



# in the news

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# SA PROTEAS QUALIFY FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



**BRONZE LADIES:** Coach/manager Jessica Henderson (Kingfisher) is flanked by the bronze medallist fours; from left, Susan Nel, skip, Anneke Snyman, second, Nici Neal, third, Sylvia Burns, lead

South Africa's Protea women stamped their authority over the world in every discipline in the prelims of the Atlantic Championships, winning three and being runner-up in each. They were to end up a narrow second overall behind a rampant England, but gold and two bronze medals is testimony to their skills and determination.

Competing to also try to qualify in each discipline for their nations at this year's world championship at Christchurch, New Zealand were: Argentina, Cyprus, England, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Jersey, Kenya, Namibia, Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Wales and Zimbabwe.

The SA women played 30 prelim matches in the four disciplines, won 26, peeled one and lost only three. No gongs from the singles (a

quarter-final defeat to Guernsey was somewhat unexpected), but that is sport – sometimes one has to accept opponents may also play well.

The men went close; more of that later. Pre-tournament favourites to show to good effect, they played well enough, but sometimes only in snatches. Vital matches were lost at critical times and the national selectors will, no doubt, be busy back at their drawing boards. No medals seemed inconceivable for a side which has dominated at World Bowls and Commonwealth Games in the last two years.

But although that seems doom and gloom, it was not. In sectional play, an odd shot here, a measure there and a different mathematical result somewhere else might

have made all the difference. For the men a quarter-final fours spot before exiting, fifth in the singles when, had the last round been won, third spot was assured and two shot difference fourths in pairs and trips shows him slim is the gap between grimace and glory.

In reality, the object was to qualify for World Bowls and in that respect it was target fully reached. The women, of course were all but peerless; the tenacity and BMT of the men saw them grab priceless places for the major show-down.

Overall men's team title went to Scotland with South Africa 4th; the women's team title to England with South Africa two points adrift.

It is easy to wince at Colleen Webb Piketh's loss to Guernsey in a hard-fought quarter-final singles clash, but the SA lady, who with Nici Neal, silver medallist at the World Champion of Champions, had won the pairs unbeaten,



**GOLDEN GIRLS:** Nici Neal, left and Colleen Webb Piketh after winning gold in the women's pairs

# ATLANTIC MEDALLISTS

## Pairs - Women:

Quarter-Finals: Cyprus 16, Jersey 8; England 24;  
Semi-Finals: Cyprus 17, Scotland 14; **South Africa (Nici Neal-Colleen Webb Piketh) 27**,  
England 16; Final: **South Africa 21**, Cyprus 10.

**SA gold**, Cyprus silver, Scotland, England bronze

## Men:

Quarter-Finals: England 15, Spain 14; Israel 17,  
Jersey 13; Semi-Finals: Scotland 19, England 13;  
Ireland 20, Israel 7; Final: Ireland 18, Scotland  
12. Ireland gold, Scotland silver, England, Israel  
bronze

## Trips - Women:

Quarter-Finals: Ireland 13, Wales 11; SA 29,  
Namibia 10; Semi-Finals Ireland 16, Scotland 15;  
**South Africa (Susan Neal, Anneke Snyman,  
Sylvia Burns) 11**, England 31; Final: Ireland 19,  
England 13. Ireland gold, England silver, **South  
Africa**, Scotland, bronze

## Men:

Quarter-Finals: Wales 20, Spain 13; Ireland 21,  
Jersey 6; Semi-Finals: Wales 18, England 15;  
Scotland 15, Ireland 14; Final: Scotland 17,  
Wales 14. Scotland gold, Wales silver, England,  
Ireland bronze

**NB: South Africa's men finished 4th in their  
section in both disciplines, (Rudi Jacobs/ Jason  
Evans) & Gerry Baker, Pierre Breitenbach,  
Prince Neluonde) losing a play-off spot on shot  
difference in each case.**

## FOURS - Women:

Semi-Finals: Bex Craig, Lorraine Malloy, Stacey  
McDougall, Claire Johnston (Scotland) bt Bex  
Wigfield, Jamie-Lea Winch, Wendy King, Ellen  
Falkner (England) 16-11; Laura Daniels, Jess  
Sims, Kath Pearce, Anwen Butten (Wales) bt  
**Anneke Snyman, Sylvia Burns, Nici Neal, Susan  
Nel (South Africa) 18-9**. Final: Scotland bt  
Wales 18-14.

## Men:

Semi-Finals: Stewart Anderson, Neil Speirs, Paul  
Foster, Alex Marshall (Scotland) bt Ross Owen,  
Paul Taylor, Kevin James, Steve Harris (Wales)  
14-12; Greg Davis, Scott Ruderham, Cyril  
Renouf, Gus Hodgetts (Jersey) bt Aaron Tennant,  
Neil Mulholland, Ian McClure, Marty McHugh  
(Ireland) 16-14. Final: Jersey bt Scotland 15-14.

**NB: SA (Gerry Baker, Pierre Breitenbach, Jason  
Evans, Prince Neluonde), lost to Scotland 18-13  
in a quarter-final clash**

## SINGLES - Women:

Semi-Finals: Catherine Beattie (Ireland) bt Lucy  
Beere (Guernsey) 21-13; Saskia Schaft  
(Netherlands) bt Sophie Tolchard (England) 21-  
12. Final: Catherine Beattie (Ireland) bt Saskia  
Schaft (Netherlands) 21-10.

**NB: Quarter-Final match: Colleen Webb Piketh  
lost 21-15 to (Lucy Beere) Guernsey**

## Men:

Semi-Finals: Jamie Walker (England) bt Todd  
Priaux (Guernsey) 21-18; Darren Burnett  
(Scotland) bt Gary Kelly (Ireland) 21-13. Final:  
Jamie Walker (Eng) bt Darren Burnett (Scot) 21-  
15.

**NB: SA's Rudi Jacobs missed a play-off spot on  
shot difference**

might have been a little tired from physical and emotional pressures. Indeed in the prelims the quadruple South African Masters champion lost only one game and was pipped for section top spot by a bravura performance from England's Sophie Tolchard – who also lost, just as unexpectedly, to Netherlands, in a semi-final.

Neal and Piketh's unblemished pairs run is a thing of rarity at this level – they cannot be applauded too highly for a sensational performance in firstly a tough section and then in the play-offs where they were hardly challenged.

For 20-something Anneke Snyman, product of a Bredasdorp in Boland, to win two bronze medals on full international debut says a lot for this bonny young woman who faces a certain future – great success. She is a precocious talent showing to good effect. Her almost meteoric rise though the ranks have seen her justify all fervently expect.

Fours and trips skip Susan Nel, "Mrs Go-To" for the SA selectors, demonstrated the simple way is best. Good skills, good sense, good temperament are a leader's hallmarks; Nel has it in spades. She nursed, cajoled and led the side by example. Her third in fours, Neal again showed top skills and courage, especially after a magnificent silver medal at the Champions of Champions event in New Zealand a scant two weeks earlier; Snyman provided verve and reliability and tiny Sylvia Burns, an accident risk in a strong wind, along with the others, played lead for her life; they all thoroughly deserved their medals.

