



## Government cash injection spurs BowlsSA's transformation plans

A "High Five" for the South Africa's Department of Sport and Recreation for coming to the party and injecting almost R1million into Bowls SA for provision of equipment and training.

In April 2011, BowlsSA submitted business plans to the department for funding; one was for New Age Bowls (NAB); another to help to pay for vital transformation camps.

Thanking the government, BowlsSA president Debra Ferguson said: "To our joy funds have been made available. There was a real chance our on-the-go national development programmes, without hoped-for Lotto funds, were headed for the back burner.

"Now, 200 sets of New Age Bowls (NAB) have been purchased for use at grassroots level nationwide and the transformation talent training camps continue."

BowlsSA has in the past been described by the SA Olympic Committee as superbly organised and dedicated to integration, transformation and upliftment; the bowls Proteas are prolific winners of gold medals for SA at major world events

The 200 sets (each containing eight bowls and a jack) have been allocated to all 20 districts, commensurate with membership. Made of a rubberised product they are smaller than

standard bowls, but have similar drawing properties. They can be used on tennis or netball courts, school halls, in malls and recreation centres.

Several districts had previously purchased NAB and successfully used them in primary schools. The Johannesburg Bowling Association (JBA) has three school projects running with them, while Bowls Gauteng North has completed a "train the trainer" course with community leaders in the Mabopane region; the leaders aim to introduce bowls at schools in the area.

WP is a hive of activity involving more than 40 schools; several other districts enjoy similar activities.

Emerging talent from the programme in the past three years have seen internationals Tracey-Lee Botha, 24, (JBA) and Pierre Breitenbach, 24, (NW) placed among the world's top four in their respective gender groups and 300 boys and girls from disadvantaged areas contesting inter-district tournaments annually. More than two thousand are actively involved in organised events nationwide.

- District allocation for NAB sets: Boland 10 Border 8 Gauteng North 12, Southern Cape 10, Eastern Gauteng 12, EP 12, Johannesburg 16, Kingfisher 8, KZN Country 6, Limpopo 6, Mpumalanga 6, Natal Inland 6, NW 6, N Cape 6, NFS 6, Port Natal 16, Sables (NW) 6, Sedibeng (Vaal) 6, SFS 6, WP 18.

## New guys on the block show way to the future

*One of South Africa's top bowls columnists for many years John McKeag, wrote this story in one of his informative pieces in The Citizen; this newsletter considers it worth pride of place here (Editor)*

"Wasn't it great news that came out of the Johannesburg Bowls Association this week that two black employees of Bryanston Sports Club reached the final of the men's JBA pairs? That's a spot normally reserved for the white elite, isn't it? But the two scaled impossible heights and climbed right to the top of the rankings in SA bowls last weekend.

What a boost for the game among the 'previously disadvantaged.' What a boost to Bowls South Africa's intention of taking of the game to others' cultures

Skip Prince Neluonde, 28, and his lead, Victor Siphali, 37, employees of Bryanston Sports Club, Johannesburg, narrowly lost the prestigious JBA pairs title to fellow club members

John Ravenscroft and Neil Carrol.

As JBA president, Anselm McLean, told me (McKeag) this week: 'Prince started as an assistant greenkeeper at Bryanston Sports seven years ago. About four years ago he started rolling a few bowls in his spare time and a club member, recognising his potential, took Prince under his wing, coaching him and included him in his team to play in outside tournaments.



**GOING UP:** Prince Neluonde and Victor Siphali – raising the bar

*Continued on page 3*

## From the president's desk: Clubs: Answer your questionnaires ... PLEASE!

July has arrived, hard to realise the year is now past halfway. With the nationals and mixed pairs over, it means only August's African States Tournament is left ... the last "big one" for this season.

The annual African "get-together" will be held at Port Natal's Umhlali Bowling Club and I am confident all bowlers from Natal will turn out to support our men and women Proteas in the defence of their crowns as they take on the bowling might of our continent.

Now let's talk sponsorship. You know, I am so disappointed with the response to my questionnaire ... it did go out to all clubs.

