

in the news

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HOLDER: Potch Town's Pierre Breitenbach on his way to an Open Masters victory last year

If the heat and the intensity fails to subdue South Africa's best lawn bowlers during the 2017 Warwick Wealth/Bowls South Africa Masters Championships, then two brilliant young Australian invitees loom as major obstacles to a coveted gold medal.

The standard of play at The Wanderers Club, Johannesburg, threatens to provide the most exciting fare in the long, distinguished history - 1969 (men) and 1971 (women); they merged in 1977 - of the nation's premier lawn bowls tournament this month from 10-12.



SA's FUTURE: Prince Neluonde; already an international champion

SA MASTERS STARS- BEWARE OF TWO AUSSIES IN THE SUN

Each of the Australian stars won two medals at World Bowls in New Zealand last December – miss watching them at your peril.

Jackaroos Carla Krizanic (gold in women's triples and fours at Christchurch) and Barrie Lester (silver in men's fours and triples) will give the crème de la crème of home bowlers much to consider.

in the SA team in NZ - plus 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games triples gold medallist Prince Neluonde and 2010 Delhi Games triples gold medallists Wayne Perry and Gidion Vermeulen.



CHAMPION: The distinctive style of the much decorated Esmé Haley, holder of the women's event

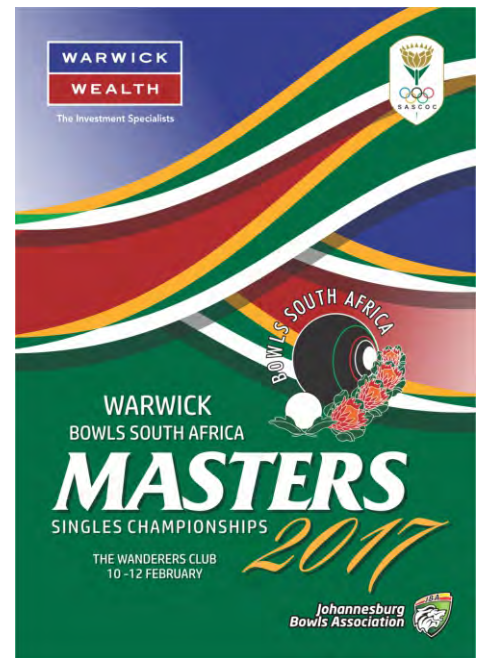
The Victorian duo, from Mulgrave Country and Sunbury respectively, don their green and yellow strips some 10,500km from home, each competing in a section of eight (the field is comprised of 16 selected players in two sections) for a play-off spot; section winners play for gold and silver; runners-up receive bronze medals.

Lester is also a Commonwealth Games bronze medalist, a finalist at the Australian Indoor Singles and a multiple gold, silver and bronze medallist at World Bowls, Glasgow 8 Nations, New Zealand 6 Nations, Asia Pacific Games and many more events.

Among others in Section 1 with Lester are home favourites Pierre Breitenbach (NW), Jason Evans (JBA) and Thinus Oelefse (EKB) – all

Krizanic (née Odgers), is the No 2 ranked woman in Australia and their current indoor singles champion, fours champion and a now a double World Bowls gold medallist, adding to a previous WB bronze medal. She slots into Section 2 alongside 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games pairs gold medallist Colleen Piketh, dual Games gold medallist Susan Nel (SBA)(who has announced her retirement from international bowls) and bronze medallist skip Elma Davis – all adversaries of Krizanic in New Zealand.

Proteas Breitenbach and Esmé Haley (JBA), now retired from international play) defend their crowns; runners-up were the five-time champion and SA No 1 Gerry Baker (JBA) and four-time holder Colleen Piketh (JBA), each the toughest of competitors.



RISING STARS: Australian No 2 woman Carla Krizanac and Barrie Lester of Australia

Making Masters debuts are in-form women Sue Tarr (BGN), Ezile Fourie (BOL, 2016 Junior Masters champion) and Linda Stringer (WP). In the men's Open field, top class lead Martin Lewis (JBA) is included, as is SA Nationals multiple champion Robbie Piketh (WP).

Says Bowls South Africa president Kallie Haupt: "I saw our visitors while I attended World Bowls in New Zealand. They are staggeringly good; our own top players will need to be at their best. Expect momentous tussles daily; a mouth-watering opportunity for all bowls fans".

