



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
March 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fellow bowlers, there are so many exciting things happening I am not sure where to start.

When I stood before council as President for the first time at a Special General Meeting at Wingate Country Club during the Warwick SA Masters, I began with butterflies, but it did not take long before I realised that the majority of Districts and Bowlers in the country are aware that BOWLS South Africa are genuine and determined to do what is necessary. Most of the District Executives showed they are ready to accept change and are willing to work together towards our goals. Our recipe for success, our clear and committed blueprint for resurgence in the sport has paved the way forward and the Districts have given the BOWLS SA Executive overwhelming approval.

Like an airliner landing, a clear flight path now exists for players to achieve whatever their skill level and commitment permits. Player performance will be assessed from ground level in Clubs to District Academies moving into the new BOWLS South Africa Silver, Ruby, Green and Gold squads. The administrative runway has been laid, molded and declared open. Targets have been identified and set, but all Districts' and Clubs' assistance in the implementation is vital, if BOWLS is to prosper in the next decade.

I know it is not going to be smooth flying and we all need to watch out for the air pockets (our bar stool committees) and the dive bombers (the resistance to change members) we need to fly in formation as a unit. I am also proud our youngsters have proved themselves. Now that our planning and faith has been rewarded ... we firmly believe to cite tender years as a selection impediment has been struck from the books. If you

are ready now, you must be given an opportunity to seek glory for yourself, your District and Nation. Moreover, if the more mature among us show ability and stamina, they too will be considered for highest honours.

On the sponsorship front is the most exciting news. We are in complete harmony with all our enthusiastic sponsors - Warwick, Perfect Delivery, Corega, Tempest, Drakes Pride and Henselite - their needs and our requirements, how it can be blended, is reviewed almost daily. We are almost at a stage when sponsors are targeting bowlers, rather than our hitherto cap-in-hand stance. We still are very indebted to Lotto who assists our sport a great deal.

I appeal to all, make your BOWLS South Africa Card work and pay for itself with Tempest, and a few more. Watch this space. We will advise as soon as the deals are concluded..... Surely this will boost membership?

And there's another thrilling development to report. You may not yet be aware BOWLS will soon enjoy regular TV coverage on SuperSport - we are confident it will galvanise every aspect of our beloved sport.

Finally, as I sat watching the magnificent Masters, played at idyllic Wingate, I was so proud to be part of *your* sport. Everything was in place, everyone was smiling; champions were humble in victory, losers magnanimous in defeat.

If I may close with Robert Browning's immortal poetry: "...God's in his Heaven, all's right with the world..." it sums up how I feel after a momentous Masters ... for all reasons.

Debra Ferguson

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Like a column of Safari Ants, Bowls South Africa is on a ruthless march forward.

Inspired by dedicated President Debra Ferguson and a committed Executive, changes to by-laws, interventions and both tightening and relaxation of compartments of daily bowling life have been discussed and acted upon by your Executive.

More importantly, at a special general meeting held during the Warwick Bowls South Africa Masters at Wingate Country Club, Pretoria, YOU, gave your Districts a mandate to unanimously endorse Bowls South Africa's intent.

As in any large organisation, there lurk areas of concern requiring immediate, coherent and urgent action.

We are disappointed

four Districts remain without Development Committees.

This is out of line with Bowls South Africa's committed manifesto in which it takes pride.

Development is the key to Bowls' survival; not for just young players or the previously disadvantaged, but for the sport and its mindset as a whole.

From Club Greenkeeper, to Administrators, Members, Coaches, Technical Officials and your Executive as well, the spirit of *ubuntu* is sought.

With harmony comes order; with order comes a feeling of goodwill and progress – your Executive has identified these as a given.

Those Districts, without Development Standing Committees will be approached by the Bowls South Africa Executive and immediate steps taken

to try to overcome the delay.

Allied to Development is the good governance of the sport, something the National Sports Council of South Africa has noted in Bowls and commented upon most favourably.