Everyone it seems complains about a lack of funding and how hard it is to attract sponsorship, so when we have an opportunity to discuss this with a potential sponsor - not only the clubs, but individual bowlers and all that is required is to answer about 10 questions from each club in the country - why do we get a pathetic 30% response from club secretaries?

If your club has not responded please insist your secretary does as soon as possible. Understand, this executive requires co-operation at every level ... it's a truly a matter of life and death for survival, transformation and development.

With fewer than two months left in office, I appeal to all for more co-operation and enthusiasm to be extended to incoming president Allan Freeman. He is an experienced, compassionate administrator; he deserved your support and goodwill.

And turning to the August elections, it is heartening to see and have so many people willing to give up time to serve on Bowls South Africa; I thank them for making themselves available.

I also appeal to all delegates to national council to arrive with true mandates from their districts on all matters on the agenda upon which they will be asked to vote.

With this season coming to an end and winter here, for those who nevertheless play tournaments in the cold, please take care of yourselves ... there's horrid flu around; keep wrapped up.



**Debra Ferguson  
President**

## Editorial: Vote in the best man or woman for the job

National election time is again upon us. In August the 20 districts comprising Bowls SA send delegates to the AGM in Johannesburg to vote for an executive and on motions from Bowls SA and the floor. Let's hope good sense and honesty prevails.

Empowerment, transformation, development, progress, leveling the playing field, equal opportunity are words and phrases that slip easy off the tongue. To ensure bowls' survival in looming austere economic and troubled social times requires administrators to be sure of mind and foot with belief in the future and courage to say and to do what is required.

America's assassinated president JFK is remembered for his "... ask not what you can do for yourself ... but what you can do for your country ... phrase; moving, rousing, charismatic.

But in a letter written earlier in his career he perhaps sums up what players, clubs, districts and delegates might carefully ponder and consider in respect of the situation faced by SA bowls.

In the light of what is written here, JFK's letter - to a librarian - is perhaps more significant. The letter includes the immortal lines:

"... if by a 'Liberal' they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people - their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, and their civil liberties - someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a 'Liberal,' then I'm proud to say I'm a 'Liberal' ..."

There remain in many clubs, in many areas, those who are not liberal in any sense of the word. They prefer to be tied to bigoted principles, erroneously seeking to protect their game, selfishly refusing to accede to requests from Bowls SA on any subject, refusing to realise the virtue and necessity of transformation and generally resisting vital progress.

Fortunately they are a minority, but a cancer that needs to be excised. They know who they are, their fellow members know who they are; Bowls SA knows who they are.

Misguided as it might be, democracy, correctly, permits their point of view, although they deny others that right.

Now is an opportunity to consider change and a take major stride forward. Use each vote to good purpose ... for the right man or woman for the job; nothing more.

South African bowlers must vote with their heads for the good of their sport, not to show, perhaps misguided allegiance to a perceived self-serving cause, friend or associate.

Time is running out.

• Please see list of executive candidates in Roundup at the back of this newsletter.

*Comments, ideas - for, or against - to [john@bowlssa.co.za](mailto:john@bowlssa.co.za) or [simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za](mailto:simmondsa@cybersmart.co.za)*

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'Earlier this year he applied and was given a job in the clubhouse as a barman; Prince is in his third season of bowls.

'Prince has had a successful season at district level, making the quarter-finals in the trips, losing in the semi-finals of the singles to Duanne Abrahams and now losing in the pairs final to Neil Carrol and John Ravenscroft also of Bryanston Sports.'

McLean said Prince was chosen and played in the Presidents Cup last season as his talent was already showing and narrowly lost out in playing in the Presidents Cup final, losing only two games.

Victor was employed as a gardener at Bryanston Sports a

few years ago and when Prince became a barman, stepped into the vacant greenkeeping position and also playing bowls – this year,' McLean added.

Ravenscroft and Carrol won a hard fought match.

McKeag concluded: "Wouldn't it be nice if one of our enterprising sponsors took it upon themselves to grab the chance to advertise their products and the game of bowls by arranging to "show off" the two by sending them on a tour of the country to show others who might be interested in our great game?