Enjoying Australian competitors is not new; Aussie national coach Steve Glasson and Australia's most-capped women Jackaroo Karen Murphy (gold medal in Christchurch) played in 1999 when Glasson was a runner-up to Baker; Murphy took gold.

With fair weather predicted, superb greens and amenities, the 2017 SA Masters can be expected to produce bowls fireworks.

Entry is free, parking, music, refreshments and food are available in copious quantities daily from 8.30am.

Alan Simmonds
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa

2017 WARWICK/SA BOWLS MASTERS FIELDS

WOMEN'S OPEN MASTERS

SECTION 1

Esme Haley (JBA)
Ashleigh Parks (JBA)
Jacqui JV Rensburg (JBA)
Anneke Snyman (BOL)
Maggie van Zyl (WPBA)
Nici Neal (SBA)
Sue Tarr (BGN)
Bronwyn Webber (PNB)

SECTION 2

Carla Krizanac (AUS)
Esme Kruger (BGN)
Tracy Meyerdricks (JBA)
Colleen Piketh (JBA)
Linda Stringer (WPBA)
Ezile Fourie (BOL)
Susan Nel (SBA)
Elma Davis (EDB)

WOMEN'S SENIOR MASTERS

SECTION 1

Ellie van Coller (EKB)
Lynne Marnewick (SBA)
Lorraine Victor (BGN)
Jenny Raymond (EDB)
Dolores vd Linde (JBA)
Pam Cole-Cook (KBA)

SECTION 2

Arlene Bosse (EDB)
Nan Roos (KZN)
Cathy Dryburgh (JBA)
Marina Brink (WPBA)
Rea Potgieter (BGN)
Ellen Cawker (KBA)

WOMEN'S JUNIOR MASTERS

SECTION 1

Shimanda Nepgen (EKB)
Cicile Krige (SFS)
Jackie Rabie (EDB)
Rienie Lucas (BGN)
Janita Huisamen (WPBA)
Bridget Calitz (LIM)

SECTION 2

Lavona Gordon (WPBA)
Samanthe Olivier (WPBA)
Roxanne Tingle (JBA)
Kimberley du Preez (SBA)
Talia Russon (NFS)
Dezi Rosenblatt (EPB)

MEN'S OPEN MASTERS

SECTION 1

Pierre Breitenbach (NWB)
Wayne Perry (JBA)
Jason Evans (JBA)
Prince Neluonde (JBA)
Barrie Lester (Australia)
Gidion Vermeulen (PNB)
Robbie Piketh (WPBA)
Thinus Oelofse (EKB)

SECTION 2

Gerry Baker (JBA)
Bobby Donnelly (JBA)
Martin Lewis (JBA)
Nick Rusling (WPBA)
Rudi Jacobs (NWB)
Morgan Muvhango (SBA)
Clinton Roets (SFS)
George Lotter (SED)

MEN'S SENIOR MASTERS

SECTION 1

Eddie Fann (KBA)
Geoff Gowar (EPB)
Mike Marnewick (SBA)
Bernadus v/d Spuy (BGN)
Kenny Kyriacou (BGN)
Kevin Campbell (WPBA)

SECTION 2

Willie Kilian (EPB)
JJ Bedford Owen (SBA)
Tommie Jamie (BGN)
Theuns Fraser (KZN)
Lewis Klopper (JBA)
Ryk Neethling (SFS)

MEN'S JUNIOR MASTERS

SECTION 1

Corrie Tagg (SBA)
Wayne Roberts (PNB)
Scott Elliott (NCB)
Stephan de Jager (BOL)
Brendan Bakkes (SFS)
Chad Wakeford (BOR)

SECTION 2

Wilson Malobolo (SBA)
Conrad Potgeiter (BOR)
Eugene Ferreira (WPBA)
Mbulelo Soji (WPBA)
Charles Mathewson (NCB)
Cecil Bornman (BGN)

NEWS FLASH

BOWLS SA MASTERS FINAL ON LIVE STREAMING

The final of the Warwick Wealth/Bowls SA Open Masters Championships at The Wanderers Club, Johannesburg will be streamed live on 12 February. This match is expected to begin at 11.30AM; Conditions will if dictate whether the men's or women's Open final.

