

Baker back in green and gold for African States

The bold and the beautiful comprise Protea selections for the biennial African States Tournament in Nairobi, Kenya from August 19-24. Of those who played in 2017 winning overall gold at Edenvale in the event, Wayne Rittmuller (PN) and three women, Esmé Kruger (GN), Vicky Frost (Sables) and Bronwyn Webber (PN) remain.

Traditionally, South Africa wins most of the gold medals at this event, but the opposition has gradually improved and Namibia, the hosts, Zimbabwe and Botswana pose real threats to the Proteas' dominance.

Veteran leftie Gerry Baker makes a re-appearance in green and gold after sitting out the Atlantic Championships at Cardiff. He will skip pairs with his JBA interdistricts team mate Martin Lewis and also play singles.

Rika Lynn (Sables) is back big time after producing two children and will have the talented Kruger who won two medals in Cardiff, to assist in fours in trips.

The team overall has both the skill and experience to again win overall golds.

"This event provides vital international experience for our Gold Squad players. It is a blend of seasoned and up-and-coming players, I look forward to watching their progress as senior members of our international squads," said Bold SA president, Rob Forbes.

Men: Fours: Thinus Oelofse (EKH), Wayne Rittmuller (PN), Prince Neluonde (JBA), Martin Lewis (JBA); **Trips:** Oelofse, Rittmuller, Neluonde, **Pairs:** Gerry Baker (JBA), Lewis; **Singles:** Baker.

Women: Fours: Rika Lynn (SAB), Esmé Kruger (BGN), Vicky Frost (BGN), Bridget Calitz (SAB); **Trips:** Lynn, Kruger, Calitz; **Pairs:** Bronwyn Webber (PNB), Frost; **Singles:** Webber. **Support Staff:** Jessica Henderson (head coach), Susan Nel.

Alan Simmonds, media officer, Bowls South Africa