Or, to repeat myself, is that not a job for Bowls South Africa? (sic) It would certainly put a feather in the cap of the retiring executive?"

## 130 Years of tradition in PE

Port Elizabeth Bowling Club, nestling in St. Georges Park, celebrates 130 glorious years in August. It is the oldest club in the country.

To honour the anniversary Bowls SA appointed the club host to the Warwick SA Masters in February and, in spite of continuous howling



**4 OF THE BEST:** The wind blows over four great greens at PEBC

wind, 96 men and women juniors, open and seniors showed why South Africa rates so highly in world bowls.

Superb greens, excellent catering and assistance, coupled to pinpoint administration provided a feast of bowls for a healthy bank.

In 1859 the Town Council leased 1ha to PE Cricket Club (established that year) and a little later the council established St. Georges Park, enclosing a huge tract with room for several codes (see stgeorges.nmmu.ac.za).

Eight bowls enthusiasts wrote to the Port Elizabeth Town Council on July 13 1882 requesting land in St. Georges Park to establish the sport and on August 14 Port Elizabeth Bowl-

ing Club was formed...

The first green, "Founders Green" opened on January 5 1884; it cost about £49 (R100 000 today). Increased membership saw second green "Loch Green" opened in September 1887. A third was opened by entrepreneurial legend Cecil John Rhodes in August 1898 (named after him) and a fourth, "Prince of Wales", completed in 1926. They remain intact and in use.

In 1891 women were admitted as members, but only in August, 1932 was a Ladies' Section formed.

In 1894 a match was played in Port Elizabeth against the Kimberley Club (established 1890, second oldest club in SA) 763km away and continued annually for years.

Today the club has the distinction of boasting two former South African cricket captains among its active members in Peter van der Merwe (1965-67) and Kepler Wessels (1992-94) and is where SA's great Neil Burkett won his spurs.



**NEAT AND TIDY:** The original PEBC clubhouse today

### Full house at Rhodes Park

After going through a tough time, Rhodes Park members at their club in its spectacular setting in Kensington, Johannesburg, have worked hard to build up their list of social members, several of whom taking up the game and becoming accomplished bowlers, writes Fonny Meyerdricks..

The annual Warwick Rhodes Park Open Fours has become a popular part of the JBA calendar and, as usual, fully subscribed. The weather was perfect and the organising committee provided a relaxed atmosphere with great music, bar service and catering. A friendly competitive spirit on two excellent greens made for an enjoyable contest; three games of 12 ends each were played.



**BRIGHT BOYS:** Adrian Wilkinson, Andre Hanegraaf, Reinier van der Hoogen and Paul Vermeulen, winners of the Rhodes Park Open Fours



**PROTEA WATCH?:** Namibia's loss of their scintillating international Theuna Grobler (Strand BC/Gordons Bay) is certainly WP's gain; the district champions are certain to make use of her services next season. She has already shown her class this season, winning the WP Masters Invitation Singles, partnering Jenny Elliot (Gordons Bay) to take the WP Sevens' Pairs and playing second in Strand's

triumphant Sully Cup fours side skipped by SA Masters champion Louise Roediger. Playing for Namibia, Grobler rose to 40th in the world after the Champions of Champions in Scotland in 2009. She then won African States Pairs gold in 2010 and lost in a tie-break at the Commonwealth Games play-offs to eventual champions England. Watch out SA ... Protea material perhaps?

**OLD OAK 'OKES':** There were lots of okes at Old Oak, Cape Town, for a Warwick's tabs-in event. No fewer than 20 teams competed – the new and experienced combining in a great afternoon of fun under sunny skies, reports Derek Watson. The sponsor plans more such events ... other clubs please note. Winners, see above, were, from left, Christina Kelly, Petro Pretorius, Ron Otto and Kim Kiely, seen with Jacques Cloete of Warwick



**IRON-SIDE:** (From left): Bruce Oberholzer, Nelie Barnard, Han van der Schaaf, winners of the two-bowl trips event at Sasolburg BC, Sedibeng; club president, Roy Wilson, is extreme right

### 'Iron' nerves triumph at Sasolburg

A successful Warwick Two-Bowl trips was enjoyed at Sasolburg, Sedibeng. It was played over four Thursday afternoons in May. The spoils went to a trio from Iscor Bowling Club, with the Sedibeng District President's (Tommie Louw) Team in second spot and the Warwick (last year's winners) team ending third, writes Fonny Meyerdricks. Every entry received a prize thanks to hard work from the host club and the event ended with a superb dinner at which live entertainment was provided.