The link www.streamit360.tv/#805 is already displayed on the BSA website (www.bowlssa.co.za) under Tournaments 2017/Warwick Bowls SA Masters Singles Championship and will also be displayed on Facebook - (www.facebook.com/BowlsSouthAfrica/)



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



TOUGH GOING AT WORLD BOWLS

Our SA mission to World Bowls cannot, apart from the women's triples, be described as highly successful. With the emergence of the far-east Asian countries, the standard of competitiveness at World Bowls from the first match in the round robin qualifying rounds demanded a high level of concentration - there were no easy games.

It follows, therefore, teams must acclimatise, spending time adapting to playing conditions; some countries' teams were there two weeks before the start.

The advantage of knowing local conditions - we had to contend with inclement weather - plus having professional players in a side is measured in the results - Australia and New Zealand claimed 75% of gold medals; NZ also won 50% of bronze medals; remaining medals shared between eight nations.

I enthusiastically compliment the host nation for its smart, professional presentation of the championships.

In the light of the fierce competition, our

bronze medal was a major achievement; our side missed by millimetres playing for gold or silver. This bronze medal is equivalent to a gold at the Commonwealth Games. Elma Davis, Susan Nel and Sylvia Burns played magnificently, just failing against eventual champions, Australia.

Greens at all the Christchurch venues played identically, with speeds of 18-20sec with no deviations in their draws. This resulted from a common advisory committee supervising maintenance of all greens used. With such speeds, tactical approach of games changed with the T-spot [2m mark] becoming a major focal point. Any bowl close to a jack was invariably displaced by accurate driving by all members of every team ... it was an eye-opener watching Australian and NZ women leads drive a head with their first bowl!

On their return to South Africa Nel and Burns, former World and Commonwealth champions, have since announced their retirement from open international bowls (*see story this newsletter: editor*); I and the Bowls SA executive and all our members thank them for their effort and results over 20 years.

Now we will be in a process of rebuilding our

national teams; opportunity knocks for several hopefuls.

For the record, World Bowls accepted the principle of establishing an international coaching commission on a South African recommendation, made at a presentation to the pre-tournament conference.

Medals breakdown was: Gold: Australia 4, New Zealand 2, Wales 1, England 1; Silver: Australia 2, England, Scotland, NZ, Wales, Canada, Ireland, one apiece; Bronze: NZ 4, Malaysia, Philippines, Canada, South Africa, one apiece. Australian men and women, the holders of each, won the Leonard and Taylor Trophies for overall best.

Just want to wish all those in the Masters good bowling and a big welcome to two brilliant Australians invited to compete, each of whom won two medals at World Bowls (*see story this newsletter: editor*).

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

BOWLS is axed from the 36th National Games in Goa, India - it was a core sport at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010. India played off in Commonwealth Games finals - Women's Triples 2010 in Delhi and in the Men's Fours in Glasgow 2014.

Why is bowls not good enough for Goa? The country has improved so much in the last five years to have won international medals at the Asia Pacific Championship in Kuala Lumpur 2009 after only four months' training with newly-developed squad in preparation for Delhi.

The Indian women's team won gold at the Asian Games in Shenzhen 2009 against a powerful Malaysia Team; Indian singles player Sunil Bahadur won gold at the Asian Championships in Kuala Lumpur, 2011. The Indian team performances at the Merdeka Indoor Championship over the last five years has been outstanding.

Not allowing its players to prepare for the next Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast, Australia 2018 is a mystery. If only the Indian Sports Authority, IOA and Commonwealth Games Federation realised how talented Indian players could be if the sport was truly developed in the country.



KEEN: Wonderful Indian bowlers and administrators during Delhi 2010

GOA, GOING, GONE!

It's taken countries throughout the Commonwealth many years to develop the talent to win Games' medals. It's only taken India less than four to go so close in just two finals. World Bowls needs to ask why a core sport of CWG has been excluded from the sports programme?

It just come down to the dollar, they just don't

want to build bowling greens and develop the sport in Goa. It's a crying shame for all the players throughout India who have spent hours training to play at Commonwealth Games level.

