



WP Women, Port Natal Men, take district crowns



CHAMPIONS: WP's winning districts side: From left Anita Groenewald (second), Louise Roediger (skip), Marina Brink (third), Rene Swanepoel (skip), Susan McKay-Vlok (lead), Antro Whicher, (lead), Darryll Edwards (third), Sylvia Burns (second), Maureen McLeod (manager/selector)

Port Natal's men and the Western Province women duly won their respective Perfect Delivery/ Bowls South Africa Open Inter-District Championships 2012 in Johannesburg.

The Johannesburg Bowling Association's (JBA) men took silver; Sables and Eastern Province (EP) won bronze. The women's silver medallists were JBA; Southern Cape and Gauteng North took bronze medals.

In the B interdistricts event hosted by Southern Cape, WP's men won gold, from EP, with JBA and E Gauteng taking bronze medals. The women's gold went to Gauteng North from Sables, with bronze medals for North West and Southern Free State.

Boland's men's seniors won gold, defeating WP in the final, with bronze medals going to Port Natal and Gauteng North.



BOLAND BOYS: Senior gold for: Tommie van Niekerk, Martin van Zyl, Peter Quinn, Dave Buckley, Keith Kruth, Ian Rice, Kobus Kriel, Les Bradley

From the president's desk

Hello fellow bowlers. As you know April is our national awareness month. Last year many clubs worked long and hard, and those who followed up on new bowlers are reaping the benefits. Meanwhile, Cansa and Disability Bowls received R100 000 each from your efforts; please ensure we can do something similar this year. And while it has been suggested money collected for Cansa be handed directly your local CANSAs office, we would like to be notified of each amount in order to publicise the total nationally.

On a different front, clubs should remember the new sponsorship agreement with Warwick and BowlsSA concluded last November last year; it covered most BSA tournaments; don't forget, there's plenty in it for clubs as well.

The new earning structure for clubs results from contracts between Warwick and your club members for all new business signed from January 1; the fee payable quarterly to your club has been increased by 400%! This is summarised as:

1. Investment in one of Warwick's private share portfolios earns your club 0.3% a year of the investment value.
2. Insurance cover; 3% of the premium income.
3. Where members have wills drafted by and use Warwick Trust as executors; 12% of the executor's fee.

Please do your sums and understand how this can impact on club finances.

Warwick has supported bowls for many years; now increase your club's earnings by encouraging members to give support to Warwick in return.

As a proud Warwick client I know their products and services suit bowlers well – particularly the over 50s. And I wish all bowlers well over the holidays in April.

Debra Ferguson
President



Editorial - Is it time to change the inter-districts?

BowlsSA is well aware that facing rising costs, players' time constraints and, therefore, more and more inability to field their best teams, districts are sounding views about maybe a change in face and format of the SA interdistricts.

Careful consideration from all concerned might ensure the event becomes more exciting; more than one manager suggests perhaps making it to the interdistricts via zonal qualification. After a zonal play-off on a round-robin basis at a venue convenient to participating districts, four teams only would contend the coveted title, at a centralised venue, accessible by car from all parts of the country, say Bloemfontein or Kimberley?

No more air fares and a saving in hotel fees – three nights instead of five or six. It's been suggested before, but with travel and accommodation costs about to soar (again), perhaps the time is right?

For a district to have to find R175 000 a year for its teams is too much; notwithstanding that each player pays in R1 000.

Or, maintain the status quo, but introduce a nine-person team format playing fours, trips and pairs?

Another possible saving for districts and BowlsSA might be the scrapping of the Under-19 and Under 25 event (s), instead evolving an Under-40 category; any previous "junior" will surely relish more adult company and participation? A "reserved" spot for a designated number of genuine juniors could be a pre-requisite?

Since more than 68% of all SA bowlers are aged over 60 it is hardly time to "pension off" the seniors. Although, some argue the event has become a glorified consolation event for those "getting on," they pay for themselves anyway.

Comments, ideas – for, or against - to john@bowlssa.co.za or simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za

Inter-district Teams

BOLAND

Men:

A. Stoffel Lambrechts; Bennie van Rensburg; MP Olivier;
Johannes Corbett
B. Mark Beviss-Challinor; Caret v.d Merwe; Bryan Chambers;
Bräsler van Schoor
Manager: Chris de Jager 072 194 7756

Women:

A. Santjie Steyn; Engela Lambrechts; Anneke Snyman;
Ezile Fourie
B. Lucille Herbst; Gladys Bradley; Pam Beer; Lesley Beviss-Challinor

BORDER

Men:

A. Ian van Heerden; Tarquin Ormston; Gerald Fletcher;
Allan Hogan
B. Curtis Smith; Conrad Potgieter; Mark Hensberg;
John Grant ; Manager Arthur Brandt 072 205 0707

Women:

A. Lyn Odendaal; Faith Hayidakis; Lyn Pope; Debie Krull
B. Theresa Ashdown; Heather Boucher; Rose Morton;
Lawrene Boucher;
Manager: Audrey van Zyl 076 897 8394

EASTERN GAUTENG

Men:

A. Tom De Scally; Gerald May; Lance Sayce; Martin Lewis
B. Thinus Oelofse; A Barrow; Cecil Behrens; Pedri de Villiers
Manager— Andy Strong 082 554 9104

Women:

A. Linda Dixon; Jennifer Jones; Kobie Pletschke;
Cherry Ann Mills
B. Ellie van Collier; Engela Gerber; Carrol Glanfield;
Wilma Richardson; Manager: Pam Johnson 083 235 7859

EASTERN PROVINCE

Men:

A. Geoff Gowar; Curt Fischer; Hennie Slabbert; Peter Hufkie
B. Gary Vermaak; Willie Kilian; Nap Erasmus; Dan Thyssen
Manager— Geoff Newcombe 083 371 5569

Women:

A. Barbara Coetzee; Karen Korkie; Sandy Smart;
Lourenza v.d. Merwe
B. Rosa Tunstead; Ann Jarmaine; Wilma McLachlan;
Sherine Booysen
Manager - Coleen Wolff 083 293 1066

GAUTENG NORTH:

Men:

A. Francois Koen; Keith Lambert; Jaco van Graan; Bernardus v.d. Spuy
B. Robin Ashby; Marius Pieterse; Pieter Erasmus; Jonty Rhodes
Manager—Stan Baragwanath 082 799 7985

Women:

A. Loraine Victor; Sue Tarr; Sandy Dreyer; Vicky Frost
B. Louise Wessels, Lizzan Norval; Hanneljie Engelbrecht;
Kati de Vlamingh
Manager — Miems Pretorius 083 302 8077

JOHANNESBURG:

Men:

A. Gerry Baker; Donald Piketh; Jason Evans;
Barry Maitland-Stuart
B. Robert Donnelly; Duanne Abrahams; Gianni Gatti;
Johnnie Pieterse
Manager— Graham McLeod 082 886 5555

Women:

A. Coileen Piketh; Pamela Landau; Tracy-Lee Botha; Charlotte Rossouw
B. Heather Pembroke; Sharon Glenn; Tracy Herrington; Esme Steyn
Manager — Glynnis Harris 082 440 2297

KINGFISHER:

Men:

A. Andre Nel; Louw Vermeulen; Colin Gladwin; Chris Faber
B. Eddie Fann; Ron Weddell; Mark Bischoff; Mark Smith
Manager — Ron Weddell 083 468 4836

Women:

A. Ellen Cawker; Jessica Henderson; Helen Grundlingh; Pamela Cole
Cook
B. Ronita Kalil; Esta Wenzel; Marthie Pringle; Sandy Gladwin

Manager—Jessica Henderson 082 820 1292

KWAZULU NATAL:

Men:

A. Fanus Viviers; Jan Ferreira; Mike Bowman; Leaity Dion
B. Norman Forbes; John Douthwaite; Phillip Scheepers; Jimmy Nel
Manager—John Douthwaite 082 806 7577

Women:

A. Nan Roos; Samantha Shaw; Noela Dreyer; Hannah Gevers
B. Rita Meyer; Alice Howe; Michelle Steele; Ronnell Greeff
Manager—Nan Roos 082 446 9916

LIMPOPO

Men:

A. Christo v.d. Merwe; Peet Jordaan; Neels Theron;
Tjokkie von Straate
B. Ernest du Plessis; Kallie Calitz; Andre Kruger; Shaun O'Connor
Manager — Peet Jordaan 082 518 7260

Women:

A. Venita Beretta; Terry Morgan; Nicky Viljoen; Laureth Otto
B. Hettie Rossouw; Hanlie Coetzee; Carine Engelbregth; Gerda Jordaan
van Zyl Manager - Terry Morgan 082 635 0155

MPUMALANGA:

Men:

A. Dave Rosier; Dylan Mitchell; Tony de Pooter; Cornel von Backstrom
B. Jaco Whiteman; Ben Enslin; Wouter Raath; Shawn Janse van Vuuren
Manager — Henk Hengeveld 082 647 5850

Women:

A. Jeanette Richards; Elize Aschenborne; Martie Janse van Vuuren;
Marlet Ireland
B. Veronica Coertzen; Toekie Botha; Lettie Ambrosius; Henriette
Pearson Manager — Nigel Webb 082 654 8240

NATAL INLAND:

Men:

A. Sid Siebert; Bradley Robinson; Brendan Ainley; James Evertse
B. Neil Robinson; Laylon Howard; Kevin Williams; Keith Harcombe
Manager—Cohn McDougall 072 233 0402

Women:

A. Marinda Opperman; Rene Myklebust; Belinda Nobin; Debbie Nobin
B. Rose Varty; Cynthia McDuling; Zelda Siebert; Gwen Grantham
Manager — Marinda Opperman 082 874 3623