### Blog Post: They came, they tried, but for some reason or another ...?

Have you ever wondered "what happened to .....? Sporting "stars". They come and go; some are unlucky in their demise from the starlight, several fall from grace, others do silly things which impact on their psyche so severely they are left impotent to succeed.

There are many. I have compiled a list of those who I have known, met, wondered about. I have researched and tried to find out where they went; what they are up to.

Lady Luck plays her role; a second here, a trip there, a bounce or a tackle, a psychological setback or emotional disturbance, it appears often individually or collectively conspires to deny potential greatness.

In Cape Town resides a friend and team mate; let us begin with him: David Epstein

The WP men's bowls squad training list for the 2006 districts tournament showed a glaring omission – David Epstein of Glen, a stalwart for 18 consecutive years. "Not available" was the terse explanation.

Epstein, then 35, a baby in bowls terms and the youngest man to wear the blue of WP, had quit the big-time game. The code's own "Baby-faced assassin," "Peanut" to his pals, in his own words, "had enough."

Few could blame him.

I still see him, a slim lad at his wonderful late dad Bokkie's medina, the now long gone Castle Bowling Club in Woodstock.

Young Epstein was the club. Greenkeeper, singles champion, skip of the national side, dogs-body, barman and general factotum. He learnt rapidly at his father's knee and he and his twin brother Mark (a former Thornton president, now embroiled at Pinelands) enjoyed a growing up period contentment among a host of top players who negotiated the ubiquitous Castle greens day and night, year-long throughout in sun, wind and rain.

It was not long before the clean-cut attacking player caught the WP selectors' eyes and aged 17 was drafted into the WP side. He did not disappoint.

Epstein became "kingmaker", successfully playing front rank for future Springboks and Proteas such as Ashley van Winkel, Neil Burkett, Alan Lofthouse, Neil Burkett, and Shaun Addinall. It seemed bowling careers blossomed with Epstein riding shotgun. In the back rank he was equally adept at skip or third.

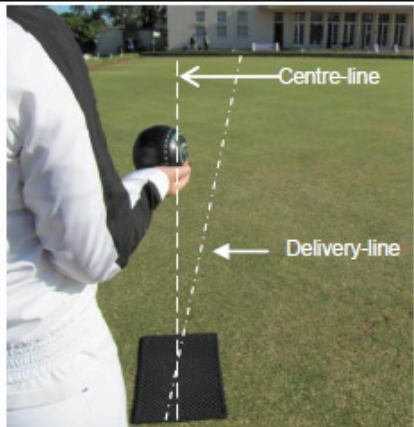






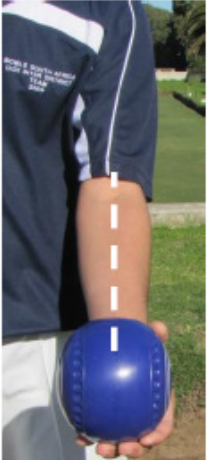
But the young gun, in spite of more than 30 district titles (he almost added the WP Singles yet again this year), national honours and an unequalled four WP inter-district gold and three runners-up medals, failed to fully attract national selectors' eyes.

Read the rest at [www.thebowlsblog.com](http://www.thebowlsblog.com)



## THE NEW CLINIC GRIP

The Clinic Style or Technique of playing bowls has never been cast in concrete. Last year the NSCC accepted that the old way of coaching the grip was archaic and adopted Graham Mackenzie's "new way" which is far easier to coach and learn. An article did appear in Forum last year, but it was felt that it should be explained further, using the picture and explanations from the new Lawns Bowls Coaching reference book; the level one part of which was published by Bowls South Africa in 2011. (See page 7-3 & 7-4 if you have it.)

