



Natal, WP grab SA Masters crowns



WINNERS ALL: The Warwick/BowlsSA Masters winners in all categories with Allen Slee, MD of Warwick Invest (Pty) Ltd and BowlsSA president, Debra Ferguson; from left: Louise Roediger (WP), Ellen Cawker (Kingfisher), Conrad Potgieter (Border), Hazel Muller (NW), Gippo Vermeulen (Port Natal), Mike Marnewick (Sables)

Picture: BOB BINNELL

For only the second time in its 130-year history, Port Elizabeth BC hosted the Warwick/BowlsSA SA Masters Champions ... it was a great success.

Before a lively bank in excess of 500, debutante Louise Roediger (Strand, WP) defeated Protea Santjie Steyn (Swellendam, Boland) 21-19 in 23 pulsating ends of the women's final, while Commonwealth Games Trips gold medallist, SA Masters runner-up in 2003 and 2007, Gippo Vermeulen (Port Natal) took the men's gold, beating Southern Free State's Wayne Perry 21-11 in 16 ends.

Bronze medals went to Billy Radloff (Southern Cape) and Bobby Donnelly (JBA); two time women's champion Tracy-Lee Botha (JBA) and Colleen Piketh (JBA).

The match women's final was a high-class affair, with both mastering conditions. Roediger, highly thought of in WP, justified all that had been banded about her and took the gold in style. Roediger led 7-0 after four ends, but they peeled at 14s on the 14th end and 18-18 on the 20th, before the champion took control.

An emotional Roediger said she hoped it would be a stepping stone to greater things.

In the men's final, Vermeulen was always in charge. He led 10-5 after eight ends and then, in spite of a dropped three on the 14th end, strode to victory in a bravura unbeaten run of eight matches against the best men players in South Africa. "I've always wanted this," the beaming prison officer from Durban said with a broad smile.

Western Province and Boland players dominated the Masters; eight of the 14 involved won medals.

At the opening dinner, Ian Kilbride, CEO and chairman of the sponsors, said although bowls was on a healthy trend, there could be no letting up in drive by the administrators. "Changes in demographics, the advent of the "silent generation" and more pressure, both time and financial, placed on the public meant less time available for all sport."

Organisation was tight and Bowls SA president Debra Ferguson ex-

pressed gratitude to the organising committee and the club's members who pitched in with a will.

Gerry Baker, holder and five-time champion, could not really get going; leftie, brilliant as ever, got the message early when he dropped both his first two outings; Bobby Donnelly, runner-up last year, was there until the last sectional game; he was not as sharp as I have seen him.

In the Senior Masters women's final, former world champion Ellen Cawker (Kingfisher) was just too smart for Ellie van Coller (E Gauteng), twice a champion, twice a runner-up. Cawker, impressive for three days, won 21-12 in 22 ends. PE senior Wilma McLachlan (Western Suburbs) added a bronze to last year's silver medal; she was a point off top-placed Van Coller. Pat Stallwood (WP), on debut, also won a bronze behind Cawker.

Former 1990s Commonwealth Games gold medallist Alan Lofthouse (WP), nicknamed "the Come Back Kid" by his peers, went through the round robin unbeaten with a great display before bowing the knee to the 2010 champion Mike Marnewick (Sables) 21-18 in 24 ends of an evenly matched clash; bronze medals went to Alan Gordon (JBA) and Tommi Jamie (Gauteng North); hot favourite Eddie Fann (Kingfisher) did not feature.

In the Junior Women's Masters, Hazel Muller (NW) and Janita du Toit (WP) fought a high quality match with Muller prevailing 1.5-.5 in the sets clash; Jacqui van Ransburg (JBA) and Lauren Strachan (JBA) picked up bronzes.