Bowls South Africa's freshly-inducted president, Kallie Haupt, at his first major event in that office, waxed lyrical, as well he might:

"Amazing, it was just an amazing display, especially from our five world class ladies. The men, far from their best, did what they had to, but the Protea women were superb.

"Now we can plan for New Zealand. An exhaustive programme of camps, training, fitness plus the selectors' eyes will combine to ensure our sides for Christchurch confirm the standard to where South African bowls has elevated itself. We'll be a major threat to the seemingly all-conquering Australians and the excellent other nations at world level."

What, then of the men in Cyprus.



**OLÉ SA: Discussion time at the head in the men's fours. SA went on to beat Spain in this match – Prince Neluonde's green bowl is lying shot**

After 20 years at the top, is Gerry Baker, "leftie" to those who know him, nearing the end of a glittering international career? Are there others, even unknowns, who might be considered for Kiwi-land?

I was not there, cannot fairly comment, no doubt head coach Theuns Fraser will have some answer, but as usual, he'll keep thing close to his chest. Assistant coach and indefatigable, tough-talking manager, Jessica Henderson, is obviously delighted with her "charges" – she and the Protea ladies enjoy a strong bond.

Finally, as a journalist 10 000 miles from Cyprus it might have been difficult for me to meet South African newspapers' varied deadlines. It was not.

Thanks to an incredible service from bowls-writing doyen, David Rhys-Jones, employed by World Bowls to provide coverage, results, pictures and news arrived on time and as impeccably as ever from this wonderful journalist. Thanks to all involved in organisation in that area.

**Alan Peter Simmonds,  
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa**

## ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Countries to have qualified for next year's World Bowls in New Zealand by finishing in the top five in their groups:

### MEN -

**Singles:** England, Ireland, Spain, Jersey, Israel, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Cyprus, South Africa.

**Fours:** Wales, Scotland, Jersey, England, Guernsey, Ireland, Zimbabwe, Israel, South Africa, Cyprus.

**Pairs:** Scotland, Spain, England, South Africa,

Cyprus, Ireland, Jersey, Israel, Wales, Guernsey. **Triples:** England, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Wales, Jersey, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Guernsey.

### WOMEN -

**Singles:** Ireland, England, Wales, South Africa, Guernsey, Netherlands, Scotland, Zimbabwe, Jersey, Israel.

**Fours:** England, South Africa, Wales, Scotland, Turkey, Ireland, Israel, Namibia, Cyprus, Guernsey.

**Pairs:** Scotland, South Africa, Cyprus, Wales, England, Jersey, Netherlands, Ireland, Israel, Spain;

**Triples:** Scotland, England, Wales, South Africa, Namibia, Ireland, Spain, Cyprus, Jersey, Zimbabwe.

NB: Other qualifiers will be added from the Pacific Championships (see article this newsletter), played at Christchurch, New Zealand simultaneously with the Atlantic event.

Info: BILL FOWLIE, New Zealand



### PONDER TIME:

**Jason Evans (JBA) & Rudi Jacobs (NW)**

South Africa's Proteas, who have dominated World, Commonwealth and African continent internationals in 18 months' of success, have already turned eyes to World Bowls in Christchurch, New Zealand from November 29-December 11; the annual blue riband Masters is an obvious springboard.

The annual Warwick Wealth/Bowls South Africa SA Masters Open Singles Men's and Women's champions and runners-up return to the fray again at The Wanderers BC, Johannesburg from February 12-14, for the eagerly-awaited 2016 event in fields bursting with talent. There are also plenty on the fringe who might seize an opportunity for glory.

The elite Gold Squad and other top players, Seniors and Juniors alike will provide a feast of great spectator enjoyment. Focus will swivel also to several players barely out of their teens who have burst on to the scene.

Sixteen men and women comprise the Open event; fields of 12 make up Senior and Junior clashes. Many previous champions will be on view.

Says Bowls SA president, Kallie Haupt: "Each year this superb championship produces better and better competition. I was privileged to watch our Proteas in Zambia and Cyprus – they are truly world class. And with development and transformation in full swing, Bowls SA is proud to show the nation's sports lovers top class players

# TALENT OOZING FROM WARWICK MASTERS FIELDS

in every category. We and our fantastic long-time sponsor Warwick Wealth believe we are heading in the right direction to fulfilling our goal to truly make bowls the game for all."

Men's holder, Rudi Jacobs (North West; also SA Singles champion) and the man who lost only in the final, George Lotter (Sedibeng), renew rivalry; the graceful, superb women's titleholder, Esmé Haley (née Steyn) and the brilliant Colleen Piketh, both of Johannesburg Bowling Association head an impressive field.

Leftie Gerry Baker (JBA) seeks a record sixth

Masters title; Webb Piketh a fifth and Tracy Lee Botha (JBA) a fourth before her 27th birthday.

Boland's 21-year-old prodigy Anneke Snyman (Boland), a bronze medallist last year, who superbly debuted as a full Protea at the Atlantic Championships at Paphos, Cyprus this November-December and last year's Junior Men's winner Scott Elliot (NC), 24, now in the top event, seek even more fans.

Don't miss it if you are in Johannesburg at the time – a weekend to remember.

**Alan Peter Simmonds**  
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa

### Players selected for the Warwick Wealth/Bowls SA Masters Singles Championships:

**OPEN MEN** - Brendan Ainley (NIBA); Gerry Baker (JBA); Pierre Breitenbach (NW) Stephan de Jager (BOL); Bobby Donnelly (JBA); Jason Evans (JBA); Scott Elliott (NC); Rudi Jacobs (holder, NW); George Lotter (SED); Morgan Muvhango (SBA); Prince Neluonde (JBA); Thinus Oelofse (EKB); Wayne Perry (JBA); Clinton Roets (SFS); Nicholas Rusling (WPBA); Gidion Vermeulen (PNB).

**OPEN WOMEN** - Tracy-Lee Botha (JBA); Elma Davis (EDB); Esmé Haley (holder, JBA); Jacqui Janse van Rensburg (JBA); Karen Korkie (EPB) Esmé Kruger (BGN); Tracy Meyerdricks (JBA); Nici Neal (SBA); Susan Nel (SBA); Ashleigh Parks (JBA); Colleen Piketh (JBA); Nan Roos (KZN); Charlotte Rossouw (JBA); Anneke Snyman (BOL); Maggie van Zyl (WPBA); Bronwyn Webber (PNB).

**SENIOR MEN** - Kevin Campbell (WPBA); Theuns Fraser (holder, KZN); Eddie Fann (KBA); Geoff Gowar (EPB); Laylon Howard (NIBA); Tommy Jamie (BGN); Willie Kilian (EPB); Lewis Klopper (JBA); Ray Wilson (JBA); Mike Marnewick (SBA); Ryk Neethling (SFS); Bernardus van der Spuy (BGN).