	The Right-Hander	Explanation	The Left Hander
1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pick up the bowl in the bowling-hand and hold it palm upwards (not gripped), facing the jack – check that the bias is correct.</li> </ul> <p><i>Caution: getting the bias correct is more important than 'saving' the bowling arm and minimising movement.</i></p>	
2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest the bowl flat in the other hand</li> <li>Place the arc created by the index-finger and thumb of the bowling-hand around the dimples or rings.</li> </ul> <p><i>Caution: The thumb should never be on the running surface as this places unnecessary strain on the muscles of the hand.</i></p>	
3.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place the other fingers comfortably spread on the running surface as bowling-hand is turned to face palm up.</li> <li>The bowl should rest on the fingers, starting from the pads of the palm – not the full palm.</li> </ul> <p><i>Caution: The little finger should not be curled up the side of the bowl as this may cause a wobble on delivery.</i></p>	
4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The centre-line of the running surface of the bowl should be on the same line as the centre of the forearm.</li> </ul>	

### Graham Mackenzie's Coaching Corner: Does your bowl "bump" on delivery?

The bowl should be released smoothly as it leaves your finger tips. Greenkeepers hate bowlers who thump their bowls down as if they are playing "gooibal" and not "rolbal", thereby making indentations and marks on the green he is working so hard to keep at a high standard.

To correct this problem, start by looking at when the bowl is released. This bumping problem is often caused by an early or late release of the bowl. The bowl should be released just in front of the front foot and not behind it.

Another possible reason is the player is too high from the green and this is rectified by bending the back knee and keeping it bent on delivery.

The most common fault is that the back swing is too fast. Both the back swing and the step are linked together. By slowing the back swing you will slow the step allowing more time for a smooth release. To prove this you cannot walk slowly and swing your arms fast or visa versa.

Make your greenkeeper very happy by having bump-free deliveries on the rinks. Then you and he will have a win/win situation. Happy greenkeeper/ better bowler with a smooth delivery!

### Coaching Bits & Pieces

#### **Coaches who do not attend Refresher Courses**

At a recent meeting of NSCC the above thorny problem was discussed at length. The general feeling of the committee is that whilst we cannot stop anybody from coaching, all coaches should be made to realise that they need to keep abreast with the ongoing changes for the betterment of coaching and indeed coaching in general.

In order to not lose track of these coaches all together, it was decided that they and their hours should be recorded on the database. However, they will be marked as inactive until they refresh, redo the course or upgrade.

#### **Next Level 2 Course**

The next course is planned for 2013.

#### **Next Level 3 Course**

Depending on whether the new material for the new coaching book is ready by July of this year, it will then be decided whether or not a course will be held towards the end of this year. **Watch this space!**

#### **Next Train the Trainer Course**

At the same NSCC meeting it was decided that in view of the many requests from districts, a survey to establish the needs of the districts would be sent out by Bowls SA. This was sent to all districts a few weeks ago. Responses should be sent to the district's Liaison Coach as soon as possible. **(List of districts and their NSCC Liaison Coach below)**

### Coaching is alive and well on the Border!

**The editor is applying her editorial licence to promote bowls coaching on the Border! Requests to other districts have fallen on deaf ears. If you would like your district's coaching to be promoted in the next edition of Forum you know what to do!**

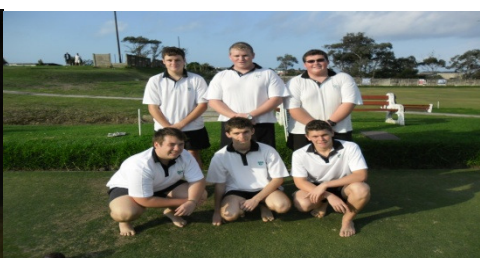
The Border District Standing Committee for Coaches meets once a quarter and all 3 district coaches are on the committee, report backs are given at every meeting and so everybody is involved and informed.

