



Will it again be a Bob and Gerry Warwick/SA Masters show final?

Forecasting bowls is more difficult than finding winning lottery numbers, but do not be surprised if five-time Warwick/BowlsSA Masters champion Gerry Baker (Johannesburg Bowling Association) and the

two combined brilliantly to take the Atlantic Championships pairs gold medal in Cyprus – their left and right hand combination totally devastating world class opponents.

Says chairman and CEO of sponsors Warwick: "Warwick are proud to be yet again sponsoring the Bowls Masters, and especially in its new location. The new deal signed by Warwick in late 2011 ensures that Warwick remain the largest commercial sponsor of Bowls for yet another five years."

The Warwick team will be led by Ian Kilbride who will give the opening address at the pre-tournament dinner; Alan Snee will be on hand at the closing and prize giving ceremonies; Brian Kelly assist by Fanny Meyerdricks, will be on call during the championships.

man he defeated in an exciting final in Pretoria last season, Bobby Donnelly (JBA) feature as main protagonists in this year's classic event in Port Elizabeth this month, writes *Alan Simmonds, Media Officer, Bowls SA*

But on what might be tricky greens in PE, many other wannabes will be snapping at the heels of two of SA's best singles players.

Baker, also a Commonwealth Games gold medallist (as is Donnelly) seeks a significant sixth title at HQ, Port Elizabeth from February 10 -12. He is tied with the great, late Doug Watson and says: "To be tied with that legend is fantastic; to overtake his tally would be a wonderful occasion for me."

World Bowls in Australia beckons this year and, therefore, all South Africa's Gold Squad members will be anxious to impress the national selectors for inclusion in the side to travel Down Under.

Continued on page 2

Development bowls - ability over adversity



Under-19 bowlers from the Thiboloha School for the Deaf in Nelspruit display hand-woven bowls bags made by themselves. The youngsters played for Northern Free State; one of their teams won a bronze medal. The learners are creative and demonstrate that if something is required, you may be able to make it to work as well as the "real thing."

See development round-up on pages 3, 4, 5

Editorial: Growth is up to us

The growth and popularity of Barefoot Bowls, coupled to corporate leagues is snowballing throughout South Africa. Its impact on membership, fund-raising, community awareness and general camaraderie is gradually, but inexorably helping to return bowls to its rightful position as a major sport.

It was not long ago when the registered bowls community numbered almost 80 000; that shrunk to well below 28 000 in a matter of 12 years. The reasons for that demise were an amalgam of self-inflicted, economic, demographic and financial stresses threatening to drive bowls clubs and players on to the endangered species list.

Thankfully, that appears to be changing.

An inspired BowlsSA president and executive, with strong plans and expeditious execution, have captured the imagination and won the confidence of both die-hard bowlers and non-playing, but keen to try, members of the public respectively.

At the same time the powers that be have not forgotten the highly skilful, ultra-competitive elite squads, selected through meticulous assessments to international standards. These players have earned South Africa more gold, silver and bronze medals at

the Commonwealth Games, All Africa Tournament, and Atlantic Championships than any other code competing in "Green and Gold."

Now the big one – World Bowls – looms in Australia; our men and women will not be found wanting; nor will be the administrators.

At this month's Warwick/Bowls SA Masters and at the Warwick/BowlsSA National Championships in May, dedicated men's and women's selectors will, like motionless herons overlooking a pond, keenly and meticulously observe who is doing what and where. Theoretically every player in South Africa has a chance to represent their country.

Now TV and eager sponsors have joined the equation; but they require excellence and continual growth to remain a vital, integral foundation.

Bowls could not be in better hands; it is, however, for all players, at every level and every club to pull together to ensure the sport, if not re-invented, certainly takes its place in the 21st century of preferred sports.

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SA Masters *Continued from page 1*

BowlsSA president Debra Ferguson, who last year regarded South Africa's teams' defeats against Australia in Adelaide as disappointing, but hardly terminal, sees even greater incentive for the Proteas.