**SENIOR WOMEN** - Arlene Bosse (EDB); Marina Brink (WPBA); Ellen Cawker (KBA); Cathy Dryburgh (JBA); Sharon Glenn (JBA); Lynne Marnewick (SBA); Maureen Muller (KBA); Jenny Raymond (EDB); Jenny Smith (JBA); Ellie van Coller (EKB); Loraine Victor (holder, BGN); Trish Young (WPBA).

**JUNIOR MEN** - Brendan Bakkes (SFS); Cecil Bornman (BGN); Stephanus Botha (NWB); Wilson Malobolo (SBA); Andrew Marshall (EKB); Charles Mathewson (NC); Tarquin Ormston (BORr); Jarryd Ramsden (PNB); Corrie Tagg (SBA); Chad Wakeford (BOR); Rowan Watkins (SFS); Paul White (PNB).

**JUNIOR WOMEN** - Bridget Calitz (LIM); Jackie Rabie (EDB); Ezile Fourie (BOL); Lavona Gordon (WP); Bronlynn Jumat (EDB); Cicile Krige (SFS); Rienie Lucas (BGN); Kimberley du Preez (SBA); Shimanda Nepgen (EKB); Aimée Schnetler (KZN); Carmen Taljaard (Gauteng N); Roxanne Tingle (JBA).



## MASTERS FINALS LIVE ON TV

Stream It 360 TV will feature the finals of the Warwick Wealth/ Bowls South Africa finals live on Sunday afternoon via You-Tube and the Bowls SA website – with experienced anchor Mike Dunk (he chairs weekly Game, Set and Match) at the helm – also a member at Modderfontein BC.

[www.streamit360.tv](http://www.streamit360.tv)

See [www.bowlsa.co.za](http://www.bowlsa.co.za) for final details.

# JACKEROOS 'HOP OVER MOST' AT ASIA PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Jackaroos took home a swag of gold, silver and bronze medals to Australian shores from the Asia Pacific Championships, as the event's most dominant nation. They wrapped up their campaign at Christchurch, New Zealand after 12 days of competition, to finish with four gold, two silver and two bronze.

They did not have to win to qualify, as World Cup holders they were certain of a place at World Bowls 2016.

When international veterans Kelsey Cottrell and Karen Murphy claimed a second medallion of the golden variety from the tournament, with a 16-11 victory over Malaysia's renowned combatants Emma Saroji and Siti Zalina Ahmad it proved the catalyst for the green and gold nation winning the women's overall trophy.



**OZ POWER:** The triumphant Australian sides at the Pacific Champs

downgraded to silver in the fours, while Pearse and Rice took a bronze from the pairs, as did Ruediger, Casey and Sherriff from the triples discipline.

Bowls Australia congratulated National Coach Steve Glasson, the high performance staff and the Australian Jackaroos for their successful campaign.



**WINNERS:**  
**Karen Murphy & Aron Sherriff**

Australia's men's fours team of Wayne Ruediger, Ray Pearse, Nathan Rice and Mark Casey were relegated to silver in the last of the nation's six finals matches, losing to New Zealand 16-14, which ultimately saw the Blackjacks secure the men's overall trophy.

The Australians finished with four gold, two silver and two bronze medals from the eight disciplines on offer at the 19-nation World Bowls Championships qualifier event, a better outcome than the two gold, five silver and one bronze produced at their previous effort in 2011.

The result holds the Jackaroos and the Bowls Australia high performance team in good stead 12 months out from the World Bowls Championships, particularly if their last attempt is anything to go by, where Australia captured five gold and two silver medals in 2012.

Australia's women : similar to South Africa's way away in Cyprus : were undoubtedly their nation's top achievers, with their three gold coming from Murphy in the singles, Cottrell and Murphy in the pairs, Carla Odgers, Cottrell, Anne Johns and Natasha Scott in the fours; Odgers, Johns and Scott also took silver in the triples.

Aron Sherriff made it an Aussie double in the coveted blue-ribbon singles discipline, but was the only male to conclude the event with a highly sought-after golden coloured medal around his neck, with Ruediger, Pearse, Rice and Casey

## FINAL RESULTS:

**Women's Singles:** Karen Murphy (Australia) bt Carmen Anderson (Norfolk Island) **21-14**

**Women's Pairs:** Australia (Kelsey Cottrell, Karen Murphy) bt Malaysia (Emma Saroji, Siti Zalina Ahmad) **16-11**

**Women's Triples:** Philippines (Hazel Jaconoy, Ronalyn Greenlees, Rosita Bradborn) bt Australia (Carla Odgers, Anne Johns, Natasha Scott) **17-16**

**Women's Fours:** Australia (Carla Odgers, Kelsey Cottrell, Anne Johns, Natasha Scott) bt USA (Candy DeFazio, Anne Nunes, Janice Bell, Myra Wood) **28-7**

**Men's Singles:** Aron Sherriff (Australia) bt Mike Kernaghan (New Zealand) **21-12**

**Men's Pairs:** Canada (Steve Santana, Ryan Bester) bt Malaysia (Hizlee Rais, Fairul Muin) **18-12**

**Men's Triples:** New Zealand (Mike Nagy, Andrew Kelly, Paul Girdler) bt Japan (Hank Sato, Ken Emura, Kenta Hasebe) **24-16**

**Men's Fours:** New Zealand (Mike Nagy, Andrew Kelly, Shannon McIlroy, Paul Girdler) bt Australia (Wayne Ruediger, Ray Pearse, Nathan Rice, Mark Casey) **16-14**

*Finals information courtesy of Aiden Davies, Bowls Australia; plus a huge thanks to David Allen, editor of Inside Bowls for providing daily results and pictures.*

## KIWI QUALIFIERS ASIA PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



**MEN - Singles:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island

**Fours:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Singapore, USA

**Pairs:** Australia, Canada, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Singapore, USA

**Triples:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, USA

**WOMEN -Singles:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Cook Islands, Fiji, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Philippines, USA

**Fours:** Australia, Canada, Fiji, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Philippines, USA

**Pairs:** Australia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Philippines, Singapore

**Triples:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Philippines, USA

# CHINS UP FOR A DIFFICULT YEAR AHEAD

Firstly, Happy New Year to all in what will be a year of challenges. Emphasis will be on the growth of bowls; each in our own time can make a difference. Are you ready?

Your executive has now for some time been erroneously and unfairly criticised in an independent newsletter, creating a negative image of administration. A comprehensive reply from the executive putting matters in perspective may be read in this newsletter; it has been circulated to all clubs and districts and is available on our website.

This month's Warwick Wealth/SA Masters offers a pathway for those selected to exhibit their skills at top domestic level. To all invited - a successful tournament.

Great news is that live television streaming of this event, probably on YouTube will for the first time take place - more details may be read elsewhere in this issue

The zonal camps form part of a long-term strategy to identify and predict future performance. National and district selectors are working together, but the onus is on districts to name promising players to an allocated national selector so they might be identified and selected for a camp.

Congratulations to our men and women Proteas who qualified at the Atlantic Championships in all disciplines for the World Championships in New Zealand later this year. Susan Nel, Colleen Piketh, Nici Neal, Anneke Snyman and Sylvia Burns heroics may be read elsewhere in this newsletter, but a good showing all round.