NORTH WEST:

Men:

A. Pierre Breitenbach; Pikkie Abbott; Cohn de Jager; Tinus Crous
B. Piet Breitenbach; Ronnie Palmer; Errol Booth; Allan Kirkland

Women:

A. Corrie Breitenbach; Jilian Booth; Christine Marais; Rene de Jager
B. Rose du Plessis; Connie Brits; Sue Gentz; Brenda Palmer

NORTHERN CAPE:

Men:

A. Brian Bennetto; Wilhelm Malan; Hendrik Boschoff; Coenie Laubscher
B. Dudley Daniels; Malcolm Rule; Danie Koekemoer; Gert Opperman
Manager — Fred Sterrenberg 082 367 0674

Women:

A. Annelie Mathewson; Geraldine Moodaley; Zareta van Zyl; Betta
Haworth
B. Hanna Coetzer; Manda Schoon; Toekie Potgieter; Charmaine Looock
Manager—Mara Coleman 083 730 7768

NORTHERN FREE STATE:

Men:

A. Arra van Niekerk; Chris Swart; Philip Botha; Jan Coetzee
B. Rudi Jacobs; Loffie Cronje; Pine Pienaar; Andus Bester
Manager — Matty Lotter 083 263 0456

Women:

A. Evelyn du Preez; Tracy Jacobs; Umelda Botha; Andrea Cloete
B. Gail Mackay; Marianna du Preez; Carrie Lombard; Janet White
Manager — Evelyn du Preez 082 371 7350

PORT NATAL:

Men:

A. Clinton Inglis; John Connellan; Bruce Makkink;
Clinton Roberts
B. Gideon Vermeulen; Stuart Milligan; Dion Audie;
Wayne Rittmuller
Manager — Ray Le Roux 083 449 2867

Women:

A. Louise Larkin; Glenda Matthews; Bronwyn Webber;
Linda Didlick
B. Jill Buzzard; Lesley Judd; Maria Dreyer; Margaret Migdoll
Manager—Pam Green 082 424 4460

SABLES:

Men:

A. Nick Rusling; Mervyn Lynn (Jnr); Perucatti Neal; JJ Bedford-Owen
B. Theuns Fraser; Theo v.d. Walt; Mike Marnewick; Pieter Briel (Jnr)
Manager—Mervyn Lynn (Snr) 082 854 3185

Women:

A. Rike Lynn; Louise Longmore; Janet Blythe; Ute Smith
B. Susan Nel; Gaylyn Bedford-Owen; Yolandi Simmelink; Nici Neal
Manager - Denise Clarence 082 307 0249

SEDIBENG:

Men:

A. George Lotter; Jonny Peens; Terance Cadwell; Chris Kruyshaar
B. Ian McNaught; Phill Whitton; Sarel Booyens; Fanie Nel
Manager – Sarel Booyens 083 236 4357

Women:

A. Linda Erasmus. Elsie Walker; Kesie Hattingh; Annetjie Nel
B. Sarie Pienaar; Linda Becker; Vicky Slater; Linda Cutler
Manager – Vicky Slater 082 534 4918

SOUTHERNCAPE

Men:

A. Billy Radloff; Truter Willemse; Rudi Venter;
Marthinus Geldenhuys
B. Attie Nortje; Jaco Esterhuysen; Henk Barnard; Christiaan Bekker
Manager – Akker van der Merwe

Women:

A. Elma Davis; Arlene Bosse; Petronella MacRobert; Jenny Raymond
B. Rita Pieterse; Rozanne Rossouw; Jenny Sinclair; Ingrid Thom
Manager—Ingrid Thom 083 380 9523

SOUTHERN FREE STATE

Men:

A. Hertzog Meiring; Roe Wild; Henry Fourie; Vusi Mphale
B. Wayne York; Handré Marais; Freddy Watkins; Jarred Oracki
Manager—Pieter Rossouw 082 776 7768

Women:

A. Niggie Breedt; Lara York; Jeannet Schoitz; Elma Pretorius
B. Brunie Gerber; Carol Grobbelaar; Adri van Niekerk;
Yolandi Watkins
Manager—Mo Britz 083 946 0630

WESTERN PROVINCE:

Men:

A. Kevin Campbell; Peter Harvey; Salvatori Sabatti; Gavern Williams
B. Cornelious Kotze; Adriaan Fourie; John Malan; Schalk Kotze
Manager—Jimmy Morgan 083 765 8541

Women:

A. Rene Swanepoel; Darryl Edwards; Sylvia Burns; Susan McKay-Vloek
B. Louise Roediger; Marina Brink; Anita Groenewald; Antro Whicher
Manager—Maureen McLeod 083 516 1408

Dedicated 'Gippo' earns a deserved all-round brilliance tag



No1 MAN: Port Natal Protea Gippo Vermeulen on the dais in Port Elizabeth with his SA Masters trophy with Warwick director Allen Slee, left and Bowls SA president Debra Ferguson

Picture: Pam Neubert

Few might have imagined that a lively lad who attended a farm school attached to Brandvlei Prison near Worcester in the Western Cape, before developing into a strapping young excellent rugby and cricket player, who also won schools athletics colours, would emerge one day as arguably No 1 ranked lawn bowler in South Africa?