Your national database is to be re-designed to incorporate details of Under-19 and corporate players and the Development webpage updated.

A District Development Standing Committee workshop is scheduled for September. Entitled "A new life for the Sport of Bowls": Districts will be guided and encouraged to encompass as many schools as possible to promote the sport as outdoor curriculum.

Let us ensure 20 Districts are represented at that indaba.

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PRIVATE WEALTH

NEWS FROM THE BANK

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Tracy-Lee ... a young woman who has it all

By Alan Simmonds

When Gauteng's Tracy-Lee Botha took up bowls seven years ago, boys, aged 17-70, "enjoyed the sight of a pert young thing strutting her stuff. T-L B still turns heads and the now beautiful young woman, after becoming the youngest ever to win the Masters already shows the Trigwell touch of greatness...

Girl bowlers come and go. University, work, marriage, good times; for myriad reasons promising women players like moths, flutter in the light, then like their nocturnal alter egos, vanish.

Not, luckily for South Africa, Ms Botha.

"I began bowls at Turffontein aged 14, as did my brother who was 16. Our dad, Dudley took us to the club at weekends to watch him; finally we were bored silly, so we played. My mentor who taught me how to play the game was Dolores van der Linde; I owe her much.

"My bro and I won our novice singles that year; the bug bit."

But the game was too slow. I was used to fast contact sports; I had colours for athletics, cross-country, netball, hockey; even cricket, so it was a different challenge ... patience.

"Then I made the Central Gauteng U-25 side in 2004 and really enjoyed it. Two years later I made the Bowls SSA Silver Squad where I made many good friends.

Bowls SA introduced the Junior Masters in 2007 and Tracy-Lee won silver, then bronze before winning last year.

"I was chuffed at the U-25s in George last year being named in

the Gold Squad, and selected to represent South Africa in the African States in Swaziland and the Namibian Test in Durban."

Tracy-Lee won gold for trips and fours, then gold against Namibia.

"That was a fantastic start to my international career and I followed with selection for the open Masters, which I managed to win; wow!"

SA masters champion ... the youngest ever at 21.

In that match Tracy trailed Port Natal's bustling Bronwyn Webber 9-2; the armchair brigade sniffed and made kind noises. But those of us, who knew a bit more waited, waited and then ... Tracy-Lee went up a gear. The hours and hours of practice, the assessments, the travelling and the dedication paid off.

Webber, competent and keen was shut out as the champion scored 19 shots to 0 to take the crown in a bravura performance.

I asked T-L what the game meant to her; how she approached the huge responsibility of being so good, so young.

You need a correct mind set; your worst enemy is yourself, the hardest part is to keep your chin up after a bad bow. Forget the bad shot; make sure your next bowl counts; not always that easy."

Tracy-Lee is adamant about youth development:

"...SA's talent is great and it makes my heart happy, especially for younger women. We used to struggle to get them to play; now we are chock-a-block."

T-L plays at Bedfordview CC ..."I get to share a green with my role model, Colleen Webb, now Piketh; I learn from every bowl she plays and look up to her," the modest champion declared.

Tracy-Lee also thanks her family for support in helping achieve her goal of making the gold squad before she was 21...

"My second goal is to play in the Commonwealth Games in India in October; come May I will know."

Who would bet against her inclusion?



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Quiet Perry set to take bowling world by storm

By Alan Simmonds

Wayne Perry has the champion's touch. He's modest, private, sports a captivating grin, is polite and has a laser-like sports brain. That's why he's a double SA Masters and SA Singles champion at just 28.

As with the likes of Federer, Els, Woods (pre-scandal?), Gretsky, Graf, the Williams sisters, Schumaker, Bryant, Doug Watson, Bradman, Tendulkar, Lara and others, Bloemfontein's red-haired bowling prodigy has the credentials that matter. No doubt Gray College, *Alma Mata* (roughly, "nourishing mother") to so many sporting greats, will claim some kudos.

