

## **Spec-Savers – Cape Town**

Cape Town: A Durbanville Bowls Club duo dramatically snatched victory in the Bowls South Africa/SpecSavers Super 10 Two-Bowls Pairs Championship today (Sunday). It gave WP three victories of the popular nationwide event in as many years; this season, more than 2 600 players competed at club, district, then national level.

WP Singles champion and All Cape winning skip Roley Maggot, all of 80 years old (playing with lead Doug Wyatt), stood on the mat with the last bowl on the last end needing to draw close for victory. To the roar of a partisan home crowd he did it, ran down the green and hugged his partner.

Points are awarded for the first four of the eight bowls played nearest the jack each end – 4, 3, 2, 1; each match worth 100 points. The sponsors invite district winners and runner-up from the 20 districts affiliated to Bowls SA – all expenses met.

The runners-up, Verdon Boucher (father of former Protea wicketkeeper Mark) and Johnny Grant (Border) had taken a 33-27 lead with a 9-1 tally on the 6th end. On the fateful last end, they needed just two points to ensure an extra end play-off; three for certain victory 51-49.

It looked all over, the Border boys had not scored fewer than four on the first nine ends and the locals feared the worst. Alas, for the Boucher, Wyatt draw the shot -, Grant did earn second shot and safety – but when Boucher fell short with both deliveries, the ever-consistent Maggott drew two close for a 9-1 score, an amazing victory and the R15 000 first prize.

Said Rob Forbes (EP), Bowls SA vice-president, accompanied by executive member Charles Levy (Port Natal): “What a weekend of bowls. SpecSavers has done us all proud and everything else contributed royally to ensure an event to savour.” This format, now used in Australia, shortens the game, provided great excitement for players and spectators and attracts younger bowlers to the game.”

The event was hosted at the WPCB Bowls Club, Rondebosch, where superb weather and magnificent greens (thanks to Doug Loubser and Peter Bryant) won acclaim from all finalists. Catering by Trish Young and the results service from Joel Robert were excellent and organising committee convenor Jenny Elliot’s admin was smooth and efficient.

**Semi-finals: Nat/Tim Swanepoel (EP) 45, Roley Maggott/Doug Wyatt (WP) 55; Verdon Boucher/Johnny Grant (Border) 52, Pedri de Villiers/Andy Barron (JBA) 38. Final: Maggott/Wyatt 51. Boucher/Grant 49.**