Gidion, "Gippo" to all who know him, Vermeulen, 41, is a handsome, friendly, gentle giant.

And the now mature Pinetown, Durban Geloft Hoërskool matriculant (1988), married to the lovely Charmaine, with a three-year son, Troy is a contented, successful man.

His dedication to his sport is best exemplified by his postponing of his marriage to the understanding and totally supportive school teacher Charmaine, to represent the Proteas in 2003.

"I wanted to be a Springbok rugby player, but injury put paid to that. Still I did earn provincial colours; even took 4/7 in a big

cricket match," he says, along with his familiar smile.

A senior prison officer in Durban, with 24 years' service, Vermeulen, the Warwick/BowlsSA Men's Masters Singles champion, a title earned in an eight-match unbeaten run in Port Elizabeth in February and a Proteas stalwart, was also part of the Port Natal interdistricts champion team in Johannesburg this month.

Now a trip to the six-nation pre-World Bowls tournament in Adelaide, Australia and almost certain selection for the big event later in the year, await this talented player.

Club, district and national titles aplenty since 1998 blossomed into Tri-Nations gold against Australia and England and a coveted Commonwealth Games gold medal in India in 2010 following a bronze four years' earlier; many more matches in Protea colours and a host of medals at major events worldwide.

"Hard work, good advice and great teammates have eased my way up the bowls ladder. I so hope we can rekindle the 1976 (SA won the world title) glory in Australia at World Bowls this year," says Vermeulen.

Able to function with ease in any discipline and any team position makes Gippo a selectors' dream, something likely to continue for some time. Who knows, the Leonard Trophy for world's best team might soon be adorned in green and gold ribbons again?

April Awareness: Remember...be aware!

Although it rained throughout South Africa, BowlsSA's 2011 Awareness Day, April 27, was a great success, creating awareness of bowls. Money was pledged by clubs for charity and more than 450 000 bowls were delivered in a specified hour. Even better returns are expected for this year ... on the same date.

Last season saw:

- Certificates of commendation to prize winners in various categories presented to clubs;
- most bowls delivered: Boksburg: R4 000;
- second most: Beaufort West: R2 000;
- best picture/caption: Pt Edward: R4 000;
- runner-up: Bronkhorstspuit: R1 500;
- 1min video: Port Edward: R4 000;
- best dressed: Strand: R3000
- runner-up: Goodwood: R1 500 and,
- R200 000 shared by Disability Bowls and CANSA.

A deliberate attempt for a number of bowls delivered in a designated hour was lodged with Guinness World Records along with all the forms; their final audit remains outstanding. Unfortunately, record keeping required for the record attempt was complex; several clubs struggled to report accurate information.

Nevertheless, certificates were provided to all who applied and paid for them; queries may be e-mailed to info@barefootbowls.co.za.

As clubs learnt much from last year, they are urged to employ whatever format suits them best this, but it is

essential Barefoot Bowls has feedback of what works well – to improve in 2013.

Details to be returned by May 11 are:

- Community involvement;
- bowlers recruited and,
- Money raised.

In respect of charities, fund raising methods are suggested, but clubs are free to make their own arrangements for the day as they see fit.

1. A spider in aid of Disability Bowls SA
2. Sale CANSA beads and bangles
3. Entrance fee (clubs' choice)
4. 50/50 draws
5. Raffles
6. Local sponsors
7. Clubs' initiatives.

Funds raised through catering and bar sales are for club profit, but those raised under items 1 and 2 go to BowlsSA for the charities; 50% of funds under items 3-7 may be retained.

To assist clubs and to organise activities co-ordinators (Barefoot Bandits) will:

- Ensure club awareness;
- Give posters, CANSA bling to managers at Open Interdistricts;
- Pay collections to Bowls SSA funds and
- Submit feedback by May 11.

Louise grabs her first time chance at SA Masters

Since 2000 platinum blonde fitness fanatic Louise Roediger, a former PE instructor from Strand BC along WP's False Bay coast has been winning medals at every level – lots of them. But in spite of pleas from the media, the WP selectors and nominations from her district, it was only this year in Port Elizabeth she was given a shot at the SA Masters.

She made no mistake. Conquering gale conditions to eclipse the best women players South Africa has to offer, perky Roediger strode to victory, beating world champion Proteas along the way.

It was no fluke.

She explains herself:

"As a typical Virgo, I strive for perfection, set high standards in life and am a loyal friend, but a bitter enemy. My good side will always respond to a cry for help, but another will call a spade a spade. I tend to analyse and will criticise if necessary, but be able to defend and justify.