"Australia, as hosts, have won the men's and women's overall titles at the recent Asia Pacific Championships. I am certain we have enough talent to beat them on their own greens at the world event. I know it will be tough, but we can do it."

In the women's event will anyone be able to deny Johannesburg's two-time women's champion Tracy-Lee Botha a hat-trick of gold medals? The chirpy, but dedicated 23-year-old, among the top four all-round bowlers in the world, is amazingly still a junior; a prodigy of supreme talent, she continues to improve.

Former champion Trish Steyn (WP), who has again proved her self the best woman bowler in her district with the

singles triple crown (open, Sevens and WP Masters), may lack match practice because of a heavy work schedule, but will give her usual 100%; international, world champion Sylvia Burns (WP) has a great Masters record and narrowly missed a bronze last year.

Senior Protea Eddie Fann (Kingfisher), who demolished his opposite number in the Test matches against Namibia at Constantia in November, seeks a third title in four years;

And expect legendary Gauteng North star Loraine Victor to again go close in her division, where double national title-holder Pat Stallwood (WP) might show her mettle.

In the junior section, the 2011 silver medallist Eugene Ferreira (WPCC) and bronze medallist Stefan de Jager (WP) should again challenge; precocious talent Janita du Toit (WP), although beset with work problems that have curtailed her interdistricts career, could triumph from a bevy of precocious talents.

Fields

Masters Section: Women

1.	Tracy-Lee Botha	JBA
2.	Sylvia Burns	WPBA
3.	Pam Cole-Cook	KBA
4.	Elma Davis	BSC
5.	Helen Grundlingh	PNB
6.	Jenny Jones	EGB
7.	Esmé Kruger	BGN
8.	Louise Larkin	PNB
9.	Rika Lynn	SBA
10.	Colleen Piketh	JBA
11.	Louise Roediger	WPBA
12.	Dezmari Rosenblatt	EPB
13.	Esmé Steyn	JBA
14.	Santjie Steyn	BOL
15.	Trish Steyn	WPBA
16.	Bronwyn Webber	PNB

Men

1.	Gerry Baker	JBA
2.	Pierre Breitenbach	NWB
3.	Bobby Donnelly	JBA
4.	Jason Evans	JBA
5.	Shawn Janse van Vuuren	MBA
6.	Francois Koen	BGN
7.	Cornelius Kotze	WPBA
8.	Bruce Makkink	PNB
9.	Wayne Perry	SFSBA
10.	Donny Piketh	JBA
11.	Billy Radloff	BSC
12.	Clinton Roets	SFSBA
13.	Zaine Roets	SFSBA
14.	Nick Rusling	SBA
15.	Gideon Vermeulen	PNB
16.	Wayne York	SFSBA

Senior Masters: Women

1.	Jacqui Atkinson	JBA
2.	Marina Brink	WPBA
3.	Ellen Cawker	KBA
4.	Flo George	WP
5.	Wilma McLachlan	EPB
6.	Lyn Odendaal	BOR
7.	Rea Potgieter	BGN
8.	Doreen Salmond	PNB
9.	Patricia Stallwood	WPBA
10.	Ellie van Coller	NFSBA
11.	Loraine Victor	BGN
12.	Louise Wessels	BGN

Men

1.	Simon Botha	BGN
2.	Eddie Fann	KBA
3.	Okey Fine	JBA
4.	Allan Gordon	JBA
5.	Alfie Huyser	BGN
6.	Tommie Jamie	BGN
7.	Lewis Klopper	JBA
8.	Kenny Kyriacou	BGN
9.	Alan Lofthouse	WPBA
10.	Daniel Loubser	WPBA
11.	Mike Marnewick	SBA
12.	Danie Oosthuizen	NWB