The Junior Men's saw last year's silver medallist Eugene Ferreira (WP) drop a four to Conrad Potgieter (Border) on the last end of the second set, when leading 9-5. Potgieter deservedly won the gold 1.5-.5; Juan Meyer (EP), a silver medallist in 2009, took bronze, an agonising point off the play-offs, but with a better shot aggregate than Ferreira, as did Dylon Mitchell (Mpumalanga) in his section.

See results & pics on page 3

From the president's desk

I realise that newsletters are supposed to be full of positive news – sometimes, however, a truth surfaces. Playing bowls to most of us is a recreation; we are all volunteers. Why then do certain of our bowlers think they have the right to abuse these volunteers?



As the BowlsSA president I attend many meetings and the same items come up throughout South Africa. Why must a technical official be abused when only trying to ensure that the laws of the game are being followed? The laws are to ensure our sport is enjoyed by all. A technical official does not make the Laws - he is the messenger; it's the same as abusing a waiter for a bad meal. If there is a problem there are channels in which to address them.

Alas, it is not only technical officials being targeted. I was at a meeting where greenkeepers complained about abuse when grading a green. The average player knows little about greens. Greenkeepers are experts. They have taken time to study their subject and to pass exams, why do club bowlers, without specialist knowledge think they know better? They don't

Please take a step back; desist from unfounded criticism – would you be prepared to take over?

My credo when I took the SA chair was working together. I urge all to ask if they can help, rather than armchair criticise – start afresh, help to grow our sport and promote unity.

Debra Ferguson
President

Editorial

Many have asked ("many" always do) why the Warwick/BowlsSA Masters was moved from Pretoria to Port Elizabeth. There is no mystery, no "master plan." It was done, as your president Debra Ferguson intimated in her opening address on the traditional pre-tournament dinner, for three main reasons – all sound.

1. To give incentive to the hosting district to improve their greens to the highest standard and to spur their Greenkeepers to excellence.
2. To ensure the host district's technical officials and markers were up to scratch.
3. To continue to showcase SA's best nationwide. Moreover, having the Masters in EP brought awareness to all communities, thus assisting the growth of bowls.

The \$64 000 question is, however, did the PE club and its officials and members live up to expectations?

A resounding yes!

While no one is to blame for the irritating wind that persisted throughout the event, it was in a way a blessing. It cooled things a little and ensured the best had to produce the best. The greens were to the satisfaction of even the hardest critics and technical officials and markers did a fine job.

And those who played best throughout prevailed.

Perhaps even more significant, was that Port Elizabeth was given extensive coverage in the media - thanks in particular to the EP Herald –and importantly publicised by word of mouth.

"It is never too late to give up your prejudices," wrote great writer and philosopher Henry David Thoreau ... bowlers might listen to such words.



MATES: Former SA cricket captain Kepler Wessels, no mean lawn bowler, and SA Masters champion Gippo Vermeulen share a joke

HOW THE MASTERS FINISHED

OPEN:

Women: Gold – Louise Roediger (WP) bt Santjie Steyn (Boland) 21-19; bronze – Tracy-Lee Botha (JBA) and Colleen Piketh (JBA);

Men: Gold – Gideon Vermeulen (PNB) bt Wayne Perry (SFS) 21-11; bronze - Billy Radloff (BSC) and Bobby Donnelly (JBA).

SENIORS:

Women: Gold – Ellen Cawker (KBA) bt Ellie van Coller (EGB) 21-12; bronze – Patricia Stallwood (WP) and Wilma McLachlan (EP).

Men: Gold – Mike Marnewick (Sables) bt Alan Lofthouse 21-18; bronze – Allan Gordon (JBA) and Tommie Jamie (BGN).

JUNIORS:

Women: Gold – Hazel Muller (NWB) bt Janita du Toit (WP) 1-5-5; bronze – Michelle Scheepers (NFS) and Lauren Strachan (JBA).

Men: Gold – Conrad Potgieter (Border) bt Eugene Ferreira (WP) 1.5-5; bronze – Juane Meyer (EP) and Dylon Mitchell (MBA).