Re-written from an anonymous Indian source

AN HONEST LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED AT WORLD BOWLS, NZ



WORLD BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHRISTCHURCH NZ 2016

GERRY BAKER has been at the sharp end of South African bowls for two decades. He can proudly attest to a host of domestic and international gold medals, awards and distinctions for composure, integrity, demeanour and sportsmanship. In New Zealand with the Proteas in December, the Johannesburg star now relates his thoughts. His comment is personal and in may in no way be considered to reflect that of Bowls South Africa, team management, team members, or anyone else. But, from a person of Baker's stature they are welcome and provide valuable insight - (Editor, Newsletter)

From the outset let me say the entire team is really gutted with the results.

My personal mind-set was to win the singles and at least a medal in the pairs; not to qualify was devastating.

I rate Colleen as one of the top three women players in the game today, so for her not to qualify in either of her disciplines would have been unthinkable prior to the event; so on and so forth.

On the positive side the star of our side was Elma Davis and although her triples team must all be applauded, she had an outstanding tournament and millimetres stood between them playing for the gold medal.

So what went wrong?

It is easy to say we arrived in Christchurch too late to acclimatise to the lightning-fast surfaces, new bowls, wind etc. Two full days practising was not nearly enough. We would be naïve, however, to imagine medals would have flowed had we arrived earlier.

Maybe it is the old chestnut of professional vs amateur?

In my opinion the divide between professional players/countries and those still totally amateur is widening.

If you look at the medal winners – New Zealand, Australia, Scotland fought for the majority; the minnow nations competed only for scraps. This trend will continue; look to see the emergence of Hong Kong and China in years to come. It is becoming increasingly difficult to compete against a player earning a living from the game, let alone in his own back yard.

The build-up and preparation of the team was poor. We are not sharp enough for top international competition. We benchmark our international game with tournaments such as African States and the Quadrangular – both are so sub-standard to be almost a complete waste of time and money.

I can understand our commitment to the African States, but the expense incurred (around R300 000-R400 000 to compete in the Quadrangular is mindboggling. The other competing countries are of the same opinion and the composition of their sides for this event is proof of that. When it comes to funding all countries face issues; we are no different. In fact, I think that in the scheme of things we as a team are well off. BSA does its best for us, however, I think with more strategic use of funds the bang for buck can go a lot further.

As opposed to money being spent on the Quadrangular we should endeavour to host at least one world class international team annually. With them maybe paying for their flights/accommodation, local costs may well be affordable and afford the opportunity to expose our players immeasurable.

The top bowling nations today insist on specialists in each position for each discipline. The composition of the SA team appears unbalanced. Skips trying to do a job at lead is difficult ... specialists are required, especially in this critical position.

In conclusion, the results on paper may look worse than they really were.

In all disciplines we were in the hunt until the very last day.

I think the time has come for some serious introspection and I would encourage BSA to host a meeting to plot a way forward.

The next World Bowls Championships and Commonwealth Games take place at the Australian Gold Coast - if we don't change something, expect similar results.

Gerry Baker
Johannesburg, February, 2017



SA STARS OFF TO AUSTRALIA

Protea lawn and indoor bowlers Colleen Piketh (JBA) and Pierre Breitenbach (NWB), each a World Bowls, Commonwealth Games and SA Masters star, will represent South Africa for the women's and men's events respectively in the World Cup Singles (Indoor) at Warilla, New South Wales, Australia from March 13–22.

Alan Peter Simmonds
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa



GLORY: Sylvia Burns, Elma Davis, Susan Nel win bronzes at windy Christchurch, New Zealand at World Bowls (Picture: Trevor Davis)

UNALIKE; UNTIL THEY TAKE TO THE GREEN

Reaching the acme of any sporting code entails hard work allied to skills required. It is said form is temporary; class is for ever. Sables' Susan Nel and WP's Sylvia Burns have class in spades.

Each has announced retirement from open international bowls after more than a decade of outstanding commitment and results. Each has won gold medals at World Bowls and Commonwealth Games, both are humble, quiet, yet industrious.

But they are not that alike – why should they be?

Nel, a bustling, busy lady with a husband and family, has a job as a para-legal in Rustenburg in the heart of South Africa's platinum belt, coaches youngsters, loves the social media and is what can only be described these days as modern busy housewife, who works.

Tiny Burns, with a huge heart, has bravely overcome many disappointments. She is divorced, with an adult daughter, works in security, still smokes and in spite of her diminutive stature can snarl.