Junior Masters: Women

1.	Janita du Toit	WPBA
2.	Meagan Hobbs	EGB
3.	Jacqueline Janse van Rensburg	JBA
4.	Natasha Jonker	NFSBA
5.	Hazel Muller	NWB
6.	Ashleigh Parks	JBA
7.	Rozanne Rossouw	BSC
8.	Lauren Strachan	JBA
9.	Michelle Scheepers	NFSBA
10.	Roxanne Tingle	JBA
11.	Petro van Aswegen	MBA

Men

1.	Pieter Briel Jnr	SBA
2.	Stephan de Jager	BOL
3.	Scott Elliott	WPBA
4.	Eugene Ferreira	WPBA
5.	Roe Wild	SFSBA
6.	Jason Key	SFSB
7.	Juane Meyer	EPB
8.	Dylon Mitchell	MBA
9.	Charles Mathewson	NCB
10.	Mike O'Connor	BGN
11.	Tarquin Ormston	BOR

Respect – we owe it to bowls and ourselves

The first month of the year has just flown past and things are starting to get into normal road runner pace. I was privileged last month to have umpiring duties and I was left a little perturbed. Bowls has always been looked upon as a sport of gentlemen and women with respect for and from everyone. Have we got it wrong these days? It seems we have lost all respect for our clubs and the honour it is to represent them.

I do hate comparing ourselves with other sports, but it seems that we have lost the plot. Would one find a cricket, netball or soccer team arriving at a club to play not caring about their appearance? No, proud to represent their clubs, they wear their colours with pride.

One club, playing league, not only had a man playing in very short shorts, but another in mufti! What kind of message is that to visitors?

Yes we are trying to encourage new members, but do we have to lose our respect as well? I urge clubs to bring back respect

Jack Up Bowls finds a new home

Over the years that *Jack up Bowls* was published, many a role player made excellent contributions. We take this opportunity to thank all the development officials and coaches for their interest and dedication over the years and request each and every one to continue to send in articles of interest.

Jack up Bowls Newsletter was successfully published between 2005 to 2011 and will now form part of the new **Bowls SA Warwick Newsletter**.

Rusthof Secondary takes top honours at sports function

Rusthof Secondary School, Strand, WP, has been rewarded with the Western Province Sports Council's Excellence and Resilience Award. This goes annually to a sports club or school whose players have risen against the odds to achieve at highest level.

Traditionally, the winner is from a community short in resources and funds.

Rusthof, which serves a tragically under-privileged neighbourhood and although without their own green, have embraced bowls as a school sport. Recognition is largely thanks to Strand Bowling Club and the WP Development Committee for their initiative in promoting the sport.

The award was based on the school's excellent achievements over the past five years; scholars were selected for the WP Under-19 and Under-25 teams and squads; many won medals; two learners won WPBA Novice championships.

The school's principal, John Geland proudly received the WP Sports Council Awards from the convenor of the WP Standing Committee: Development, Paul Cohen, on behalf of the WPBA executive.

and enforce dress laws for competitive players.

The Warwick Masters will be played in Port Elizabeth from February 10-12 (see pre-view this newsletter) a decision from your national executive to showcase our top bowlers around the country. I urge all players from the nearby districts to support Eastern Province and ensure members are free to assist or support the major event.

Watching footage of the Namibia Tests you would have seen we have signed a five-year contract with Warwick. This arrangement offers major advantages to your club. Please contact your local Warwick representative to see how they can assist you.



**Debra Ferguson
President**



WELL DONE: From left: Dennis Malan, president Strand BC, Myra Julies, Rusthof teacher and school bowls coach, John Geland, Paul Cohen and Aloma Smith, National SC: Promotion and Devel-

Barefoot Bowls, Awareness Day April 27

The next National Awareness Day is set for April 27. The day will mainly be set aside to increase club memberships and for clubs to raise much needed funds. Beneficiaries will again be Disability Bowls SA and Cansa. Clubs already planning an event can use the day to further bowls and increase members by including newcomers and making the event spectacular and lots of fun.