Squad practices started in May and will continue up until the 2013 Inter-districts, normally on a monthly basis. Arthur Brandt (the current President of Border Bowls) is the Border Men's coach whilst Merle van den Berg is the Ladies' coach. A strict programme has been set out, registers of attendance are kept and each player hands in two 20/20 assessments at each squad get-together. These are analysed by an IT expert and explanations of strengths and weaknesses given to the players. Squad members remain in the squad during the duration of the season (2012/2013) and even those not selected for teams remain in top form in case reserves are needed or a selected player loses form. We use a holistic approach during squad sessions and handouts are given on Technical, Tactical, Psychological, Physical and Personal Lifestyle – without going into a classroom/lecture mode! The majority of the time is spent on the green – either in skills improvement exercises or game situations. The aim is to peak at the next Inter-Districts competition. The ladies squad consists of 40 players, which includes 10 new squad members including 3 under-25's. In view of rising costs we have started a major fund-raising effort.

Neville Hort is the Under-25 coach and doing a splendid job as Border's Development Officer. The pictures below illustrate some of the Development projects.



A church group after being introduced to bowls on a Friday night at Bonza Bay Club in East London by Neville Hort.



Part of a group of young players from Cambridge High School who practice with Neville at Comrades Club every Wednesday afternoon.



Gabi Du Toit, a 12-year-old from Grens Primary who was first coached by Neville and is now being coached by Merle van den Berg after school on Thursdays.

## Get your Non-Verbal Communication right on the Bowling Green!

*An updated version of an article written for Bowls Action by Merle van den Berg in 1998.*

You must have heard it said that bowls is 80% in the mind and 20% technique. It has also been stated that psychology creeps into every phase of bowls. So does communication! In Forums 26 & 27 we looked at the Feedback aspect of communication. In this article we will be focussing on Non-Verbal Communication.

Body Language (a term more familiar to us than Non-Verbal Communication) is actually only one form of Non-Verbal Communication. Body Language includes facial expressions, gestures, eye contact and posture. Other forms of Non-Verbal Communication include Sign Language, Ceremonial Protocol, Movement (Kinesecs), Touch, Dress (Objectics), Personal Hygiene, the use of Space (Proxemics), Silence and Time as well as Paralanguage (e.g. volume, tone, rate, the choice of words, etc.). "Para" means over and above so here we refer to the **meanings** which are **added** to the words used. The latter type of Non-Verbal Communication positively or negatively affects the message **contained** in the words, thereby reinforcing or contradicting the verbal message. "It's not what you say but the way you say it" is an old adage. Whenever we communicate verbally, we are simultaneously communicating non-verbally, but the reverse is not true. We can and do communicate non-verbally without using words. Non-Verbal Communication conveys much of what we wish to say and often what we would prefer to withhold! Let's clear up another common misunderstanding: "verbal" means dealing with words – it does not mean oral or speaking/spoken!

Having defined some terms to help orientate ourselves, let's get onto the bowling green and look at some everyday bowling experiences and situations. There are two provisos however. Firstly, no non-verbal meaning can be interpreted in isolation. We must consider the context, the overall situation with reference to our knowledge (if any) of the player's normal verbal and non-verbal behaviour patterns. Then we measure this against the "template" of our experience. The second proviso is that we should never jump to conclusions. Sometimes our interpretation is incorrect – our interpreted meaning more or less than was actually intended.

The analysis of non-verbal interactions can of course be applied to all players on the green. The examples used here to illustrate various situations however, will concentrate mainly on skips – because they are the leaders and main motivators of the team. They set the tone of the game for the whole team besides being the one expected to have the best technical skills and knowledge.