What they have in common, however, is a love of bowls, natural skills and determination,

The Proteas acknowledge they missed out at World Bowls '16. Indeed, in spite of pre-tournament hype, our men and women came home with one bronze medal between them – Burns and Nel, along with SA's best player in Christchurch, New Zealand, their skip in the triples, Elma Davis (Eden), missed out on playing for gold by the width of a hair!

Nel told me her story:

"I began playing in 1990 at Westville Correctional Services. At that stage I was playing league squash and badminton and I

presenting aerobics classes twice a week. I was invited to play bowls and after my first session on the green I was motivated and challenged by this amazing sport, I couldn't get enough and I was on the green almost every day. It was not long before I gave up on my other activities for bowls.

During December 1997 my family moved to Rustenburg and I joined Sables, playing for Ananda Bowling Club. Eventually the club closed and we joined Rustenburg Impala Bowling Club.

My first big break came when I was runner-up to Lorna Smith (then Trigwell) in the National Singles at Wanderers club in 2001; I was selected to play in the Botswana Pairs in Orapa, Botswana.

In 2005 I won the SA Masters in Edenvale and after that I was invited to a National Camp in Margate, where I was awarded my SA Colours. This was the proudest and most exciting moment of my bowling career.

I have participated in numerous international tournaments since 2005, including Namibia Tests, African States, Atlantic Rim Tournaments, Commonwealth Games and World Bowls.

I am proud and privileged to say that out of all these tournaments, there were only two occasions where I came back without a medal for my country.

After much soul searching I finally decided that it is time for me to retire from open international sport and make way for new blood in the national team. I will still be available for selection to the senior national side, as well as the SA Masters and hope to be considered for selection."

I have played with and against the most amazing South African and International bowlers and I would like to thank each and every one of them from club level, district and national level for playing a part in my journey, and being instrumental in the success of our teams.

My deepest appreciation goes to Bowls South Africa executive, managers and coaches who believed in me and who taught me so much. To all bowlers who want to achieve, believe in the system and participate in the required programme, whether you like it or not, it does work.

I also must mention my husband and my children who supported me through the years and made many sacrifices in order to allow me to play for SA; without this I could never have done it.

During July 2015 I completed my level II coaches' course and I attended the level III course this year. My intention is to give back to the game and concentrate on coaching on all levels; this is my new passion and goal."

Pint-sized Sylvia Sharon Burns has put in the hard yards.

Practice makes perfect goes the cliché – ask the specialist lead from Edgemead Bowling Club on the outskirts of Cape Town; it earned her a world title in 2008.

Just back from Christchurch, New Zealand - the identical venue where she won her world title - as one of five-member women's side representing South Africa at the 2016 World Bowls Championships, she proudly sports her bronze medal from the tough triples discipline.

"Sylvia and Susan played magnificently. Burns showed why a specialist in her position is so vital at world class lawn bowls," said the president of Bowls South Africa, Kallie Haupt, who was in Christchurch. My best wishes to both ladies – well done and thanks for your outstanding efforts over the years.

Nine gruelling preliminary rounds saw Davis, Nel and Burns, playing in Section 1 (of two) beat Hong Kong China, Spain, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Namibia, Malaysia and China; losing to only Philippines and England.

In a quarter-final elimination the SA trio won a nailbiter 18-17 against Scotland's (Julie Forrest, Stacey McDougall, Claire Johnston; then in a semi-final, again played superbly, but had to bow to all-conquering Australia (Rebecca Van Asch, Natasha Scott, Carla Krizanic), who won 17-15 in another cliffhanger, eventually taking the gold medal against Wales.

"It was hard work, but we bonded well and lost so narrowly – at bowls even a gust of wind can change a bowl's momentum and with it the result of a game," said Burns, who works for a Cape Town security company.

Burns was phlegmatic about her retirement.

"I decided the time was right for me to retire as I am over 60. It has been an honour playing for SA for the past 10 years and I have gained so much experience and made many worldwide friends. I am so pleased that I was given an opportunity to play in World Bowls and again bring back a medal. Thanks to my great team mates and to all who have stood by and helped me – at home and at work. I could not have coped without the support.

"Last year I played in the Test against Namibia and Zimbabwe; also against our young team - excellent players, bursting to take up the gold trail for South Africa."

Whatever the bowls future holds, one thing is certain, it has been a privilege to be friends with and watch the poetry in motion on a green of these two outstanding players.

Alan Simmonds
Media Officer, Bowls South Africa

A RECORD TO BE PROUD OF...