Good news is there will be no Guinness record attempt but we hope to beat last years figures; guidelines and brochures soon.

Development tournaments

Many thanks to the hardworking tournament committee and Bowls SA representatives with all the pre-tournament preparations. Unfortunately to date, no Lotto funds have been received to fund the Under-19 development tournament. So Bowls SA has been forced reduced district grants from R7 000 to R5 000 for 2012.

(See Bowls SA Circular 57/2011 dated November 7, 2011)



**BOWLS SA U19 DEVELOPMENT,
U25 INTER-DISTRICT MEN'S AND LADIES TOURNAMENTS
31 MARCH TO 4 APRIL 2012
HOSTED BY SOUTHERN FREE STATE BA**

**Managers' Meetings : Saturday 31 March @ 9am
Venues: U19s at Orangia Bowling Club and
U25s at Municipals Bowling Club**

BSA database U-19 unaffiliated players

The database to register U-19 unaffiliated development players came into operation during October, 2010. Guidelines appear in BSA Circular 56. Please ensure all U-19 development players entering the tournament are registered; no unregistered players will be accepted

History of BSA's development programme

The National Development SC formed in 2003, is known today as the National SC: Promotion and Development. Initially Debra Ferguson represented the executive on the committee, but once elected as Bowls SA president, the position was filled by Kallie Haupt a Bowls SA executive.

Over the years Debra has displayed a special passion for development. Her sterling efforts have led to many successes, e.g. The Bowls Development Guidelines Booklet, the first Development Workshop in 2005, the Schools Bowls Programme implemented in the districts resulting in the formation of the current Under-19 Development Tournament, but most important the current increased membership reversing the dwindling membership of the past few years.

Kallie Haupt must also be highly commended for his major contributions while serving on the NSCPD and executive. He initiated regional structures and was the main organiser and facilitator at a development workshop held in September, 2010 at Potchefstroom with the theme *A New Life for the Sport of Bowls*.

With their inspiration and an active NSCPD under convenor Fonny Meyerdricks, many other successful projects have been launched by the NSCPD who are focusing on regional workshops, the electronic media and communication methods via the development website.

Debra Ferguson sent a copy of the first 'Jack up Bowls' Newsletter dated April 2005, Volume 1.

Interdistricts U-25 and U-19 history

1. U-25 (mixed)

Records indicate a mixed Under-25 tournament officially began in 1998 in Port Elizabeth. It was convened by Don McKenzie; format unknown, but in 1998 it became an interdistrict event. Today's format was adopted in 1999 at Kroonstad BC. Before it was an unofficial event run by Charmaine Fontanella at the Griffio Bowling Club, Edenvale. This was by invitation and not an official Bowls SA event.

2. Interdistricts U-25s separated

The first official separate interdistrict events were held in 2009 at George.

U19 Development Tournaments

In 2006 the first U-19 Development Tournament was held concurrently with the U-25 Tournament at Klerksdorp. It has developed into a successful annual event; It is amazing to observe the youngsters' skills.

Reflections: 2006 - 2011

U-19 Development Gold Medallists

2006	Klerksdorp	WP Gold Medallists
2007	Bloemfontein	WP Gold Medallists
2008	Bloemfontein	NW Gold Medallists
2009	George	WP Gold Medallists
2010	Nelspruit	WP Gold Medallists
2011	Bloemfontein	SC Gold Medallists

2006: WP – first gold medallists



CHAMPIONS: Front row from left to right: Skip Lee-Andrew Arnolds, Esraan Matinka, Romano Frans; Back row right: Bradley Martin; Managers from left to right: Aloma Smith, Nico Ferreira and AD Fourie.

2011: Southern Cape gold medallists

Ready to defend their title this year are youngsters representing the Southern Cape at the South African U-19 Development Bowls Tournament. The boys achieved what has not been achieved by a Southern Cape Bowls team before – they came home with the gold medal!