A difficult 2016 for South Africa is forecast with skyrocketing food prices and an unstable financial environment. This will naturally affect all of us. It is my wish every one finds an escape route from their worries by being actively involved at their club, enjoys the fellowship of colleagues and each bowl finds the target; Happy Bowling.

**Kallie Haupt - President, Bowls South Africa**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

# SENSATIONALISM VS TRUTH

**The Oxford Dictionary defines sensationalism as: *The presentation of stories in a way that is intended to provoke public interest or excitement, at the expense of accuracy.***

An independent bowls newsletter **Ditchweight** has in its publication sought to sensationalise certain matters in order to create negative opinion about those involved in the administration of the sport.

Regretfully this sensationalism often comes at the expense of providing readers with the truth.

To put matters in perspective examples of this need to be observed:

A headline sentence in the edition of October 2015 greets readers with 'Misappropriation of funds'.

How dramatic, a statement with implication of impropriety by the executive of Bowls SA. The substance to this goes around taking wives with to a meeting in Cape Town the so-called Bosberaad.

Here are the facts.

### BOSBERAAD COSTS

1. This practice has been in place over a number of years and is well known to many. To suggest this was done surreptitiously is nothing more than seeking sensationalism. The motivation behind it is a simple gesture of recognition for the partners of executive members for the support role they play.

2. The costs for this form part of the annual budget which is presented to and approved by council. It is not, as implied, "hidden away."

3. The costs, as are all our other income and expenditure items, subject to inspection and verification by a firm of registered auditors who have found no evidence of impropriety or misappropriation of funds as alleged.

4. It's ironic in his charges of reckless spending of members' fees the author makes no mention of the honorary service members of the executive give. The executive neither seek nor indeed expect compensation and commit their services, as do all other voluntary office bearers, in the best interest of the sport. To be continually vilified as having no regard for the financial well-being of the organisation does not reflect in the cumulative good governance and healthy financial statements achieved over decades.

### IVORY TOWER OR WHITE HOUSE?

In the November issue the editor of Ditchweight posted photos of two offices. The sole object was an underhand creation of a visual impression of opulence in support of his exorbitant spending allegation.

What he doesn't tell his readers is that the first picture (below) is a 180m<sup>2</sup> property, whereas for all its appearances of grandeur within the

walls of the second picture (below) is an office of 104m<sup>2</sup>.



What he doesn't tell you is that the office space in the first picture was under threat for unpaid bills by the lessor and a move by the landlord to renegotiate the lease in favour of an education facility.

The implication, falsely created, is that a move was made to the office space shown in the second building based on the lie suggesting need for a more opulent premise.

Reality is the decision was taken to secure tenure for the BSA office - only after investigating options and costs. This decision

# SENSATIONALISM VS TRUTH... CONT

was made after a full investigation, not at a whim of as suggested.

A question that requires answering is to what extent is the executive empowered? The BSA constitution requires the executive to manage affairs within the confines of an approved budget.

## BACK-DATING IS LEGAL

In the December issue the editor put forth the following:

"...I just have to share with you what I experienced recently. In the light of BowlsSA Executive Rob Forbes stating at the special General meeting of BowlsSA's Council recently with the Allen Gordon fiasco, that back-dating documents are legal and common acceptable practice, I tried that trick with SARS after missing my deadline for my tax return. What happened? I still heard them laughing as I left the building..."

Here is the transcript of what was said at the Special General meeting in November:

"...Back-dating by itself is not generally, at least with regard to private agreements, illegal. It is the use of the back-dated documents by parties that may violate the law. This simply means that in law, where a party uses a back-dated document in order to acquire more rights than he has or to deplete a 3rd party's rights, such an act would be unlawful..."

Now ask yourself where exactly where it was said back-dating a document was legal. What was said that in certain circumstances backdating of a document was not illegal; a huge difference. Once again the editor chose to use words selectively and out of context to deceive his readership on the true meaning. His attempts to back-date documents at SARS would have resulted in the rights of SARS being depleted – radically different from the circumstances he chose to illustrate his deception.

## OFFICIALS A CONTRIBUTION OR A FIGUREHEAD?

One of the underlying themes throughout most Ditchweight newsletters is continued attack on the competencies and commitment of serving officials at clubs, district and national levels.

The following is a quote from the November issue;

"...A definite culture has developed where club Presidents or club delegates believe they have the right to make decisions or form their personal opinions when going to Council meetings. This further developed into another level of self-acclaimed power, prestige and ego! Ever noticed how Executives adorn themselves with fancy regalia, blazers and shining badges?"

The implication is clear - presidents are a law unto themselves; their decisions are in their own interest. This is an indictment on the character

of every president who gives up their time and resources freely, allegedly that self-interests can be satisfied; not to mention the "...fancy regalia, blazers and shining badges."

To continue his scurrilous attack, in his latest newsletter with regard to a BSA survey document he writes:

"Will District Presidents do what they are supposed to do? That is to get the survey to every club and will every Club President do the right thing and get every single bowler paying affiliation fees to give their opinion? Or will Presidents once again and as is so often seen, display the arrogance to complete and return the survey based on their personal opinions without consulting the very people they are supposed to represent?..."

His castigation of and disregard for all those who serve bowls continues:

"...A President and his Executive committee at all levels, Club, District and National worth his or her salt, should consult with members on all matters that fall out of the day to day running of their office. In other words Club Presidents and/or delegates to Council should for instance consult with their members to obtain opinions and a mandate for the club BEFORE they go to represent a club at a District or national Council meeting. Does this happen? It would appear in the majority of cases the answer is NO!..."

And further:

"Perhaps the biggest flaw presently in bowls administration that cannot be described other than as a 'cancer' is that voting is 'secret'. So even if the system works 100% as described above, that is members are adequately consulted and informed and give a mandate to a Council delegate to vote, such a delegate when all is done and dusted, could go and vote in line with personal views and opinion! If the vote cast remains secret, who will ever know what he or she voted? It opens the way for voting based on personal bias, irrespective of what the mandate stated and often personalities rule, rather than the merit of the issue..."

What an indictment on officials. The overriding question is do those in a positions of trust who look after bowls affairs, at every level, do so for their personal interest and against the wish of a majority? Of course not!

## CONFLICT OR COLLABORATION

The editor talks at length about executives desire with "...knives drawn..." to remove Allan Gordon from office. The editor insinuates allegations of dishonesty over back-dating and no that there was no attempt at investigating the matter. The finding, based on legal opinion, indicates clearly every attempt was made to guarantee clarity and due process and this was made abundantly clear to the special general meeting, attended by the editor of Ditchweight.

## SELECTORS

Not exempt from attack, selectors are seen as villains of the piece when those dissatisfied are not selected. He makes a statement: "...Last year JBA selected 6 sides for the Inter Districts

and 5 of those sides won Gold! The jury is out! JBA have over the years an enviable record at Inter-Districts and their prowess on the greens is well known. However if you look at the records for 2015 you will find JBA won gold in the Open women and Senior women sections - what a slap in the face for those Districts who won Gold and whilst not distracting from the outstanding achievements of other Districts surely one of the more memorable achievement belongs to one of the smallest districts Sedibeng; their achievement of winning Gold in Men's open doesn't even warrant mention.