Their career achievements are far too numerous to detail here, but a glimpse of what is required from a top lawn bowler can be imagined from the records over the immediate past (internationals in red):



SYLVIA BURNS

Country of Birth: Cape Town, SA

Date of Birth: 12-05-1955

Right handed

Year first started bowling: 1993

First Major Bowls Achievement:

WPBA Masters (Gold) - 2007

2015		
WP Trips		GOLD
WP 5's Trips		GOLD
WP Pairs		SILVER
WP Sully		GOLD
Inter Districts		SILVER
Atlantic Tournament Fours		BRONZE
Atlantic Tournament Trips		BRONZE
African States Fours, Trips & Overall		GOLD
2016		
WP Trips		GOLD
WP Pairs		GOLD
WP Muter Premier		WON
WP 5's Pairs		SILVER
Six Nations Fours		BRONZE
World Bowls Trips		BRONZE



SUSAN NEL

Place of Birth: South Africa

Date of Birth: 27/08/1956

Right handed

Year first started bowling: 1990

First Major Bowls Achievement:

S.A. Singles (Silver) - 2005

2014		
SA Masters		SILVER
SA National Fours		BRONZE
SA National Pairs		SILVER
Gauteng Open Mixed Pairs		GOLD
C. Wealth Games Glasgow Fours		GOLD
C. Wealth Games Glasgow Trips		BRONZE
2015		
Inter District Open		BRONZE
Sables Masters		GOLD
Gauteng Open Singles		GOLD
Sables Trips		GOLD
Atlantic Tournament Fours		BRONZE
Atlantic Tournament Trips		BRONZE
2016		
Gauteng Open Ladies Pairs		SILVER
African States Trips & Overall		GOLD
African States Fours		GOLD
Gauteng Open Mixed Pairs		SILVER
World Bowls Trips		BRONZE

The Boland District hosted the annual Envar Buys U-45s Tournament at Hermanus BC last year with the Department of Culture and Sport as main sponsor. No fewer than 96 Bowlers from Western Province (North, Central and South), Overberg, Cape Winelands, West Coast and Eden participated.

The youngsters wore colourful shirts, had lots of fun, played with team spirit and encouragement combined with the acknowledgement of good shots and high fives which made for the overall festive and pleasant atmosphere between lawn bowlers throughout the week-end. The finals were fantastic, spectacular bowls was played, with lots of excitement and concentration on the green with ample support from local and U-45 bowlers. The winners of the Envar Buys Super League were the Cape Winelands team represented by Joshua Joubert, Werner van Dewenter, Jaco Whiteman, Francois van Deventer.

WINELANDS TOAST OF ENVAR BUYS LEAGUE



CHEERS: Cape Winelands' Joshua Joubert, Werner van Dewenter, Jaco Whiteman, Francois van Deventer (News/picture adapted from WP Bowls News)

TOP AUSSIE YOUNG STARS ON VIEW

Some of Australia's brightest young stars take on the world's best, with the Australian squads for the World Youth Championships, reports Bowls Australia.

A number of Australian Open champions returns to the Broadbeach Bowls Club, Queensland for the World Youth Championships at the 2018 Commonwealth Games venue from March 27 to April 2.

Among them is defending singles champion and 2015 Australian Open Women's Singles champion Ellen Ryan (NSW), by 2015 champion, Western Australia's Kristina Krstic, as Australia's Women's Singles representatives.

Australia's two men's singles representatives are 2015 Australian Open singles champion

Aaron Teys (NSW) and three-time Australian Open champion Nathan Pedersen (NSW/SA) aiming to repeat Aaron Wilson's feat of claiming the coveted singles crown from last year.

Aaron Wilson is now too old to compete at this event, however, his recent World Championship Men's Pairs gold medal shows the quality of player on show and the event's status as a breeding ground of future stars.

Ryan and Teys defend their Mixed Pairs title won at the same venue 12 months ago.