GOLD GUYS: Southern Cape, from left, Jason Erasmus, Willem Fic, BowlsSA president, Debra Ferguson, Johan Havenga (manager), Reggie Jonck, Brandon Marques

2010 Nelspruit U-19 development tournament



UNBELIEVABLE: Young enthusiasts aged between nine and 13 years are seen above. The youngest, Dylan Duncan of Mpumalanga, 9, is second from the right. For these guys and girls to endure a week's bowls, playing up to four games a day, proves bowls can be played whether you are nine or 90

Modified bowls

A special offer by Bowls SA - order one set and get a second set free, still applies - ±R1200 per set. These bowls are great for indoor bowls on any surface. They create wonderful recreational opportunities for learners, even if disabled. Place an order with your district secretary.

Lotto development bowls



Districts may apply for development bowls, as a consignment of Lotto Bowls were received last year. The NSCPD is currently arranging the distribution of bowls to districts that have applied and have qualified according to their development programmes.

Business Leagues

"The challenge is to keep people coming back to eventually join as fully fledged members."

A Business League is an excellent marketing tool for bowls!

Many clubs across the country have, with varying degrees of success, initiated business leagues for local businesses which also generate much needed club funds.

It definitely appears as if leagues of this nature have more lasting impact than just a once-off game of social or informal bowls and will be more marketable to the media.



How to retain and recruit members

Guidelines to retain and recruit members

Here and there

BOWLS SOUTHERN CAPE

Feathers newsletter

(Editor Jaco Visagie who must be highly commended; (Extract from December 2011; Issue 4)

'Boer v Brit' at George

Last year George Bowling Club members played their annual Boer versus Brit competition, sponsored by Personal Trust. After three gruelling "battles" with the outcome in the balance to the end, the Brits gained the final victory, thus avenging their defeat of 2010. Seen, celebrating after successful peace negotiations are:

Members are 'the club'. It is important to look after members so that they will remain at your club and encourage others to join.

Listed are ideas to help retain and recruit members:

- **Set a yearly membership goal**
- **market your club to attract new members**
- **emphasise club facilities and benefits**
- **welcome new members and help them fit in**
- **get to know members and their special skills**
- **involve them in decision making and organisation**
- **encourage them to bring friends**
- **ensure the club caters to the entire community**
- **provide guidelines on behaviour and dress**

Strong social programme

Social interaction has been identified as one of the sport's greatest strengths. Successful clubs have strong social and competitive programmes. These can include both bowls (family competitions) and non-bowls related activities (bingo, quiz nights, dances).

Club initiatives

Here are some initiatives that can play a role in recruiting and retaining members at your club.:

Introductory membership

Develop an introductory membership category that includes free coaching, thus removing a fear held by many that they will not be good enough for your club.

Trial membership

As one of the existing barriers for non-members is the perceived level of commitment required in joining a club, give them the option of 'try before you buy'. After a trial period, offer all flexible membership categories, e.g. casual member, weekend, three-monthly and six-monthly.

The 'instant gratification' syndrome

People are more likely to participate in readily accessible activities, for which they do not require substantial training or the development of complex skills!

Helpful Hint

It is important to realise that some may not have the time or desire to play competitively, but want to try bowls in a relaxed social atmosphere. Therefore, allow them to participate and discover this wonderful sport of ours during their recreational time.



Back, from left: Defeated 'General' Pierre Fourie, John Royce, Edith Spence, Ken Spence, Betty Mason, Bill Ashmole, Kevin Rose, Ken Smith, Tickey Luckhoff; centre: Tony Mason, Dawn Hammond, Jenny Sinclair, Johann van der Westhuizen (sponsors), Trudie Venter, Bella Smith. Front: John Burbidge, commander of the Brits, Lawson Schroeder.



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Heidelberg business league



MIXED BAG: The annual Heidelberg Business League sponsored by FNB began in November with 10 enthusiastic teams; the youngest from the Christian School and the oldest from a retirement home. The league, which ran for four weeks was won by the FNB team. It is hoped more firms will join this year.