The Masters final at Wingate, in which Perry beat SA star Gerry Baker, was for me a watershed. It saw Perry progress from fine player to complete master.

It was not just skill I witnessed, what impressed me was his mindset – the mark of greatness.

Baker was wounded, but like any buffalo, highly dangerous. His "wound" was his backhand. Normally as deadly as a matador's final thrust, his effortless skill deserted him, just when he needed it most.

Perry, young in years, but not in savvy, saw it all. He maneuvered the heads,



forcing Baker into shots for which he could not longer vouch ... the strategy worked; Perry won effortlessly, even though the silver medalist never gave up for a second, as expected from a great champion.

The modest Perry has come a long way from the land of *tannies* and *koeksisters* and while certainly no rocker, is an integral part of his father's family's music shop in conservative Bloem ... *binneboud*, heavy metal and Snoopy Dog make strange bedfellows.

"It's getting harder to get away; the old man is a real task master," he chirps. But, he assures me, "I like music, it calms the soul," he says. And calm he is - a three-times-a-week practicing metronome-like drawer, with a blistering drive and a keen appraisal of a head.

He isn't too carried away to speak lovingly of his past and his Southern Free State teammates, with who he won the Inter Districts last year.

"From early days I learnt much at The Nest with coaching guru Graham McKenzie; now our Free State team, young as it is, has a strict code of compliance and excellence. Bowls needs to continue to become a younger person's sport ... world bowls is moving that way," he says.

One thing is sure, for mum Pam, dad, Bruce, brothers Craig and Shaun, for all of us in fact, there is plenty more to come from the boy, now a man ... South Africa can look forward to him skipping a Protea side for about 25 years at least ... how many nations boast that calibre of ammunition in their locker?

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COACHES FORUM



The Inter District Tournaments in Margate, Port Elizabeth and Edenvale last week was a refreshing experience in terms of Coaching principles.

The introduction of the National T-ID program should serve to augment and extend the quality of player practices, since the T-ID program embraces the key principles of effective training and skills development through carefully constructed training exercises that will extend the competence of players that participate in the T-ID program.

The results reflected in the schedules received so far are both encouraging and impressive and definitely

support the principle that is at the heart of the T-ID program, i.e. that it should make the National Academy aware of new talent and new competent players that exist around the country.

We would like to take the opportunity to remind all players countrywide that the new T-ID program is the ideal route to follow to make themselves eligible for selection to the National Squads – in fact, it is only this program that will see new blood coming into the squads, so we need our coaches to become active practitioners of the principles of the T-ID program, details of which were given to every player in every district during

the Inter Districts events.

Should any District require assistance settling up the T-ID program, please do not hesitate in contacting the NSCC member responsible for their District, or they can call **Shaun Kennedy**, the **NSCC Convenor** directly on **076 907 0200** for help.



GRASS CLIPPINGS

Grass Clippings 20 portrays bowls greens management from a different angle and is an attempt to show the trials and tribulations experienced by the grass plant when exposed to different Green keepers.

It gives an account of the origin of the specie it's function on the green and the pitfalls of bad management practices.

It, also, stresses the fact that the grass plant is alive and has to be nurtured to perform well.

The good Green Keeper will without any fanfare hand over a green which is functioning well – a bad Green Keeper can, within a year, turn it into a desert .

In the meantime the grass plant has had to endure all this.

What we have tried to emphasize is the fact that different grasses react differently to the ministrations of the Green Keeper and that even the location of a specific grass plant on the green can require a different approach.

The basics of the article is that the green is there forever and we as Green keepers are only the temporary custodians of the green (and the grass)and yet in our time can do almost irreparable damage to the grass.

Enjoy it.

Brutus said "the evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

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JACK UP BOWLS!

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DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

A Development Workshop for District Dev Officers will be held from 10-12 September 2010 at the University of North West at Potchefstroom.

The theme of the Workshop will be **'A new life for the Sport of Bowls'**.