## CONCLUSIONS

The executive note the continued attack levelled against them by Ditchweight and sadly and erroneously many bowlers consider its vitriol as gospel. Incidents where inaccurate reporting has caused misconceptions are cited.

It would appear, according to the newsletter that everyone giving up their service for the game of bowls is lacking in the skills, drive and integrity necessary to run the sport. Club presidents, district presidents and of course BSA executive are all at fault - some more than others. Yet, sadly, nowhere is any recognition given to where would the sport be without such volunteers.

It's a very sad day when so called conflict news gets the headline and becomes the major talking point.

Seems to be it's all too easy to criticize. Something, sadly, that all volunteers of our sport are well accustomed to. The work of hundreds of volunteers is castigated by the editor and it appears to be mostly accepted by readers of the newsletter with glee and as an honest account of facts. The endless contribution volunteers make receive scant recognition. Take away the volunteers and you will have nothing.

The expenditure of every cent of BSA receives and spends is given microscopic inspection to prove inability to manage. Yet look in any club, district of BSA financials and try to find any reward paid for services rendered by officials.

Time spent away, often to the detriment of family is freely expected. You will find nothing, no record of hours spent, no record of the benefit many others have been recipients of. The volunteers are just that and give of their time, resources and expertise without any thought of compensation. The critics have one expectation and that is someone else will do it. So long as there's no charge; as long as it's "not me, then I'm OK!"

You might not hear it from other sources, but from BowlsSA there is huge admiration and appreciation for all the work that officials and volunteers do for our sport. We trust your integrity, motives and drive without question and thank you sincerely for unselfish and often unrecognised contributions.

**Issued by the Executive of Bowls South Africa, January, 2016.**

History was made at the Hermanus Bowls Club when bowls was approved as an official school sport in the Western Cape. It is the dream and birth-child of hard-working Ronnie Cloete.

The WP Department of Education has approved (well done for the effort to bowlers Cloete assisted by Theuns Coetzee), that bowls has been incorporated in the school curriculum as a sport.

This is a remarkable breakthrough and will undoubtedly help other education departments throughout the country reach a similar decision.

Schools in the Western Cape will now be given the green light to promote bowls as a sport among pupils. Facilities made available by clubs for the promotion and creating awareness among the youth will get a great injection.

This is the second time Cloete, a former vice-

# BOWLS AN OFFICIAL SCHOOL SPORT IN BOLAND



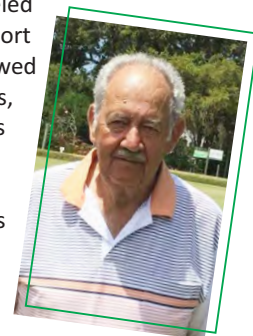
**YOUTH POWER: Rosa Cloete, second right, wife of Ronnie, the man behind bowls being accepted as a school sport in Boland, with happy youngsters from Hermanus Primary School**

president of Northern Cape and a member of the national standing committee for development, has been involved with successful negotiations to launch bowls as a schools' sport at provincial level.

Hermanus Primary School was invited by Hermanus BC to an introduction in anticipation for 2016 when they will start a school league.

Bowls were supplied by Hermanus BC and after pupils had reveled in the sport and showed keenness, cupcakes and surprise packages

were handed out - a boerewors roll ended a great morning!



**Ronnie Cloete**

## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**NB: The writer's views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bowls South African President, Vice-president or Executive.**

# PLEASE RESPECT AN EXECUTIVE PAR EXCELLENCE

Hello fellow bowlers,

I regularly meet players from the entire strata of skill level, degrees of competitiveness, age and communities of both genders. Our conversations are frank, cordial; often concerned; sometimes heated.

In the 40 years I have been writing bowls one thing is certainly, I am clear about never having been regarded as a yes-man, lackey or fence-sitter, for that matter. My critics, thanks to them for me keeping me honest, often disagree yet recognise the vital need for something just short of controversy to enable bowls to examine itself. The right to criticize is absolute; the sole requirement is to suggest a solution to the ill that bothers.

A much queried subject lately has been possible exorbitant, even reckless use of affiliation fees by an executive, elected to maintain good governance and financial integrity. That bowls macro view is reflected at district and club level, where scrutiny of financial expertise can be considered a micro equivalent.

Bowlers know the national executive is elected democratically by council to manage Bowls SA on its behalf. Members fulfill certain roles; make strategic and tactical decisions which they collectively believe is in the best interest of all stakeholders. Such decisions may not always carry Council's unanimous approval, but there is commitment to

ensuring such decisions are made after assiduous assessment - a given global norm.

Armed with this a priori affirmation, how is such good governance financed? While my duty is clear and will be upheld, I hold no personal torch for the executive, nor is it expected beyond the call of duty. My post carries an independence of view respected by Bowls SA, but in fairness I must point out:

In the past 12 months the executive spent 160 man-days collectively away from home. One can work, conservatively, on an hour a day - 6 man-hours a day for 250 working days which equates to 1 500 man hours based on an eight-hour man-day, 187.5 man-days. For the sake of argument call it 200. Total man days spent by the executive in a year equals 360.

If you peep at the 2015 audited financial report, you will not find one cent of compensation paid to any executive member. Who, therefore, is beneficiary and who is provider?

A lot has been said about the 'excessive' cost of taking wives to the annual Bosberaad. Is the cost of R56000 or R2.25 per affiliated member a huge cost to pay for their sacrifice.

I must point out a similar scenario applies to clubs and districts; is it any wonder that at election times a lack of volunteers is conspicuous?

Most sporting bodies relate a similar tale. Figures do not lie. Participation in sport is declining; accessing an individual's leisure time is a challenge for all codes – bowls administrators at all levels must fight for a share of the pie which is that leisure time. Gyms, cycling, jogging, walking, karate, canoeing, exercise routines have become the norm, since people can do what suits them when it suits them. Factor into this the surge in cell phone, DVD, TV and computer use and the equation becomes lop-sided.

Sustaining and growing the bowls brand is a monster task. Use of social media is one of our cornerstones. But that demands support, interest and co-operation; help us help you. Make an effort to go to Facebook and contribute; support you executive – you trusted them at the poll; your mandate is diligently pursued.

Our executive is committed to bowls excellence – in my humble opinion it is succeeding superbly – recent praise from government and its sporting bodies describing bowls as “the best run sporting code in South Africa” is no sop, but a true reflection.

Affiliation fees means there is finance to pursue and ensure that excellence, at a very small cost for all of use to pay.

**Alan Peter Simmonds**  
Editor: Newsletter - Bowls South Africa.



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# in the news

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## HOT & STICKY AT OAKDALE



Winners of the Warwick tournament at Oakdale BC, WP, from left, George Lewis, Henry Capes, Kobus Du Toit, Mickey Welsh; with Warwick's Brian Yarwood in the centre. The weather decided to play a part; a calm balmy day which turned quickly to heavy rain and finished hot and sticky, so the winners deserved to win if only for their perseverance,



## ROOSEVELT PARK 'RIGHT ON TIME'

Roosevelt Park also held one of their annual tournaments over this last weekend and this time being their two-four-two competition, reports Warwick's Lionel van Niekerk. Warwick was proud to be associated with the weekend as it attracted bowlers from all regions of Gauteng (see picture). This tournament comprises of a number of games played to a time limit thus getting people to stop wasting time during games - great initiative. David Putter, the club president, commented that this trial format was a hit with the players and hoped it would go from strength to strength.