Heidelberg/JC Slagtery open day

The JC Slagtery Open Day at Heidelberg enjoyed a full green, with teams from as far away as Mossel Bay and Hartenbos. Thanks to all who supported the club. The day went to Stillbaai, skipped by "Nugget" van Noordwyk with Pieter Theron, Elsabe Theron and Salomie Mahoney. A Mossel Bay team skipped by Annetjie Van Wyk was second, her team consisting of Elsa Botha, Thys van Wyk and Willa Eybers; Riversdale, skipped by Greg Moore, with Jakkie Fourie, Ansie Cronje and Lizette Moore were third and another Mossel Bay four was next skipped by Ernie Thunemann with Van Reenen van der Westhuizen, Frida Thunemann and Brenda Burger. Once again the sponsors provided generous prizes. A magnificent fresh vegetable raffle prize, donated by Arista Boerdery, was won by Julie Ife of Heidelberg.

160 'newies' expected For family fun at Sedgefield

Fashion is changing at Sedgefield Bowls Club on Friday nights. Gone are bowlers in all-white dress; in has come wonderful colorful dress codes and fun for the family as 28 teams of new bowlers enjoyed Barefoot Bowls competition, until mid-December. Fun and spirits were high, but all were desperate for success; club members offered coaching in a wonderful air of togetherness. You just cannot keep Sedgefielders down.

December saw the final of the Sedgefield Barefoot Bowls league as "Pirates" chased the ladies around the greens. The greenkeeper was not amused by "high heels", but they were removed before play began. It turned into a fantastic evening of fun for families and friends; all 96 new players want to enter again.

Good news is that a **third green** is almost ready and the next Barefoot league in March/April will accommodate 160.

Southern Cape

National Association of Blind Bowlers (Nabb)

Jackie Jacques of Outeniqua BC reports:

Southern Cape NABB thanks the Outeniqua Bowling Club's committee which allowed formation of Southern Cape Bowls for the Blind, Partially Sighted and Disabled Bowls. The founder members are John Young (President), William Konick (vice-president), Jackie Jacques (secretary/treasurer), Mae Flanagan and Derek Jacques (committee members). The constitution is at present with NAAB, for ratification. Basie du Preez has agreed to assist with the coaching; several people have shown interest.

BEYOND 2011 - A New Beginning

'A new life for the Sport of Bowls'

*The old is there,
but we're in despair!
Numbers are dwindling
Red lights flickering
New life must be sought
Otherwise we'll have nought!*

*Don't give up in dark despair
The past we cannot compare
With pages clean and new;
It depends on you to make anew!
Bowls is at stake!
A new life is all it takes!*

*Give the joy to others to play
So bowls won't be castaway
Focus on change to make it right!
We must plan with all our might
Bowls is at stake!
Bring new life for goodness sake!*

Aloma Smith

***"If you focus on results, you will never change.
If you focus on change, you will get results!"***

Mike Millard resigns

It is with sadness that we have accepted Mike's resignation from the NSCPD. His cool and friendly efficiency will be sadly missed. He has made a significant contribution to our sport over the past few years, both at national and district level. On a personal level and on behalf of the committee, I wish him every success in his future plans and adventures.

Fonny Meyeridricks

Convenor: NSCPD

National SC; Promotion and Development

Kallie Haupt (Bowls SA Exec.) haupt4@telkomsa.net
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Anina Black blacka@cput.ac.za
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Rob Zimmermann robzim@mweb.co.za

NSCPD: Regional convenors

Region 1: BGN, CGBA and EGB: Rob
Region 2: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Sables, Sedibeng: Fonny
Region 3: NFS, SFS, North West: Henk
Region 4: KZNCB, Kingfisher, Natal Inl, Port Natal: Aloma
Region 5: Northern Cape, Border and EP: Vacant
Region 6: WP, Boland and Southern Cape: Anina



FOR GOOD MEASURE: Warwick's Brian Kelly reports from Red-house BC (formed in 1873 as Zwartkops Rowing Club and rebuilt in 1950 with three greens, beside the river of the same name, outside Port Elizabeth) that after prize-giving at the last tournament of 2011 Herman Steyn went on bended knee and proposed to Rentia Rafferty - and was accepted. A great party followed.