World Youth Championships:
Women's Singles: Ellen Ryan (Cabramatta, NSW), Kristina Krstic

Men's Singles: Aaron Teys (Warilla, NSW), Nathan Pedersen (Cabramatta, NSW)

Mixed Pairs: Ellen Ryan/Aaron Teys



Ellen Ryan and Kristina Krstic

AFFILIATION FEES

• February	R183.35	• August	R83.35
• March	R166.65	• September	R66.65
• April	R150.00	• October	R50.00
• May	R133.30	• November	R33.35
• June	R116.70	• December	R16.65
• July	R100.00		



CHAMP: Selina Goddard – New Zealand women's singles champion – another of the world's young stars making their way up the international ladder



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5-WAY RACE TO LINE IN DURBAN

The last round of the popular monthly 2016 North Durban Pensioners Tournament sponsored by Warwick Wealth and Steve Sturlese meant rainbow's end for the 28 men's fours who had competed, reports Warwick's Stuart Milligan, accompanied by Michael Collocott. The event is staged at a different club each month and in excess of R15 000 plus eats went to those at the December prize giving. Amazingly, the result was in doubt to the end - in the final round no fewer than five teams remained in contention. Team Mills were finally crowned overall winners ahead of Team Sullivan, with Team Naicker taking third place. It was unfortunate for Team Funnell (three brothers included), winners for the last three years, to have disruptions to their team from health problems. We wish them all the best and a speedy recovery in 2017.



FIRST SPOT: Team Mills took honours at Durban



CLOSE CALL: Team Sullivan ran second



THIRD PLACE: Team Naicker almost there

The R40 000 Warwick Wealth/Edgemoed Classic was a great start to the New Year in Cape Town with a packed Edgemoed BC, all three greens full (7 sides of rinks - 42 teams, 168 participants) with teams mainly from Constantia, Mowbray and Edgemoed entering more than one team, reports Warwick's Sandy Street who attended with Nic Rusling and Luke Coup. Greens were superb and of fair speed, with a stiff south-easter on the first day creating some interesting ends. Format was six games of 15 ends; much was at stake; after the first day, strength vs strength prevailed.

On the Saturday, Edgemoed bowlers put on a great show with a packed bank and it was obvious some had missed their calling, as they kept us in "stiches" Sunday saw the wind drop. Games were tight - several were peeled - little separated the top four in the A pool. Club president Graham Kemp and his team, excelled in all aspects - greens, catering, gees and organisational skill; it's fully booked already for next year. Warwick Wealth lucky draw winner

BUMPER CLASSIC AT EDGEMOED

and several other draws - for weekends away, cell phones and huge hampers were the order of the day.



BIG BRASS: Graham Kemp (President), Lionel Verwey Vice President, with winners, Phillip Lancaster, Johnny de Sousa (skip), Paul Roos, Cobus Du Toit (Durbanville)

CHAMPERS TIME FOR SHEPPIE



TOP DOGS: Nico de Jong, John Block, Caroline Harris



BEST DRESSED: Yzelle Greyling, Jesse Verster, Stuart McMurtrie, Cecelia Verster

Port Shepstone Country Club hosted the Warwick Wealth/Sheppie Champagne Breakfast Roll, reports Warwick's Stuart Milligan accompanied by Stuart McMurtrie. Attendance was low on the holiday weekend, but those to turn up for the bowls and champagne breakfast event enjoyed a festive time. Congratulations must go to Gill Thiele for organising the bash and the kitchen staff who provided the bacon and egg roll, plus the champagne. Almost all participants won prizes, which ranged from best dressed teams to scoring the most touchers. This annual event was enjoyed by all, with festivities continued well into the afternoon.



WELL DONE: Warwick's Stuart McMurtrie with organiser Gill Thiele



MOST TOUCHERS: Don Wild and Brian Rawlins



SPONSORS: Len Rosslea, Stuart Milligan and Stuart McMurtrie

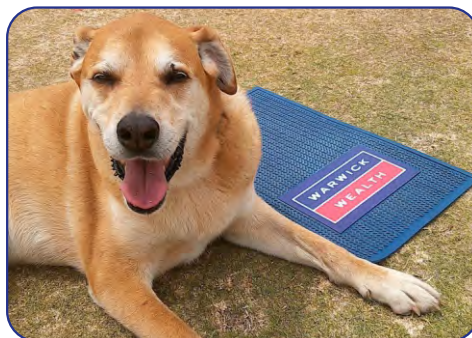
LUCKY KNOWS BOWLS OFF PAT AT MOWBRAY

Those who know Mowbray BC know Lucky, a golden lab who has lived a miraculous, but perilous life and is firmly part of the establishment. Douglas (Sandy) Street, Michael Feinberg and Luke Coupe from Warwick attended the second staging of the Warwick Wealth/Mowbray Lucky Cup.