"I try to lead by example, rather than follow; I strive for a disciplined, balanced lifestyle, creating calm from chaos comes naturally."

Well educated with BA (HED) Stellenbosch (History, Physical Education, Physiology) she has also armed herself with the Satour guide for Cape Town (buses or private) qualification, "sipped" brandy and wine courses, is a qualified volunteer for fire and ambulance, spent 10 years in Johannesburg where she completed courses at or became a first aid lecturer, NOSA (National Occupation Safety Association); emergency medicine training course (100 hrs) through Wits University; full body massage (sport injuries); basic self-defence and firearm training ... enough for 10 people.

But she found time to pay back to the sport she loves and is a Level 1 technical official, completed a selectors' course, is a district coach (Level 2), completed a markers' course and has directed at blind bowlers nationals.

From her home in the Strand Louise regularly uses a walk along the kilometres of available beach to de-stress body, mind and soul; other leisure time is spent with family and friends, TV, reading (sport psychology and celebrities' autobiographies), travelling and browsing.

She has always aimed at South African bowls colours and her dedication and dream remains.



DREAM DEBUT: Louise Roediger (Strand, WP) poses with her Warwick/BowlsSA Women's Masters Singles trophy

Picture: Pam Neubert

"I feel I am good enough now to handle a camp, having been sports-mad since six has been a big part of my life.

Stunning grandmother Louise has three daughters - Lieze-Ann, 33, married with two children, Ziegrid, 30, married and a chartered accountant and Brigitte, 27, assistant brand manager at Spier and a part-time MBA student ... they resemble their mother and ouma.

I let her have the last word:

"I practice mental fitness and psychology rather than always physical training a few days prior to a major tournament or final. This was specifically the case before leaving for Port Elizabeth. When I lost my first game I truly felt disappointed in myself and on behalf of the selectors who select on merit. But after a glass of wine, encouragement from friends and with strong inner mental strength, I refocused on the goal I set myself."

Didn't she just?



Club News

Chiltern Park has fun with Warwick

Chiltern Park, Durban held a successful Valentine's Day event sponsored by Warwick Private Wealth in which 24 mixed teams (two of each with a woman skipping), reports Stuart Milligan. Format was 2 x 10 ends; strength versus strength. With Durban's weather at its best - hot and humid - Faye Miller skipped her side to victory ahead of Olga Bacus and her team. The Warwick team, skipped by Dora Kruger, lost out on a shot count out for second spot to Olga.



CHAMPS: Faye Miller and her winning side at Chiltern Park

Knysna turns on the charm and the goodies

Lovely Knysna BC invited Warwick to sponsor their famous Valentine's Day Tournament; we loved the idea, reports Bill Kilbride. And club president Steve Wright and his committee put on a show worth full marks in any competition. Just peep at the fabulous tables of food and wine that met arriving competitors, never minds the gorgeous ladies wishing us good morning – wow! Warwick have been the proud sponsors in 18 of the 20 districts for 10 years, but never have we witnessed such a splendiferous fare. To be short, the sun blazed all day, the wine sank and the words swam – everyone won a prize.



WOW TIME: The beautiful "welcoming committee" at Knysna

Bright bowls at Stella Park twilight trips

A good entry of 22 sides enjoyed a four-week, two-bowl twilight trips at Stella Park, Durban, reports Stuart Milligan. No rain meant for four Wednesdays only favourable comment. Format was pre-drawn; eight games of seven ends at skins. Warwick's team, skipped by Protea Milligan, led for three weeks, but tripped at the final hurdle. Winners were Wayne Smith, Clive Symonds, Jeff Bolt (Durban Wanderers), followed by John Connellan, Clinton Roberts, Lloyd Watts. Third were Tommy Potgieter, Arthur Canham, George Mitchley; fourth 2011 winners Gordon MacMillan, Mark Ramsden, Rusty Ruwers. Scottish Leader gave session prizes - Wade Marshall and Rene de Reland and teams.



BRIGHT EYES: Trips winners at Stella Park

Super on Sunday at Umhlanga

It truly was super for 24 teams of any combination in the Warwick "Super Sunday" played at Umhlanga, on a hot Durban day. Two games of 10 ends was the order of play and the

only mumbles were about the slow greens, nevertheless, all thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of good bowls and fellowship. Winners were D Yanks, DK Naidoo, M Yogi, C Hartenstein (Umhlanga); session prize went P Corbett, L Allen, J. Harris, G Corbett (Northlands).

Classic tourney at Edgemoed

Sun and wind was the formula for 28 sides at Edgemoed, Cape Town for three days of the Edgemoed Classic, reports Derek Watson.

A new format was introduced for this year which proved popular – a daily three games of 14 ends were played on a seven ends a set basis – points being scored per set. Gary Roach and his team from Goodwood took the lead in the last game of the tournament, beating Neil McKinnon who had led from the start.