They travelled from near and far for Barefoot Bowls

Not a single Zimmer frame, walking stick or white hat in sight at the inaugural Under-35 Barefoot Bowls Tournament staged at Morningside CC, Johannesburg.

Organised by Rob Zimmerman of Bowls South Africa, the event attracted players from Johannesburg, Pretoria - even the Northern Cape.

"It was the opportunity to play the game the way they've always wanted" said Zimmerman, who's been pushing to change some of the antiquated norms of a sport that many believe, that if managed correctly, could become the next big thing.

"Bowls will always be there for the older generation, they won't lose it. but they've got to allow younger players to create their own identity and take it in the direction they want. The weekend showed us the first signs of that direction."



SHOWDOWN: Eventual winner, Chris Gau of Morningside (in blue), watches as Kimberley's Mark Oats gets one away

Noticeably absent were rigid white uniforms associated with Sunday afternoons; players turned up in whatever felt comfortable. Scanning the greens, one would have been forgiven for mistaking the players for casual golfers; also absent were the umpires and accompanying mandatory, but sometimes petty regulations.

"We intentionally kept the rules bare and left players to sort it out among themselves. A bit like garden cricket," explained Zimmerman.

And it worked.

Said Zimmerman: "Traditionally if the jack is delivered short a debate ensues, an umpire is called, a measuring tape fetched - the process can take minutes. Here an opponent just asked the marker to place the jack where they wanted - taking about five seconds. Everyone was happy, proof younger players aren't overly concerned with minor details - they just want to play."

Nevertheless competition was intense..

"Many games were decided by tie-break. Even though we had a couple of players who represent their provinces, some ended up being pushed to the end, even beaten by players who've just taken up the game. It was great to see guys and girls who'd only previously played with a couple of friends on a Sunday afternoon suddenly feeling the intense pressure of a sudden death situation against a top bowler. Prior to that they would have laughed if you'd told them they could find bowls to be quite intense," Zimmerman said.

At the end of the day it was a newer bowler who took the spoils. Chris Gau of Morningside a player for only two years fought off Kev Oates, who had travelled from the Northern Cape; the Plate saw junior provincial player John Hill (Suburbs Sports. JBC) triumph.

"Everyone enjoyed themselves. This is to become an annual series comprising three or four tournaments; all may enter, even if they don't belong to a club," Zimmerman added.

Check it out on-line at www.barefootbowls.co.za



READY FOR ACTION: Competitors pose before the inaugural Under-35 Barefoot bowls event at Morningside

North Durban drama

North Durban pensioners have just begun their Thursday mornings tournament, reports Protea Stuart Milligan, son of the great John Milligan - Morningside Sports Club (Durban), Stamford Hill, Durban High School Old Boys, RDLI and Durban BC - are used by 28 sides.



THE BEST: The 2011 winners: The Warwick side, from left, Richard Cunningham, Arthur Canham, Stuart Milligan, Chris Klopper, skip, Rob Dudley



THE NEARLY MEN: The runners-up: Peter Chambers and team, seen above; third was Trevor Phillips and team

After six games the competition splits into main and plate events. The first round of 2012 was played at Morningside (Durban) in hot, humid conditions, but a slight breeze helped.

The 2011 winners took a tight contest against Tony Southwood (Umlhali CC); runners-up, Peter Chambers (Durban) and team, won the second session prize with +24. The third placed Trevor Phillips (RDLI) also got off to a winning start. Overall first session winners was Harry Gibb (Durban) with +27.

Scoring programme available

Fundi Elbert Broere has developed a programme for administering competitions. It caters for the full life cycle of a competition, from entries up to and including the finals.