MASTER LADY: Louise Roediger (Strand, WP) in classic action on her way to winning the Warwick/BowlsSA Masters Women's Championship trophy on debut

Picture: PAM NEUBERT



UNBEATEN: Gippo Vermeulen (Westville, Port Natal) men's SA Masters champion who posted eight straight wins, with Allen Slee, MD of Warwick Invest (Pty) Ltd and BowlsSA president, Debra Ferguson

Picture: BRIAN KELLY



FLAG TIME: The district flags fly in the south-wester at the SA Masters

Ready for the hot seat



Adminstrator and...

He's a quiet man, but there's usually a chuckle somewhere. Allan Freeman, top administrator, former player for Rhodesia, Transkei and Border, singles winner at district level, former selector and greens expert for Bowls SA is poised to become president of the umbrella body.

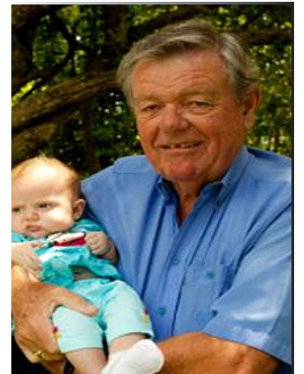
And the straight-talking two-year vice-president is not just next in line; six years on the BowlsSA executive makes Freeman is the right man for the job; his executive colleagues believe that, as does anyone who knows him.

He will be expected to make unpleasant decisions, avoid snap judgments and deal with adult idiosyncrasies; something he would have seen outstanding outgoing president

Debra Ferguson master.

"I'm ready. It is the fulfillment of a career in bowls spanning 45 years; if elected I will have a great executive and an outstanding administrative office; when and if the time comes I shall be prepared to carry on the amazing effort and streamlining both structured and implemented by Debra.," he says.

Freeman, who in his sprightly seventies, lives with his "bowls widow" wife, Maureen, at Gonubie, East London, is a proud father of three, grandfather of eight and one great grandchild ... he's ready to be thrust into the hurly burly of bowls at the top.



FAMILY MAN: Allan Freeman with a precious great grandchild

Vihan in control

Knee-high to a grasshopper, chirpy, but confident, Vihan Fourie, 13, from Upington in the Northern Cape, who for a second time marked the final of the Junior Masters in Port Elizabeth, showed talent, calmness and authority.

Other markers might learn from his procedure and ability ... it always said a good official is hardly noticed ... that's Vihan.

A sports fanatic – 1st X! cricket (all-rounder) and 1st team hockey (centre-back) for Hoer Skool Upington - he's played bowls for about five years and will be skipping a side at the

March U-19 championships in Bloemfontein.

Mum and dad Annelise and Bernard also bowl and brother Cobus, 10, another sports lover will soon; his sister Sharon, 23, does not play.

Great stuff, Vihan, keep it up!



Train-the-Trainer Courses successfully completed...



Pietermaritzburg



Lekkerbreek



Port Alfred

The Train-the-Trainer courses held throughout the country mean that every district has now been empowered to run their own Level 1 courses. The new reference book for Lawn Bowls Coaching developed by NSCC, with additional reviewers, was used at these courses. Details of how to present the (Club) Coaches courses, handouts and other resources and how to use them were provided at these courses.

the last at Port Alfred in December. From the outset the idea was to combine neighbouring districts at a central venue. The districts were not slow to begin implementing the new material! A couple of districts presented Club Coaches courses towards the end of last year. There are applications to hold seven courses this year, with Western Province requesting two, one in July and one in September.

The first course was held at Bloemfontein in July last year and

Well done Province!

PORT NATAL REGIONAL ACADEMY SHOWS US HOW!