Districts will be advised in due course of the detailed arrangements.

**10% IS THE CHALLENGE!
LET'S CHANGE
TO MAKE THE CHANGE!!!**

"If you focus on results, you will never change.

If you focus on change, you will get results"

Many times in order to survive we have to start a change process. We sometimes need to get rid of old memories, habits and other past traditions.

Only freed from past burdens, can we take advantage of the present!

The challenge is that each District must increase their membership by 10%. Together we can do it!

BUSINESS LEAGUES SURVEY

In order to determine to what extent the **'Business Leagues Project'** was successful a survey was conducted. It was amazing to see the results!

77 Clubs throughout the country stage annual Business Leagues with ±4484 corporates and non-bowlers participating. These figures exclude any other events as mentioned above, open days, etc.

This surely is a sound **investment in the future of bowls!** These players have experienced the joy of the game and are sure to be back to join as members some time in the future. They also become our ambassadors spreading the word that bowls has changed, is a lot of fun and no longer just a game for the elderly.



Gesien in die foto is die wenspan van die Strand Rolbalklub se jaarlikse **Besigheidsliga (SBL) toernooi**. Die vier trotse dames van links na regs is Nikki Naude, Leana Scott (Skip), Anelle Koeglenberg en Marita de Kock van die maatskappy **'Marita Blindings'**, het met die louere weggehoop. Dit is die tweede agtereenvolgende jaar wat Leana die wenspan geskip het. Hier is nou talent!

Die span wat elke week wen ontvang die geeltruie wat hulle tydens die volgende rondte moet dra (dieselfde konsep as 'Tour de France').

TO THE POINT

TECHNICAL OFFICIALS ACHIEVED HIGH HONOURS

During the last 6 months several Technical Officials were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the Sport of Bowls in South Africa.

Level 3 - Seventeen candidates attended the Level 3 Technical Officials Course conducted in Hartenbos during September 2009.



World Bowls - International Technical Officials.

During November 2009 several of our top Technical Officials were assessed by a representative of World Bowls. The following officials have passed the assessment set by World Bowls to become International Technical Officials: Trevor Davis - Southern Cape, Fred Kruis - North West,

Jeanette Williams - Eastern Province,
Chris Serfontein - North West

Level 4 - Awarding of level 4 Technical Official qualification.

During the Bowls South Africa Council Meeting of February 2010 at Wingate Park the following Level 3 Technical Officials was awarded the Level 4 qualification for exceptional services rendered to the Sport of Bowls in South Africa:

Jeanette Williams
Robert Radcliffe
Chris Serfontein

COMMONWEALTH GAMES - INDIA 2010

World Bowls appointed Trevor Davis and Jeanette Williams to represent South Africa as Technical Officials at the Commonwealth Games that will take place in October 2010 in Delhi - India.

NSCTO SET THEIR OBJECTIVE FOR 2010

In order to create and maintain a well trained and competent squad of Technical Officials (Umpires) in each District, Bowls SA Executive has invested some of the Lotto grants in the Capacity Building Project for Technical Officials.

In order to ensure uniformity in the training standards and the application of Bowls rules by Technical Officials throughout South Africa two "Training of Technical Official Course presenters" courses were conducted for 2 members of the Technical Standing Committee of each bowls District. The one course was presented in Potchefstroom during August 2009 for the ten northern Districts and the other course in Amanzimtoti during October 2009 for the ten southern Districts.

After the 2 courses were conducted the National Standing Committee had a look at the number of bowlers that were trained in the previous two years and then set the objective for 2010. Technical Officials trained in 2008 was 232 persons and in 2009 - 438 persons.

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OTHER NEWS



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



Visit the [Bowls Blog](http://www.thebowlsblog.com) sponsored by [Warwick Private Wealth](http://www.warwickprivatewealth.com) at www.thebowlsblog.com

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.

"BOWLS" THE BEST SPORT FOR ALL

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