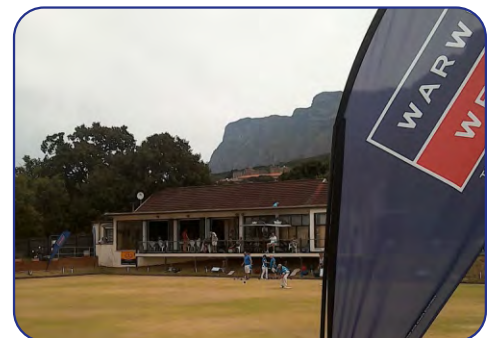
Normally bowls clubs don't allow animals, but Lucky "understands" bowling etiquette and pays attention to the rules (99% of the time). As a result, many clubs in and around Cape Town allow Lucky to attend and Lucky is loved and befriended by all.

Lucky made two brief guest appearances during the event, now a little grey in the muzzle a whole day outing gets a little too strenuous these days.

Lucky's favourite members are those kitchen staff that supply titbits between games, and the great hospitality of Mowbray which has become their trademark, well done to the organising team.



TIME PLEASE: Just a snooze on the mat for beloved Lucky the lab, at Mowbray



BERG VIEW: Table Mountain backdrops the club



TOP GUYS: Mo, left, barman supreme, 2016 Mowbray champion last year his colleague M at work



CHAMPS: Lucky Cup winners, SA Protea and former world champion Sylvia Burns (at back, second) with Anton Lundy (skip) and Carol Wagner (lead)



BOWLS SA ROUNDUP

CLUB PROMOTION DOWN UNDER



A promotion for clubs to Fix Up Their Clubs for a chance to win two sets of bowls and a visit from an Australian Jackaroo has been launched. Does your club need a touch up or any physical work done? This is the time to do it, as Bowls Australia is running a brand new "Fix Up Your Club" competition! Over the next months, Bowls South Australia have asked clubs to send in their before and after shots after doing a bit of "Fix Up" work to your facilities and a short blurb about how this benefits each club - this can be anything, but here is an example (see picture). Good idea for South Africa?

Bowls Australia

ENGLAND SINGLES STAR WITHDRAWS

Bowls England has announced reigning national men's singles champion Simon Green has withdrawn from the British Isles Bowls Council Singles Championship in Ireland as he does not wish to comply with team travel and accommodation. Green, from Sandwich BC, Kent, secured the men's National Singles Championship last year at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa and became eligible to represent Bowls England at the British Isles Championships on June 29-30 at Belmont BC, Belfast. There is a prestigious trophy awarded for the "Overall British Isles (BI) Championship Team", awarded to the most successful nation across all disciplines. As no substitution is allowed, England will be disadvantaged. Bowls England CEO, Tony Allcock MBE, said: "It is ...disappointing ... he has also relinquished his position as a non-travelling reserve for the BI Series in Ireland on June 1-2.



SMALL BOWLS BOOST

A shortage of smaller bowls, which has hampered rapid development throughout South Africa, is no more. Bowls South Africa president, Kallie Haupt, announced in Johannesburg a process, which took a year to refine, will see standard-sized older bowls machined to sizes useable by especially youth. "Size of bowl is critical to play; now our sport will become all-inclusive regardless of age, size of hand and bowl weight - reinforcing our credo, Bowls is #1Sport4life," he said.

EXECS IN CHARGE

Executive members have been appointed to liaise with Districts and attend zone workshops:

- Rob Forbes:** Western Province / Eden / Boland
- Trevor Davis:** South Free State / North Free State / North Cape / North West
- Andy Strong:** Sables / Sedibeng Johannesburg / Ekurhuleni / Gauteng North / Limpopo / Mpumalanga
- Charles Levy:** Port Natal / Kingfisher Natal Inland / KZN Inland
- Heather Boucher:** Border / Eastern Province





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BLOG THE DAY AWAY!

South Africa's most experienced bowls writer has blogs to which you can address all your thoughts, ideas and gripes ... this time someone WILL notice them.

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

SUPPORT YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Please read, "like" and comment on YOUR Facebook page. Bowls South Africa's news, pictures, and information is updated daily. Make it an every day look ... bowls deserves your support.





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