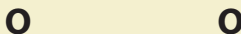
Hazel Lillig is shown here with members of the Port Natal Academy for men and lady bowlers. Due to the demand of players wishing to attend the Academy Hazel had to form a second group to do the TID programme. The Academy forms a feeder for the provincial squad as eight ladies from the Academy were invited to the Provincial Squad. Eight ladies from the second-tier TID group then made their way up to the Academy. Hazel Lillig (with the sunglasses front & centre) is a District Coach in Port Natal and runs the Academy. On average Hazel receives 300 assessments per month from these players.

Well done Port Natal and Hazel!

Graham Mackenzie's Coaching Corner: The "Ghost" Draw

This is an excellent practice exercise when you are looking for a different way of practicing. Try it!
 Arrange two bowls in front of the jack, forming a triangle. Now draw to reach the jack and get shot.

O (Jack)



Alternate both hands, i.e. both forehand and backhand. Bowl both inside and outside the bowls in the draw, imagining they are not there. Replace the bowls if you knock them out or in, or use a nail to fix a sponge or plastic golf-ball instead of bowls, if you are by yourself.

NOTE: This is such a simple but effective way of practicing. So often we look for the grand and complicated. Stick to the basics and keep it simple!

The 2011 Level 2 (District) Coaches Course

(Missing: Con Dixie, Merle van den Berg and Brian Sayce, three of the presenters and members of the NSCC)

The course was held at Wingate Park in Pretoria from the 20 to the 24th of November. Districts were allowed to nominate two eligible candidates. From the outset it was planned that the course would be very practical and interactive with presentations by NSCC and invited speakers kept to a minimum. The emphasis was also on having fun and making coaching fun (which led to some hilarious moments)!



As most would-be coaches dread giving presentations these were done in three small groups to ensure the presenters felt comfortable and at ease. Coaching principles, the Clinic Technique, Lifestyle, Communication, Roles and Responsibilities of coaches, Teaching and Learning Strategies were all covered. At the beginning of the course candidates were invited to give their expectations of the course which were then listed and marked off on a daily basis. Everything was finally ticked and the candidates departed with the knowledge required to do their post-course projects which entails the planning, implementation and analysis of a half-day coaching clinic which has to be completed by the end of February. NSCC plans to offer this course every second year, i.e. the next one is planned for 2013.

GET YOUR FEEDBACK RIGHT...

Some aspects of Feedback Theory as applied to the playing of bowls

(The second and final part of the article, the first part of which appeared in Forum 26)

Merle van den Berg

(An updated article of one which appeared in Bowls Action: Volume 2 Number 1, Jan/Feb 1999)

Q What feedback should you give after playing a good shot?

A Avoid nonverbal gestures of triumph – pride often comes before a fall, especially in bowls! Smile perhaps if you really need to give feedback, but be modest. If you lose your concentration by thinking you are a wonderful player, you will start playing badly. Aim at playing more good shots to improve your consistency. Successful players concentrate on every bowl played.

Q What feedback should be given to a team member's good shot?

A A simple "Well done" is usually sufficient. Sometimes the player might need special encouragement if they have been struggling but don't overdo it – as this could border on gamesmanship.

Q What feedback should be given when the opposition plays a good shot?

A To ignore a good bowl is simply bad manners and poor sportsmanship. Again a quiet word like "Well played" is sufficient. If your praise is over-exuberant, your fellow team players could think you think the opposition plays well and you are playing badly! It is a thin line that bowlers walk!

Q What feedback should be given when the opposition inadvertently gives you a shot by promoting one of your team's bowls?

A This has happened to all of us occasionally but it is extremely poor sportsmanship to thank them! "Bad luck" is

sufficient.

Q What should you do when you have not heard an instruction, a question or feedback?

A Check by asking immediately that the communication is repeated to avoid misunderstandings. If you don't it could cost your team the game. In an important game a skip shouldn't rely on unclear feedback but should inspect the head. It is vital that team members do not misunderstand each other. (The distance between the player and the skip can be problematical.) Rather than be irritated by the query, the person should repeat and even rephrase the message.

Q Is it as easy to give and receive feedback in the bowling situation, as in other everyday situations?