HAPPY FACES: Winners at the Edgemoed Classic with the Warwick guys

The event was well organised with much input from president Graeme Kemp, Lionel Verwey and helpers who went the extra mile. Warwick, Scottish Leader and Tony & Chas O'Reilly were

main sponsors; generous prizes were donated by numerous local businesses. Well done Edgemoor; all are looking forward to next year's event.

Not quite ready for pension



ELLEN TOPS: Former world champion, now convenor of national selectors, Ellen Cawker (Kingfisher), poses with her Warwick BowlsSA Masters trophy won in Port Elizabeth. She is flanked by Warwick executive Allen Slee and BowlsSA president Debra Ferguson.

Picture: Brian Kelly



TWICE MIKE: Winner of the SA Masters Seniors gold medal for a second time in three years, Mike Marnewick (Sables) with Warwick MD Allen Slee and BowlsSA president Debra Ferguson

Picture: Brian Kelly

Grass Clippings

By Dr Charles Louw

A few weeks ago I was visiting a club and the greenkeeper (GKP) showed me a bottle of a relatively new growth stimulant (GS) saying that he had been told to apply it to his greens. I suddenly realised that this was not an isolated incident but that on a number of occasions recently GKPs had produced bottles or cartons of GSs which salesmen or agents had suggested they should try on their greens to increase the growth rate.

They were all bio-stimulants (BS) on their own or in combination with other substances.

While not disputing the efficacy of these growth stimulants I do have some questions regarding their usefulness on a bowling green

Question 1: Considering the fact that the GKP is already limiting the amount of growth he wants by controlling the amount of fertilisers (nitrogen) he is applying adding a bio-stimulant might be counter-productive.

Question 2: A good case could be made out for a reduction in the amount of Nitrogen the GKP is applying and then adding a bio-stimulant – especially if the GKP is only using In-organic fertilisers

When a GKP prepares and maintains a bowling surface he has to consider the following: The grass must, at all times, be healthy and the growth rate of the grass must be such that it is:

- Able to repair and replace the plant tissue damaged by the passage of the mowers and players and,
- able to produce some excess CHO to maintain adequate reserves in the roots,

While being mindful of the need to produce a fast green the reduction in leaf area (mowing height and thinning out of the mat) must not restrict the production of carbohydrate (CHO) to a level where there are no CHO reserves.

Note - The GKP must understand that in the same way as increasing the growth rate will use up energy replacing and repairing the damaged plant tissue will, also, use energy.

When a human being has suffered an accident damaged tissue has to be repaired as quickly as possible. This process uses up a lot of energy or "calories" and unless there are sufficient sources of energy available the healing process will not take place. In the same way the repair and defence mechanism of the grass plant uses up a lot of energy to do its work and unless there are large reserves of CHO to meet this demand for energy the plant will suffer and the healing process will come to a halt – hence the importance of maintaining a rate of growth which, also, allows for the storage of CHO.

Until now, the rate of growth has been regulated by the amount of nitrogen the GKP is applying to his green. This can differ from club to club according to the "player count" While the wear and tear from the machines is fairly constant on any green the traffic from the players can vary considerably.

The amount of fertilisers the GKP would require to maintain adequate growth rate at a club where the monthly traffic is 500 players/green/month would be 50% more than that required where the monthly traffic is fewer than 150

For instance, where a club has a low traffic count a low intensity fertiliser programme i.e. 36kg of pure nitrogen/green/year would suffice, while a club with a high traffic count would require a high intensity programme such as 55kg of pure nitrogen.

Once the GKP has settled on his nitrogen requirements the other elements will fall into place proportionally. The GKP will learn from experience how to maintain this balance between the rate at which the grass on his green is being damaged and



JACK'S WORK: Greenkeeper Jack Black holder of a Level One Practical Certificate spreads fertiliser over a green. It is a simplified method using an ordinary garden spray, but effective as it does not block up; a 200l drum is connected to a pump. He is dressed in old clothes to as fertiliser could blow on to him

the rate at which the grass must grow to counter this damage. That is all the growth the GKP wants – no more and no less.

1. Any increase in the growth rate beyond the needs of that green would result in - an increase in the rate of growth of the vertical leaves - an increase in the build up in the mat and a slower green.
2. Any decrease in the growth rate would result in the grass plant being unable to repair the damaged tissue or to provide the CHO necessary to meet the energy needs of the defence mechanism – weak and bare areas will appear on the green.

Basically, when a plant has the appropriate environment and conditions for successful growth, i.e. water, light, air, root room, organic materials within the soil which include nutrition and natural growth factors, the condition is “balanced”, hence the growth is strong, vigorous and healthy and there is no need for a BS.

Under these balanced conditions the disease, stress and wear tolerances of the grass plant are able to cope with most environmental pressures. But – that does not include the demands of the players and members

When we as green keepers succumb to the demands of the players we compromise our knowledge and education to meet their demands for faster greens.