## WARWICK 'BRAAIS' AT MILNERTON

A great Warwick tournament held at Milnerton BC saw two games of 12 ends with both greens being full, to win you had to be accurate all the time which the winners were, afterwards we had a braai and the company was great, reports Warwick's Brian Yarwood.



WE DID IT!: Warwick's Brian Yarwood with from left, Denise Kid, former provincial player Rita Burger, Simon Pearson – winners at Milnerton



## 92 AT WARWICK'S MASONIC DAY IN THE CAPE

Warwick Wealth's Masonic Charity bowls tournament was held at Pinelands BC, WP, with a bumper 92 entrants, reports Brian Yarwood. It was a tough tournament to win; the weather was good and the organisers did a sterling job. The winners from left, were Everardt Oliphant, Basil Jones, Carlo Barchiottok, skip Andy McPherson (Milnerton); plus Warwick's Brian Yarwood.



# WARWICK AND LEWIS HAVE 5 YEAR PLAN FOR BELGRAVIA

Belgravia BC, sponsored by Warwick Wealth, held their annual stroke awareness event in December, reports Lionel van Niekerk for Warwick, who said: "There were 96 participants (see scene on a green) from various clubs throughout the surrounding districts and as Warwick we were proud to be a part of this great initiative." The competition was played in extreme heat which did not deter bowlers from having a spirited full weekend knowing that they were raising money for a very good cause. A total of R24 000 was raised – significantly up on increase from last years figure. Lewis Klopper, a Protea bowler is the current president of the club. He has a plan for the next five years and hopefully as Warwick we will be part of that.

## WARWICK AT WONDERFUL WONDERBOOM

Warwick sponsored an all-day at the Wonderboom BC, Pretoria. There were 48 men and 48 ladies competing. The format was one game of 21 ends, a point per end and four for the win. Wonderboom is an active and forward thinking club with new members joining on a monthly basis. Tommie Marais, the club president is extremely passionate about his club and members. They are a 152-strong membership club with regular organised events. What a great club and what a great day.



## BSA PRICE LIST

Please order items through your district office

- |                                                                                    |                  |                                                                |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| • Markers Guide for Beginners /<br>Merkers Gids vir Beginners<br>(If more than 10) | R20.00<br>R15.00 | • Coaches Senior & Elite Badges,<br>Certificates and Log Books | * Free   |
| • An Introduction to Bowls /<br>Inleiding tot Rolbal                               | R25.00           | • Development Guidelines                                       | * R25.00 |
| • Laws of the Sport of Bowls                                                       | R30.00           | • Green Keeping Level 1                                        | * R50.00 |
| • The Etiquette of Bowls /<br>Rolbal Etiket<br>(If more than 10)                   | R20.00<br>R15.00 | • Lawn Bowls:<br>Greens Management                             | R300.00  |
| • Better Greens Breed Better<br>Bowlers - Greens Improvement<br>Programme          | R25.00           | • Play Bowls                                                   | R60.00   |
| • Technical Official &<br>Markers Log Books                                        | * R15.00         | • Walk the Line DVD                                            | R50.00   |
| • Coaches Log Book                                                                 | * R15.00         | • SA Masters DVD                                               | R50.00   |
| • Technical Official Badges,<br>Certificates and Log Books                         | * R45.00         | • Coaches Reference Manual<br>Hard Copy                        | R300.00  |
| • Markers Badges, Certificates<br>and Log Books                                    | * R45.00         | • Coaches Reference Manual<br>CD                               | R25.00   |
| • Coaches Badges, Certificates<br>and Log Books                                    | * R45.00         | • Replace lost /stolen badges<br>including postage             | R35.00   |
| • Technical Official -<br>Level 3 & 4 Badges, Certificates<br>& Log Books          | * Free           |                                                                |          |

\* DISTRICTS ONLY



# BOWLS SA ROUNDUP

## SUPPORT DISABLED BOWLERS

People with a disability have been competing with and against the able-bodied since the last century. Events specifically organised for the visually impaired were held in Johannesburg in the 1930's. Bowls was first featured in the paralympics at the 1968 games in Israel and included in all paralympic games until 1996, with the exception Barcelona in 1992 Paralympics; South African bowlers have featured and won for many years. Countries normally represented are Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa and Wales.

The International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) World Championships is held every four years. This caters for both visually impaired (different categories of blindness) and the physically disabled (wheelchairs, amputees, cerebral palsied etc). South Africa took the overall medals table in Sydney Australia, 2007, Pretoria 2011 and in New Zealand in 2015. Another highlight was winning both golds in the visually impaired and physically disabled events at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. The BSA Disability Bowls standing committee is the

controlling body for all the disabled. For the visually impaired there are three categories (B1 to 3) - partially sighted totally blind". Players use "director" who gives grass, weight and length advice. The players' skills are amazing. Qualification for physical disability (B5 to B8) is defined as, "any birth defect, injury, surgery or disease process, which causes a medically evident impairment of physical function." Grip, balance, step and bend, arm swing ability and upper body strength are all measured. Disability solely due to wear and tear of advancing age, mental or psychological causes, disorders such as obesity, epilepsy or organ dysfunction, do not make a bowler eligible. Disabilities included in the physical disability category are spinal cord injuries, polio, amputations, cerebral palsy, head injuries, progressive disorders such as multiple sclerosis and any locomotor disability.

Disability bowls is currently on a drive to grow membership; clubs have been sent a survey form, regarding unregistered disabled players. Help us please by sending a completed survey document (at all clubs) to Roger Hagerty: roger.hagerty@vodamail.co.za or Rolf Becker: rbecker@mweb.co.za

## TRANSFORMATION FORM MANDATORY

Districts are required to complete the transformation audit document in terms of the guidelines as indicated in the attached letter from the convener of the national standing committee: transformation, Heather Boucher. Completion the advised return date (Feb 28) is mandatory; failure to comply with department of sport & recreation's requirement will attract penalties which could seriously impact federation, district and club access to government and Lotto funding and a ban on international participation. Advice from Heather Boucher - hebouch@gmail.com or 083 310 0797.

## DRAKES PRIDE BOWLS RAFFLE

More than R26 000 was raised from a raffle for a set of Drakes Pride bowls, reports Graham Ward, vice-president of NABB.

The prize was generously donated by long-time supporter of bowls activities Steve Fullard.

The winning ticket, drawn on December 19, was F652 acquired at Warmer Bowls Club, Port Elizabeth.

The money will go towards assisting South Africans teams off to a friendly International between England, Scotland, South Africa and Israel.