A No, the greater the distance between the individuals concerned, the more difficult it is to give and receive accurate feedback. It is so much easier to communicate, to observe and even to check intentions and meaning when you are face to face. In the bowling situation the immediacy is greatly restricted, particularly between the skip and front rank. In trips and pairs it is only when the players swap ends that they have a brief moment for an interchange. This highlights the necessity of a supportive relationship between the two members of the front rank. The same applies to the third and the skip. This restriction also means that feedback tends to be more nonverbal than verbal and thus the importance of the (agreed) sign language to avoid unnecessary shouting and the divulgence of tactics.

Q How do we put these guidelines on maximizing the effectiveness of feedback into practice?

A You simply have to decide to start! Using feedback may seem unnatural or stilted at first, but as you feel your way and consciously try, you will notice that the communication is clearer, there are fewer misunderstandings, your team relationships, your game and the results will improve. This is particularly true of a team who constantly plays together but it also applies to all players every time they set their foot on the green. The more you empathize with the needs of others, the more sensitive and alert you will be to feedback.

Q Is grading necessary in a club?

A Regular (six-monthly or annual) grading is vital performance feedback. It is an important development tool necessary to the growth of the player. Those who have high goals and/or feedback needs will be motivated to improve their play and grading. Furthermore, it is crucial to building an adequate pool of talent to sustain the future needs of the club, supplying the selectors with useful information.

Q Do T-ID (the National Academy's Talent Identifica-

tion Programme) results provide useful feedback?

A Yes indeed, they provide feedback not only to the players themselves but also to the district and national selectors. Clubs and districts should be encouraging their members and squads to participate in the programme which has been simplified and modified so as to be less time-consuming, thereby making it more realistic. The player's progress is measurable and plotted over time, thereby making it tangible and not simply pie in the sky.

In conclusion, there is a skill in receiving and giving feedback and, depending on the skill used; feedback can be either destructive or extremely helpful to furthering the success of the team. Furthermore, understanding feedback needs from your own perspective as a player and from the perspective of the rest of the team can help you in improving your bowls relationships.

ERRATUM: In the article on Feedback in Forum 26 it stated that the player should wait on the mat for direction from the skip. This is incorrect! The player should wait behind the mat!

Level 3 (Academy) Coaches Course

NSCC plans to offer a level 3 course in the final quarter of 2013, in conjunction with the National Academy. At this level the focus is on squad and team development as well as the advanced personal development of the coach. It will be a four day course, probably over a weekend plus two days.

Candidates are required to have 200 hours of coaching at Level 2 and more advanced computer skills (Word, Excel, Access PPT)

will be an advantage. It is also recommended that the candidates have Level 2 Technical Official and First Aid qualifications. District Standing Committees will need to motivate their applications to NSCC. Closer to the time, Bowls South Africa will send the application forms to the Districts so watch out for them!

NSCC Member	District Liaison Responsibility	Cell phone	Email
Brian Sayce (Convenor)	EGB, BGN, Mpumalanga, Limpopo	082 570 5884	sayso@sherwood.za.net
Jill Atkinson	All KZN districts	079 030 7418	jillatkinson@bergmail.co.za
CH Dixie	EP, WP	082 220 3707	dixie@nmmu.ac.za
G Mackenzie	NFS, SFS, NC	082 948 9262	gailmacwhite1@yahoo.com
Merle v d Berg	Border, Boland, S Cape	082 693 4227	merlof@telkomsa.net
Vacant	Sables, JBA, NW, Sedibeng	Contact Brian Sayce	
Kallie Haupt	Bowls SA Executive	082 927 3625	haupt4@telkomsa.net