Situation		Skip's Non-Verbal Communication	
		Negative	Positive
1	A player has failed to get a bowl near to the jack.	Ignores the player as they walk past each other. (Denies <b>Eye Contact</b> or feedback in a verbal exchange – <b>Silence</b> .)	"I know you can do better than that Nellie. Focus during the next end, breathe deeply and you'll be there!" (When said kindly and enthusiastically – motivational <b>Paralanguage</b> .)
2	A player has played a few metres through and not drawn a shot as asked.	Shouts: "I asked you to draw not to drive." OR "Leave skip shots to the skips." OR "Going like a Boeing!" (Indicates displeasure by choosing sarcastic phrases and talking loudly so that everyone can hear – negative <b>Paralanguage</b> .)	"Not exactly what I wanted but it's the best back bowl – put the next one on the jack." (Motivational <b>Paralanguage</b> .)
3	A player is repeatedly playing short.	"You were short last time too." OR "I didn't ask for a blocker." (Undiplomatic, embarrassing <b>Paralanguage</b> .)	Wait till walking past each other or standing in the head, and quietly say, "You seem to have a problem with your weight today and are playing short. I've been watching you. You are not putting enough power into the forward swing but I'm not a coach. Perhaps you should make an appointment with Chris the club coach and he will be able to pinpoint your problem." (Motivational, helpful <b>Paralanguage</b> .)
4	A lead or second comments about the score or stands in the head whilst the thirds are measuring.	"Don't you know leads must shut up?" OR in a shouting manner so that everyone can hear, "Stay out of the head." (Again undiplomatic, rude and unkind <b>Paralanguage</b> .)	Discuss the problem quietly with the individuals concerned and, in this way, (positive <b>Paralanguage</b> ) you will gain respect. Explain that if they think a shot has been overlooked by the third they are entitled to quietly draw it to the attention of their third.
5	A player has played a poor shot.	Look away (possibly with your hands on your hips and a shake of your head or the throwing down of your duster) before the player has stepped forward off the mat. OR criticise the shot in discussion with your third, or even worse, with the opposing third and skip. (Negative <b>Body Language</b> and insensitive <b>Paralanguage and/or Undiplomatic</b> choice of words.	Touch their arm or shoulder whilst walking past or at the head and say, "Bad luck – focus and concentrate and your next shot will be better." ( <b>Touch</b> combined with positive <b>Paralanguage</b> .) OR In a quiet moment during play, tea or whilst having a drink afterwards, discuss the problem and suggest solutions such as an appointment with the club coach. ( <b>Timing</b> and positive <b>Language</b> and <b>Paralanguage</b> .)


Situation		Skip's Non-Verbal Communication	
		Negative	Positive
6	The leads and seconds are constantly chatting, seem more interested in the game on the next rink, or are moving around whilst the thirds or skips are playing.	Shout loudly, "Stand still when I'm on the mat" <i>OR</i> , "Can you please keep quiet?" (Two wrongs don't make a right and even the use of <i>please</i> is abrasive if shouted – insensitive <b>Paralanguage</b> .)	At the opportune moment you say something quietly like "It disturbs John and I when we are about to play and you are moving around or talking. You need to focus on every bowl played, even ours." <i>OR</i> "Check the Laws and Etiquette booklets concerning disturbing other players, in the meantime can we rely on your for the last ten ends of this game?" (Firmness is often necessary, but it depends on the way it is said – diplomatically and not in front of an audience – <b>Language, Paralanguage and Timing</b> .)
7	The player appears to have no confidence in the shot you have called and might even suggest another shot.	Frown and shout "I'm the skip here – do as I say." (Aggressive <b>Body Language</b> and <b>Paralanguage</b> .)	Show the player the end-path the shot needs to follow to be successful. (Demonstrative <b>Body Language</b> and say something like "I'd like you to try it this way." (Assertive <b>Paralanguage</b> .) <i>OR</i> "the skip can point out the dangers of the shot to the head when the player has walked up." ( <i>Show</i> ) (Neutral <b>Paralanguage</b> combined with <b>Body Language</b> .)
8	It looks as if the team is going to lose the game.	Pressurise the players with remarks like "You must be in the head" <i>OR</i> (when moving past), "We have to win this game – pull up your socks", accompanied by hostile glances. (This sort of aggressive <b>Paralanguage</b> and <b>Body Language</b> is self-defeating and, by increasing the tension, the player-s tend to play even worse.) Another effect defeat may have on a skip is the drooping of shoulders and body accompanied by the withdrawal of self. ( <b>Body Language</b> and <b>Silence</b> .)	Smile and say "Linda, take your time and give me a shot in the head (or second shot)." <i>OR</i> any other motivational <b>Paralanguage</b> remarks or gestures ( <b>Body Language</b> ), depending on the person and the situation. If you do lose, a good skip can assertively point out the problem areas but choose the right <b>Time</b> and say something like "I would have liked us to win, but I am glad you were good sports about it all. There's always a next time." The skip also plays a part in losing the game – technically in the shots played as well as in the emotional environment he/she creates.

