unnecessary loss of expensive fertilisers.
3. The unwary Green keeper might be applying unsuitable saline water from an underground source because someone said it was "sweet".
4. An abundance of finer-textured soils eg clay might force a Green Keeper to revise his programme in order to allow for more frequent aeration.

In this issue an attempt has been made to explain the ramifications of the Cation Exchange Capacity of the soil. It is a subject which the Green Keeper ignores at his peril.

JACK UP BOWLS

FIRST GROWTH IN NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN 26 YEARS! EXCITING NEWS! Bowls SA and the NSCPD as well as the whole bowling fraternity must be congratulated on the increased national membership statistics! This is indeed happening and for the first time over the past few years, the target has been achieved, 2626 new members registered during 1 October 2010 to 31 May 2011. We must all persevere to ensure that this trend will continue in the upward curve.

NATIONAL BAREFOOT BOWLS AWARENESS DAY AND GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT – 27 APRIL 2011 - The recently held National Barefoot Bowls Awareness Day has come and gone and so has the attempt to set a New Guinness World Record. For all of you waiting patiently for results, all the news and views of the days success stories – a special edition of BBAD will be published! “The Guinness record still needs to be registered after all the paper work is completed”

TO THE POINT

1. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS SHOW THEIR COMMITMENT AT SA MASTERS.

During the recent SA Masters tournament at Wingate Park Pretoria the Technical Official showed their commitment and love for the Sport of Bowls by rendering a stunning service to the eighty master players during the weekend 11 - 13 February 2011. A total of 238 singles games were played in four sessions over the 3 days.

In order to render a professional service we used 178 Technical Officials to do duty as Markers, Flip board Operators and Umpires.

(Read more about this in the March 2011 Edition of “To The Point”)

2. JUNIORS QUALIFYING AS TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

During the last five months 29 under 25 bowlers successfully completed the Markers course and 2 completed the Level 1 course.

They are from the following districts

Port Natal - 1 Marker and 1 Level 1

Northern Cape - 2 Markers and 1 Level 1

THANK YOU to all the role players during the process but also on the day, especially Rob Zimmerman and his BBAD team, the assistance & involvement of CANSA & Disability Bowls SA and for the initiative and assistance received from Bowls SA Executive especially Bowls SA President, Debra Ferguson.

Latest BBAD Summary Figures:

With 81% of the Clubs reporting to date - Total bowls delivered: 435 960, Participation 12 259, Pledges R 403 729.

UNDER 25s AND UNDER 19s DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENTS - BLOEMFONTEIN – 4-8 APRIL 2011

Bloemfontein recently played host to both the under 19's development and under 25's inter district tournaments. Bowls SA Executive and the National Selectors were present at the tournaments. Spectators and the local bowling community could enjoy good bowling.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winning teams and their managers. Teams brought along very amusing mascots and the 'Best Mascot prize' was awarded to Chauky from Sedibeng with Rufus from Bowls Gauteng in close 2nd place. Congratulations also to Alexander-Pierre Mathewson of the Northern Cape who was awarded the Bowls SA Shield for the 'Personality of the U19 Development Tournament' and Sue-Monique Le Roux of Northern Cape who was awarded the 'Personality of the U25 tournament' shield.

BOWLS SA INCENTIVE SCHEME CONCLUDES ON 30 JUNE 2011

Full particulars of the incentive payments can be obtained in the Bowls SA Circular 27 dated 25 May 2011. It is interesting to note that as at 30 April 2011 the following results were recorded of clubs in the running for the prizes:

1. Bloemfontein Military
2. Outeniqua
3. Umhlali
4. Durbanville
5. Jagers

Sables - 13 Markers

BGN - 13 Markers

Well done to these districts and what about the others?

(Read more about this in the March 2011 Edition of “To The Point”)

3. THE BLUE BOOK

In other words the Crystal Mark **Second** Edition which has a blue cover - if you have not yet got yours, your local District Office will have copies. Remember to collect at the same time a copy of the new Domestic Regulations and General Condition of Play.

4. WESTERN PROVINCE RE-INSTATE OPEN UMPIRES MEETING

The Western Province Technical Officials Standing Committee took the initiative to re-instate the Open Umpires Meeting for **all** or any members of the bowling fraternity. Meetings of this nature will be held twice in each season.

(Read more about this in the March 2011 Edition of “To The Point”)

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 the national media officer and will also assist you with whatever information you are unable to acquire, for whatever reason.



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