## BOWLS SA EXECUTIVE SOUGHT

In terms of clause 5.4.1 of the Constitution it has been decided to call for nominations to fill the vacancy which has been created on the executive committee. The relevant clause is: 5.4.1: Should a vacancy occur on the executive the remaining members shall decide whether to convene a special general meeting to elect a new member, conduct a postal ballot, or allow the vacancy to remain unfilled. It is the intention of the executive to fill the vacancy and to conduct a postal ballot. Council shall be informed, in due course, of an independent process adopted to count the votes. Suitable ballot forms will be forwarded to council members after the closing date for nominations. In the meantime Districts are requested to nominate suitable candidates, who are expected to complete the nomination form available from district offices. A detailed CV should accompany each nomination. Closing date for nominations is Monday, February 8.



## BURKETT HIGH ON LIST

South Africa's Neil Burkett lies sixth of almost 1 000 on the Australian Aero Bowls order of Merit for men.

Last year, International superstars Natasha Scott and Ryan Bester (in the lead again) took home an extra \$A3 000 (R30 000). With six months left in the second installment of the system, the final ranking event of the year, the \$A250 000 (R2.5 million) Australian Open.

There are 16 tournaments registered for the remainder of the rankings year. Neil emailed me to say he will be in Australia for a while as his club Merryfields has offered him another four-year deal. Kepler Wessels has signed on at that club and will be competing in several disciplines in big events.

He sends regards to all.

# BAREFOOT DOWN UNDER

The popular Australian pastime of barefoot bowling has taken its younger generation by storm. "Bowls Australia reports while membership has diminished, overall participation has gone through the roof. Says civil servant Kate Fehon, with a long tradition of barefoot bowling at end-of-year drinks: "It's a relaxed environment just to spend time with people. You can have a drink, you've got your shoes off so you're feeling pretty relaxed and you can easily mingle," she said (see picture) barefoot at Yowani CC. It was also a fun opportunity for some friendly competition among colleagues." No fewer than 4 000 played on the club's greens in December alone. *Picture: Jay Cronan*



# SIX NAMED TO LAUNCH PROCESS

Bowls SA vice-president Rob Forbes with executive Trevor Davis will be at the helm of the National Standing Committee: Promotion & Development. They object is to develop a national plan and select a convenor. Bowls SA thanks all who are volunteering their time and thank those who put their names forward for consideration; we are sure their invaluable services can be employed by their respective districts. National body: Ilize Bakkes (S Free State), Anina Black (WP), Owen Calverley (Eden), Ronnie Cloete (Boland), Henk Prinsloo (N Free State), Malcolm Webster (Port Natal). Fony Meyeridricks (JBA) will act in an advisory capacity.



**SA STYLE:** Barefoot bowls is no stranger to home greens either ... as seen displayed here in Ceres

# VENUES FOR 2016 BSA EVENTS

Venues confirmed for 2016 national events:

- **Warwick / Bowls SA Masters:** Wanderers;
- **Perfect Delivery / Bowls SA Open Inter-Districts:** Edenvale (HQ), Modderfontein, Avion Park, Benoni Country Club;
- **Perfect Delivery / Bowls SA Senior Inter-Districts:** Belgravia, Italian, Jeppe Old Boys;
- **Bowls SA "B" Inter-Districts:** Port Elizabeth BC, Western Suburbs, Park Drive, Westview;
- **Warwick/Bowls SA U/25 Inter-Districts:** Bloemfontein Municipals;
- **Bowls SA U/19 Development Tournament:** Orangia

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# ZONE CAMPS: JUNE 24-26

Talent-seeking zone camps will be held on June 24-26 weekend: Port Natal, Kingfisher, Natal Inland, KwaZulu Natal Country at Pietermaritzburg; Border, Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth; Western Province, Boland, Eden in Cape Town; Southern Free State, Northern Free State, Northern Cape, North West at Welkom, Gauteng North, Limpopo, Mpumalanga at Bella-Bella; JBA, Sables, Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni at Edenvale. District selectors should identify potential to play at international level on the basis: Two of each

gender U/25; two previously disadvantaged of each gender; two of each gender aged 25-40. NB: Port Natal, Western Province, JBA may nominate 4 in each category. Players' records and two 20 x 20 TID exercises must be attached; to reach BSA on or before Feb 28. A final squad of six per gender will be named for each zone by the end of March. Players invited are required to report at 2pm on Friday, June 24; depart at 1pm Sunday, June 26.

# SAAF FLY HIGH

After the SA Navy held their championship at Pollsmoor BC a SA Navy team was selected for the annual quadrangular to face WP, Boland, SA Air Force. Final results were: SAAF 10 +37; SAN 6 -23; BOL 4 +2; WP 4 -16. The SA Navy consisted of WPBA registered members only, skipped by B de Koker (WPCC) and G Roach (CON); others were P Lancaster (GWD), E Schut (GWD), G Hanekom (Fish Hoek), E Pick, C Horwood and J Calvert (all Pollsmoor).



# DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S CONTACT LIST

DISTRICT	PRESIDENT	ADDRESS	TEL -	FAX -
BOLAND	Basie Louw	P.O. Box 222 Darling, 7345	CELL - 022 492 3958 CELL - 083 627 4197	EMAIL - kruvcop@kingsley.co.za
BORDER	Cliffie Boucher	4 Hamilton Place Ashley Rd, Selbourne, 5201	TEL - CELL - 082 569 8752	FAX - EMAIL - cliffieboucher@absa.co.za
GAUTENG NORTH	David Hamer	P.O. 100690 Moreleta Plaza, 0167	TEL - CELL - 079 508 3711	FAX - 086 612 4074 EMAIL - pres.bgn@gmail.com
EDEN	Japie Combrink	P.O. Box 1223 Garden Route Mall, 6546	TEL - 044 873 4473 CELL - 082 826 0093	FAX - EMAIL - japie.swacom@gmail.com
EKURHULENI	Brian Thomson	P.O. Box 8047 Edenglen, 1609	TEL - 011 452 7887 CELL - 083 670 4602	FAX - EMAIL - thomson@gam.co.za
EASTERN PROVINCE	Lolly Reed	P.O. Box 28676 Sunridge Park, 6008	TEL - 041 367 2127 CELL - 082 200 3733	FAX - EMAIL - lolnic@absamail.co.za
JOHANNESBURG	Jac de Villiers	58 St Audley Road Bryanston, 2191	TEL - 011 706 9630 CELL - 082 454 0801	FAX - EMAIL - avenaut@lantic.net
KINGFISHER	Lynne Bamber	P.O. Box 563 Umtentweni, 4235	TEL - 039 695 1598 CELL - 082 875 9705	FAX - EMAIL - bamberg@telkomsa.net
KWAZULU NATAL	Andrew Crosbie	P.O. Box 25232 Newcastle, 2940	TEL - 034 315 5194 CELL - 083 617 6560	FAX - 034 326 4369 EMAIL - kzncb@epweb.co.za
LIMPOPO	Phil Manders	Postnet Suite 30 Pvt Bag X4019, Tzaneen, 0850	TEL - CELL - 074 751 1396	FAX - EMAIL - manders.phil@hotmail.co.za
MPUMALANGA	Mike Pienaar	P.O. Box 15304 West Acres, 1211	TEL - CELL - 082 551 1264	FAX - EMAIL - mpienaar@swanvenn.co.za
NATAL INLAND	Johan Barkhuizen	P.O. Box 11436 Dorpspruit, 3206	TEL - 033 394 7870 CELL - 082 897 5937	FAX - EMAIL - barky@lantic.net
NORTH WEST	Ronnie Palmer	110 Roselt St, Baillie Park Potchefstroom, 2530	TEL - CELL - 083 640 6458	FAX - 081 297 6856 EMAIL - nwbowls@vodamail.co.za
NORTHERN CAPE	Coenie Laubscher	P.O. Box 107 Vryburg, 8600	TEL - CELL - 071 399 1275	FAX - EMAIL - coenielaubscher28@gmail.com
NORTHERN FREE STATE	Skip Scheepers	10 Steyn Delpport Street Bethlehem, 9700	TEL - CELL - 078 765 7777	FAX - 086 618 2645 EMAIL - estie.scheepers@yahoo.com
PORT NATAL	Donald Potts	14 Highland Road Sunningdale, 4051	TEL - 031 572 7406 CELL - 083 627 9708	FAX - EMAIL - donpotts10@hotmail.com
SABLES	David Parker	35 Komati Street, Wilropark Roodepoort, 1724	TEL - CELL - 071 876 6979	FAX - EMAIL - dave@cclsa.co.za
SEDIBENG	Tommie Louw	P.O. Box 696 Meyerton, 1960	TEL - 016 362 4466 CELL - 082 899 5095	FAX - EMAIL - tomie@telkomsa.net
SOUTHERN FREE STATE	Pieter Rossouw	P.O. Box 184 Winburg, 9420	TEL - CELL - 082 776 7768	FAX - 086 578 4148 EMAIL - info@dankeschon.co.za
WESTERN PROVINCE	John Edwards	51 Totnes Road Plumstead, 7800	TEL - 021 762 4304 CELL - 083 596 4869	FAX - 086 578 4148 EMAIL - jedwards@sanssouci.co.za