Many more examples could be given, but they are basically variations of the same theme, and a positive skip will let Non-Verbal Communication work **for and not against the team**. Bowler's **clothes, neatness and appearance** are also forms of Non-Verbal Communication that can work **for or against** the whole team. Watch a successful skip and you will notice that they have probably developed a Non-Verbal **Sign Language/System** (usually in discussion with the rest of the team), thereby avoiding shouting instructions, tactics and an analysis of the shots played. Successful skips will also arrange time for a "team talk" preferably a day or two before an important game. The sign system can be agreed and every team member given the opportunity to air their opinions, particularly what they like or dislike about each other's Non-Verbal Communication – as they have experienced it so far. Your team will know if there is honey on your tongue and resentment in your heart!


Non-Verbal Communication is definitely a factor in bowls, and if you get it right you will be a more perceptive, and consequently a more successful skip and bowls player.

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**Coaches Forum is the official publication of Bowls South Africa's NSCC. Please send your news and views to the Editor, Merle van den Berg at [merlof@telkomsa.net](mailto:merlof@telkomsa.net) or give her a call on 043 748 3985 or 082 693 4227. Her postal address is P O Box 2486, Beacon Bay, 5205.**



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### **Louise replaces Sylvia**

Sylvia Burns (WP) has withdrawn from the African States team for business reasons. The event is at Umhlali BC from July 28-August 4. BowlsSA have announced she is replaced by Louise Larkin (Port Natal).

### **Who wants to host national events?**

BowlsSA invites districts to apply and to bid to host next season's national tournaments and championships. They are:

- Warwick/BowlsSA Masters
- SA Mixed Pairs

Districts should note that council agreed to the rotation of the Warwick: Bowls SA National Championships at a meeting held on February 13, 2010; rotation schedule available on BowlsSA website under the icon Events Calendar.

The rotation of the Interdistricts was agreed by council at the last AGM held on August 28, 2011; a rotation schedule is to be presented this year for adoption.



**NEW ROLE:** Former SA coach Dr Simon Botha, now head coach for the Malaysian bowls squad with his charges, after a successful tournament at the Bayuemas Sports Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Before bidding districts should be confident they have sufficient quality green space, adequate accommodation available in the area and the appropriate administrators to staff a tournament committee. Districts will also have to provide BowlsSA with the district grading and levels profile of their greens, before BowlsSA inspections. Responses are required on or before August 31.

### **Standing committees sit down**

Your national executive convenes on September 22 to deliberate, among other subjects, on standing committee structures. To assist them Bowls SA request districts nominate names for consideration to serve on Bowls SA National Standing Committees. A one-page CV should accompany any nomination. Incumbents should also provide an up-dated CV if requesting reconsideration.

### **The BowlsSA executive is sole arbitrator regarding nomination.**

Nominations should reach Bowls SA on or before August 31 and the committees concerned are academy (including selectors – men/women); coaches; greenkeepers; promotion/development and technical officials.

### **Choose your candidates**

To refresh the memory, here is a list of those standing for election to the BowlsSA executive by council; at the AGM on August 25/26: President, Allan Freeman (unopposed); vice-President, Kallie Haupt and Ron Weddell; executive: members: Rob Forbes, Fred Kruis, Charles Levy, Manda Schoon, Isabel Smith, Andy Strong, Ron Weddell.

### **Cherrys on the top!**

Former interdistricts champion bowls veteran Hilton Cherry and his wife Jen, representing Eastern Province, won the Bowls South Africa Mixed Pairs Championship and the gold medal in a tightly contested final 20-15 against the SA Protea mother and son combination of Pierre and Corrie Breitenbach, who took silver, at Potchefstroom

Two sections of 10 district champions each contested the event held from June 14-17.

The bronze medal went to Bernadus van der Spuy and Gillian Bingham (Gauteng North), who beat Protea Billie Radloff and Elma Davis (Southern Cape) 21-19.