Unique characteristics of the programme are:

- To ease the capturing of competition entries, entries are made by entering the player's Bowls SA number. The player's surname and initials are automatically extracted from the Bowls SA database. Players are also validated automatically to be registered Bowls SA members (therefore affiliated to your district) and to be from the correct age group and gender;
- The programme generates press releases (per e-mail) to addresses specified by you of all results;
- The programme does double-sided entries of results. You capture the score and both players/teams/sides are updated automatically.

The programme should cater for all a district's requirements but if you have special requirements, it can be enhanced. Charges to use it a mere R12 per section generated; you generate your own invoice from an entry on the menu.

To make the programme affordable, Broere has reduced the fee for clubs to R10 a section on a pre-paid system.

BowlsSA are likely to use the system for the Warwick SA Masters, the nationals, the Interdistricts and the mixed pairs.

BOWLS SA ROUND-UP

Singles Quest

Would-be singles players at the Warwick/BowlsSA Nationals in May can enter via a qualifying event at the venue. Spots available depend on district qualifiers' entries and replacements - 10 days to go; the "Presidents Pick" spots - eight in open, four in seniors - become available to "pre-qualifiers." KO decides; withdrawals from the main event will not be replaced during qualifying. Any player withdrawing during pre-qualifying gets a R100 fine. Dates: May 17 - 18: singles pre-qualifying; pairs: May 19-20 (1st play-off Sunday pm); May 21-22: fours: (1st play-off on Tuesday pm) Singles: May 23: (round robin; sections of four); May 24 (singles KO; pairs/fours play-offs; May 25-26 (all play-offs) May 27 (semi-finals/finals). Pairs/fours daily play three rounds of 15 ends until the semi-finals.

Under-19 incentive

Bowls SA will award R5 000 (once) to any district to enter teams the U-19 Development Tournament at Bloemfontein in March.

Conditions

Bowls SA advises the Conditions of Play for all Bowls SA events will be amended under the clause dealing with cell phones to specifically exclude the use of any hand-held device

including the new "Walka Hand Held TV", during play. Districts and clubs may be guided accordingly regarding local events.

Who can play ...?

Entries to Bowls SA events and in particular the Warwick/Bowls SA Nationals must consist of full members from the same club. Players may, however, represent a dual club providing that they gain written permission from their club of first choice (the club from which their affiliation fees are paid), that the club has no objection to them representing their dual club during the event. Players should take this written permission with them to the event as the tournament committee will request a copy once they confirm such players are fully paid-up members. Bowlers must confirm their intentions with respective districts should their dual club be located in a different district. Certain districts specifically exclude members, constitutionally, from representing other districts.

Unregistered woes

Clubs which continue to permit players who are not affiliated to districts (in turn to Bowls SA) on to bowling greens are reminded that severe penalties, provided for in the constitution (clause 11.1.4) will be applied. Districts are requested to again circulate a copy of Circular 50/2010; September 1, 2010 and to

implement the penalty.

'Stimps' on the way

Districts have recently received between one and three stimpeters, depending on the size of the district. This equipment is for use by the district standing committee: greens (DSC: G). The purpose is to evaluate the draw, speed and weight of a green to achieve more accurate measurements than at present with the mere rolling of bowls. The cost of this equipment is covered under the Lotto funding of Bowls SA. Members of the NSC: G will visit districts during to demonstrate the use of the equipment and to provide instruction on its assembly.

Good Bye Mariette; hello Jacqui

Mariette Vorster, Bowls SA's admirable liaison officer for 14 years has resigned to open a business with her husband in Nelspruit. Jacqui Atkinson, who filled-in for Mariette when she was on maternity leave last year, is a first class replacement. We wish both good luck and many thanks.

All the national forms

Those requiring entry forms or details of the Warwick/BowlsSA National tournaments in Eastern Gauteng (women) or EP (men) will find them on the website - www.BowlsSA.co.za