In doing so, we, all too often sacrifice good knowledge and practice to “speed” greens, while encouraging a plant to grow quicker than normal. The natural processes within the plant are severely disrupted.

In the management of a bowling green “speeding” the green would be associated with a reduction of leaf area and, therefore, a reduction in the photosynthetic capability of the grass plant to a level where all the CHO produced is used immediately and none left to build up the reserves and none available to provide the necessary energy to cope with any stimulation of the plant. Stimulation of growth will fail unless adequate provision has been made for a regular supply of CHO to cope with the demand.

Quotation from A, J Sturgeon: “While excessively close mowing for the sake of speed will reduce the CHO reserves any

attempts to stimulate the growth rate, can also exhaust all the CHO reserves so that the grass plant is solely dependent on the photosynthetically produced CHO coming from the few existing leaves which might not be enough to sustain basic growth. It is most important to remember that whether the GKP uses Nitrogen or a Bio-Stimulant to stimulate growth the grass will only respond if there are adequate CHO reserves at the time.

So, what are growth regulators? The significance of plant growth stimulants (GSs) was recognised as early as 1932. The application of these compounds to sports turf management was, and still is to some degree, fairly limited. The upturn in their present day usage has been promoted by major chemical companies worldwide using the recent switch away from in-organic fertilisers to slot in the use of GRs.

BIOSTIMULANTS

Biostimulants, often used in plural form, is a broad term that literally means a group of ingredients that stimulate life. It could also be interpreted as a group of compounds that promote favourable plant responses. There are many bio-stimulants on the market. With proper use, some may enhance turf stress tolerance and quality. Others do not. The question that arises is, which ones do and which ones don't?

Many important benefits of biostimulants are rooted in their ability to influence hormonal activity. In the same way that Hormones control most of the important functions in the human body so do hormones in the grass plant regulate normal plant development as well as responses to environmental stress. The following are some of the major categories of plant hormones.

HORMONES

Cytokines These hormones are responsible for the formation of roots and buds. They tend to counteract the effects of aging and stress in plants.

Auxins Hormones in this group produce several growth effects in plants, especially cell enlargement causing root and shoot elongation in plants. Indoleacetic acid (IAA) is perhaps the best-known auxin.

Gibberellic acid (GA). GA is another growth promoter known for producing elongation in plants..

Abcisic acid (ABA) ABA induces or prolongs dormancy in plants

The balance of the various hormones within a plant is a complex interaction that controls its overall growth and development. Thus, materials that alter the hormonal status of a plant can exert large influences over its growth and health.

BIOSIMULANTS

Although biostimulants can be synthetic chemicals, naturally occurring organic materials are excellent sources of biostimulants. For example, humic acid and seaweed extract are two commonly used turf biostimulants.

Seaweed: A form of seaweed, kelp is produced in the ocean and is totally organic. It contains various hormones, vitamins, amino acids, elements of nitrogen, phosphorous, sulphur, and potassium and other components. Thus, it may affect plants in

several ways. However, its stimulating influence—particularly for turf grasses growing under environmental stresses has been attributed to its hormonal activity, especially that of cytokines and auxins. These plant growth hormones, required in small quantities are essential for cell division and cell elongation - basic functions of plant growth

The organic substance boosts health in plants and increases their capacity to withstand the outdoor elements. The seaweed also aids in lowering a plant's vulnerability to diseases and attacks from infectious insects.

Even the sugar content in plants is improved. After the roots have developed the Kelp fertilizer acts as an agent that slows down the ageing process, and hence, allows the plants to live longer. In addition, it helps increase mineral uptake from soil into plant leaves.

As well as directly helping plants to grow, kelp's high levels of carbohydrates and other micro-nutrients nourish microorganisms in the soil. These organisms improve the quality of the soil, allowing it to hold more water. They also help to protect plants from disease and play an active role in breaking down organic matter, releasing more nutrients into the soil in the process.

The immediate benefit obtained from Kelp can be attributed to the release of auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins. Soil organic matter and associated soil algae, bacteria and fungi play an important role in soil fertility and plant nutrient uptake. The application of kelp meal acts as a soil conditioner by stimulating microbial activity. Good soil structure improves aeration, available moisture and makes the soil more workable. The repeated use of kelp meal helps maintain soil fertility and structure that would otherwise be depleted through the utilization of nutrients by plants.

Kelp meal also has a high concentration of organic matter. The ability of kelp meal to supply this organic matter, readily available chelated nutrients, and soil conditioning properties make it a valuable addition to any fertilizer mix.

Humic Acid has received increasing attention in recent years. Humic substances are naturally occurring organic materials derived from biological sources (i.e. decomposed organic matter). They typically are mixtures of several types of chemical compounds, including humic acids, fulvic acids and humins. Leonardite and peat are good sources of humic acids.

Scientists were exploring the benefits of naturally occurring soil humic acid on plants as far back as the 1940s and '50s. In the '70s, researchers found that humic substances exhibited auxin-like activity and chelation properties (chelation of micro-nutrients, such as iron, aids plant uptake and utilization).