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To leave a comment on Alan Simmonds' blog go to [www.warwickbowls.com](http://www.warwickbowls.com) and see [thebowlsblog.com](http://thebowlsblog.com)  
Articles, information and pictures (jpegs of 250dpi or better) for this newsletter may be sent to [twickers@gmail.com](mailto:twickers@gmail.com)

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# DISTRICT SECRETARIES CONTACT LIST

DISTRICT	SECRETARY	ADDRESS	TEL -	FAX -
BOLAND	Ena Linde	Private Bag X05 Hermanus, 7200	028 316 4787 CELL - 072 234 7845	EMAIL - dielindes@telkomsa.net
BORDER	Dries vd Walt	P.O. Box 355 Gonubie, 5256	TEL - 043 740 1867 CELL - 082 871 4129	FAX - 086 672 7161 EMAIL - borderbowls@mweb.co.za
GAUTENG NORTH	Leanne Staples	P.O. 100690 Moreleta Plaza, 0167	TEL - CELL - 082 759 8746	FAX - 086 230 7549 EMAIL - secbgn@gmail.com
EDEN	Geoff Stenekamp	P.O. Box 10075 Dana Bay, 6510	TEL - 044 604 3020 CELL - 082 565 5722	FAX - EMAIL - stenekamp@mweb.co.za
EKURHULENI	David Loseby	P.O. Box 16142 Dowerglen, 1612	TEL - 011 452 0169 CELL - 083 773 1522	FAX - 011 452 0735 EMAIL - dave.loseby@vodamail.co.za
EASTERN PROVINCE	Sonja Clements	P.O. Box 7613 Newton Park, 6055	TEL - 041 365 6823 CELL - 083 225 0631	FAX - 086 726 7258 EMAIL - epbowls@telkomsa.net
JOHANNESBURG	Celia Niederhoffer	P.O. Box 710 Melrose Arch, 2176	TEL - 011 880 8000 CELL - 061 123 6317	FAX - 011 880 8001 EMAIL - info@jbabowls.co.za
KINGFISHER	Carol McMullin	P.O. Box 858 Uvongo, 4270	TEL - 039 315 5827 CELL - 083 230 7071	FAX - 086 762 0852 EMAIL - kingfisherbowls@telkomsa.net
KWAZULU NATAL	Dorothy Crosbie	P.O. Box 25232 Newcastle, 2940	TEL - 034 315 5194 CELL - 079 884 4741	FAX - 034 326 4369 EMAIL - dottie@newcastlemail.co.za
LIMPOPO	Jan Greef	P.O. Box 3575, Bela-Bela Warmbath, 0480	TEL - 014 736 6676 CELL - 084 548 3890	FAX - EMAIL - manders.phil@hotmail.co.za
MPUMALANGA	Annette v Ryneveld	P.O. Box 5141 Secunda, 2302	TEL - 017 638 1048 CELL - 082 461 8761	FAX - 086 634 4231 EMAIL - annettevr@vodamail.co.za
NATAL INLAND	Beryl Gandy	P.O. Box 100394 Scottsville, 3209	TEL - 033 345 7744 CELL - 083 708 9017	FAX - 086 632 9736 EMAIL - niba@telkomsa.net
NORTH WEST	Ronnie Palmer	P.O. Box 302 Potchefstroom, 2530	TEL - CELL - 083 640 6458	FAX - 081 297 6856 EMAIL - nwbowls@vodamail.co.za
NORTHERN CAPE	Beryl Benn	P.O. Box 10145 Beaconsfield, 8315	TEL - 053 842 0664 CELL - 083 250 9156	FAX - 086 622 8591 EMAIL - beryl@kimberly.co.za
NORTHERN FREE STATE	Johan Lotter	P.O. Box 584 Frankfort, 9830	TEL - CELL - 083 256 1640	FAX - 086 696 5575 EMAIL - johanlotter50@gmail.com
PORT NATAL	Maureen Florens	175 Brand Road Durban, 4001	TEL - 031 201 1189 CELL - 082 462 7837	FAX - 031 202 3065 EMAIL - portnatalbowls@telkomsa.net
SABLES	Sandra Viljoen	P.O. Box 1495 Wilgeheuwel, 1736	TEL - 011 679 1716 CELL - 083 451 9312	FAX - EMAIL - sables1@telkomsa.net
SEDIBENG	Corrie Louw	P.O. Box 696 Meyerton, 1960	TEL - 016 362 4466 CELL - 082 539 0342	FAX - 086 594 4875 EMAIL - sedibengbowls@gmail.com
SOUTHERN FREE STATE	Louis Pienaar	P.O. Box 17430 Bainsvlei, 9338	TEL - CELL - 083 333 4181	FAX - EMAIL - sfsbowls@gmail.com
WESTERN PROVINCE	Lynette Botha	P.O. Box 41 Howard Place, 7450	TEL - 021 531 5872 CELL - 078 214 3916	FAX - 021 531 5210 EMAIL - wpbowls@mweb.co.za



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tracy | meyeridricks

cell | 083 659 0336  
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