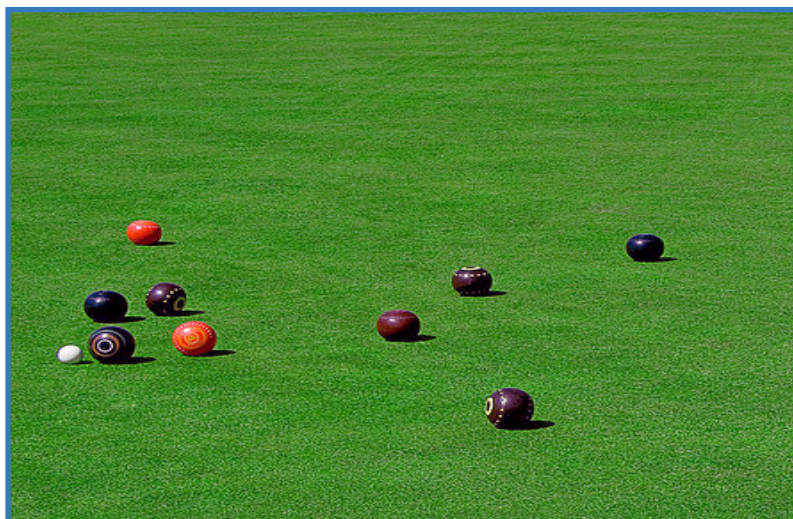
Coaches Forum is the official publication of Bowls South Africa's NSCC. Please send your news and views to the Editor, Merle van den Berg at merlof@telkomsa.net or give her a call on 043 748 3985 or 082 693 4227.

Her postal address is P O Box 2486, Beacon Bay, 5205.

A Bowler's Wish

May good fortune guide our bowls
Just as we're inclined;
May our first be on the jack
And the next just behind;
May our numbers two and three
Be where we would have them be;
Most important, may our Skip
Save us should we slip.

Author Unknown





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Bowls SA Roundup

Two-bowl flights?

To meet new weight restrictions published by airlines, BowlsSA allows bowlers travelling to national events to take only the number of bowls required; this applies also to interdistricts and the SA Nationals.

Bowls blog

Visit the Bowls Blog, sponsored by Warwick Private Wealth at www.thebowlsblog.com

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 in the U-19 Development Tournament at Bloemfontein in March.

HQs for juniors

HQs for the Warwick/BowlsSA U-25 Interdistrict Championships 2012 are: Bloemfontein Municipals (HQ) and Bloemfontein BC; U-19 Development Tournament: Oran-gia; See www.BowlsSA.co.za for accommodation details.

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.

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

All-Cape HQ

WPCC Bowls Club has been appointed HQ for the Men's and Women's All Cape Tournament from May 5-12.

Simon to coach Malaysia

National assistant head coach, Simon Botha, who has served his nation with distinction on and off the green, is to coach the Malaysia Bowls Federation as its National Head Coach. An outstanding tactician and mental strengthener, BowlsSA views his move with regret, and wish him every success. He also steps down from membership on SA's National Standing Committee: Academy.

BowlsSA AGM

BowlsSA's workshop and AGM is at Dunkeld West on August 25/26 10.30am. Districts are invited to nominate persons for the executive committee. A notice of motion is in terms of clause 13.1 of the Constitution: "Any motions to be moved at a meeting of council shall be submitted in the full and exact form at which it is intended it shall be adopted and shall be in the hands of BowlsSA not later than 90 days before the date of the meeting." Any must reach BowlsSA on or before May 27. The following have indicated availability: President: Allan Freeman; vice-president: Kallie Haupt and Ron Weddell; executive members: Isabel Smith and Ron Weddell. Sergio Martinengo is not seeking re-election.

Foreign climes?

Foreign visitors to South Africa are welcome to play in social games at club level as a visitor for one month. They must produce evidence of affiliation in their home country. Participation is restricted to social games and excludes competitive play such as sponsored tournaments, club and district competitions. Should they wish to extend their stay they must affiliate to the district and Bowls SA.

Articles, information and pictures (jpegs of 250psi or better) for this newsletter may be sent to john@bowlsa.co.za or to me at simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za