Humic acid increases root initiation, nutrient uptake, chlorophyll content and photosynthesis. The net result is higher growth-hormone levels, which promote more growth.

Amino acids are building blocks for proteins and enzymes. Benzyladenine is a highly active synthetic cytokinin which regulates plant metabolism, increases or maintains photosynthetic rates and delays leaf senescence.

Propiconazole is a triazole fungicide (Novartis' Banner Maxx) with growth regulatory properties.

Salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin, seems to improve

plant resistance to disease and environmental stresses. Silicate is not usually listed among the generally essential elements, but it has been shown to enhance plant growth and metabolism, and improves plant resistance to various stresses. All the biostimulants mentioned above, including amino acid products and silicates, promote turf grass activity and enhance stress tolerance. Many other products are available that incorporate these or other ingredients, seaweed extract and humic acids being among the most frequently used.

Most biostimulants are formulated as liquid products (except salicylic acid, which is a powder). Treatments, therefore, consist of conventional spray applications—diluted in water. When the plants become stressed, however, biostimulant-treated turf grasses perform better because they have developed a better defense system.

Almost all the Bio-stimulants on the market at present contain Kelp or Humic acid with amino-acids included in the humic acid compounds.

They are all effective. The only question is, whether we need them or not?

A diligent GKP, maintaining a more than adequate leaf area and root depth and who includes organic fertilisers in his programme and anticipates environmental summer stress, would hardly need the basic protection of the biostimulants.

An ordinary GKP who had been using in-organic fertilisers only would probably sleep better at night if he regularly included a product such as kelp (or other seaweed equivalent) or one of the Humic acid compounds in his fertiliser programme and was able to reduce the dependence on in-organics.

SUMMER STRESS

I wonder how many GKPs made provision for the possibility that we might be experiencing a stressful summer. There were many parts of the RSA where regular rain eased the pressure of the intense heat but there were parts where no rain fell in January. It was in these parts where the effects of summer stress became more apparent.

There can be little doubt that increasing the leaf area and desisting from the application of inorganic fertilisers in January would carry the grass plant through this stressful period. Small regular applications of Kelp or a similar seaweed compound would suffice in terms of any stimulation the plant needs without putting any strain on the CHO reserves.

CONCLUSIONS

While there is a place for stimulating growth on a bowling green our needs cannot be compared with those of a soccer field around the goal mouth or the area close to the sidelines of a rugby field where the line-outs occur. All that is required of a GKP in bowls is that he should, at all times, attempt to retain the balance between the rate at which his CHO reserves are being converted into energy and the rate at which he is able to produce sufficient CHO to maintain those reserves at the required level.



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Protea teams named for Oz tourney

Two Protea bowls teams to contest a Six Nation International in Adelaide, Australia from May 15-20 have been announced by Bowls South Africa. Teams taking part are: Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa.

Sides:

Women: Tracy-Lee Botha (Johannesburg Bowling Association), Helen

Grundlingh (Port Natal) Susan Nel (Sables), Colleen Piketh (JBA) Esmé Steyn (JBA) Santjie Steyn (Boland).

Men: Gerry Baker (JBA), Pierre Breitenbach (NW), Bobby Donnelly (JBA), Wayne Perry (S Free State) Clinton Roets (S Free State), Gidion Vermeulen (Port Natal). Manager: Ron Weddell (Bowls SA); Coaches: Theuns Fraser, Jessica Henderson.

Bowls SA Roundup

2012 AGM and workshop news

The workshop and AGM are at BowlsSA's HQ in Dunkeld West (formally Rosebank Bowling Club) on Saturday and Sunday August 25/26 at 10h30. Districts are invited to nominate candidates executive.

Relevant clauses: Six persons; no more than two from one club; a person may be nominated for president. Vice-president and executive, but elected to only one; nominees for president must have served at least two years on the current executive; for vice-president, one (1) year; presidential term is no longer than three consecutive years; nominations must be with BowlsSA 90 days before the AGM (May 27).

Incumbents available, for president: Allan Freeman, vice-president: Kallie Haupt and Ron Weddell; executive: Isabel Smith and Ron Weddell. Sergio Martinengo has retired. Any motions to be moved must be submitted in full and exact also within 90 days

Gone but not forgotten

- Legend Edgar Davey, who served bowls with distinction for many years and remembered as a Springbok from 1968, died last month.
- Fred Downing, who served bowls for many years with distinction, has died in Cape Town. His expertise on The National Standing Committee: Greenkeepers will be sadly missed.
- Attie Hoffman, who served as an executive Member of The South African Bowling Association and as president of Cape Country Bowls, an honorary life member of Bowls Southern, has

also passed.

- Paul Moriarty, who served on the BowlsSA executive as vice-president, then president in the early 1990s, has died. His contribution to our sport is respected and appreciated.

Condolences to all families.

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.

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

Bowls blog

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

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