

# **Bowls Southern Cape**

## **Presidents report to AGM 2012/2013**

It is a great honour and a huge privilege to present my report as President of this amazing district Bowls Southern Cape.

When giving this report some thought, the word reflections came to mind, especially with reference to the past year, where one needs to reflect on the District and at the same time reflect who made that difference.

I came across the following:

### **Reflecting on life by Michelle Tetley**

*Take time to stop today*

*Take time to stop a while*

*Reflect on how life changes*

*Then take time to smile*

*Know that as the days go by*

*These things that challenge you*

*Will one day just be memories*

*Of times you have gone through*

*Look back now on yesterday*

*And all you have achieved*

*Recognise the strengths you've gained*

*The blessings you have received*

*One day in the future*

*You will think about today*

*You'll see just how these challenges*

*Have helped you on the way*

In reflecting back we get the perspective of where we were and knowing now the challenges that lay ahead of us. May I say, there are many challenges that are still on the forefront of our actual right to exist as a sport and recreation.

The year started with so much on the negative side of the scale, with resignations of selectors and administrators that had been part of the system for many years, followed by the tragic loss of an Executive member Lisa de Villiers at a young age. Believe me how we missed her input and laughter at our meetings.

Then came the tragic loss of an U19 player in the prime of his life, Envar Buys who tragically drowned in Klerksdorp while participating in the Bowls SA U19

Development tournament. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the one incident in my many years as administrator that will stay with me for years to come, together with the total

lack of protocol from the powers above. This single event questioned my hope for the future of Bowls. A solution should be found for the high risk of us as a District, having players from destitute families in times of tragedy. I wonder if any of you have given any thought as to the implications of a bus full of these players being involved in an accident with multiple loss of life? This unfortunate tragedy had to happen to BSC but it stays a reality and it MUST be addressed by both us and our National Authority. At this point in time I would again like to thank all those that made contributions to the fund, so that the District did not have to finance the entire funeral.

These two huge tragedies were totally beyond the control of your Executive but they did have and still have scars that still have to heal.

The rest of our reflections as we look back we could control with planning and setting the correct goals.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August we, the incumbent Executive and Management Committee, had a day's workshop to brainstorm Bowls in the District and formulate specific goals for 2012/2013. I can say and on my personal reflection of the goals set, it would appear that most of them were met. Goals set were as follows:

1. ***Clubs would be involved in decision making by personal contact.*** This was done on a monthly basis with Executive members phoning the clubs. In this way the CLUBS could debate and find a solution to the problems of the two years of a "flopped" inter club league.
2. ***Decisions will be faster but democratic and feedback will be given.*** Correspondence received was answered in the shortest possible time, getting feedback using emails from the Executive members without having to wait for a meeting.
3. ***Communication through an improved and better website will be created/ updated and if necessary changed.*** Our new website is the envy of many a district and I am aware of the developer getting emails from enquiring neighbouring districts. However this came at a huge cost in time, as most of the development and exchange of ideas were done between 20h00 and 03h00 each night for at least 3 months and here Johan Erasmus from IT4Me and Elma Davis must get all the credit for the perseverance and hard work, sometimes working against all the odds, of a driver that knew what he wanted and at times was trying to achieve the impossible. But we have achieved a website to be proud of. Work in this regard is however not completed - the history of competitions for which I am responsible is still to be done.
4. ***Creating a separate Zone for the Central Karoo area to comply with the demarcation requirements of the Western Cape Sports Council and SASCOC.*** This was achieved and we are very pleased with the progress in the Beaufort West (Central Karoo) area under the capable leadership of Jan Stadler and his Committee. We have also been warned that the formation of a combined body for Bowls in the Western Cape (WP, Boland and SC) must

[also] be completed by the end of November this year. This is being hampered by the insistence of BSA that they are in compliance, and the WCSC telling us that it is not negotiable and Bowls in the WC **WILL** comply or not receive funding for the new year. This item is on the agenda for the BSA AGM and I trust that it will be cleared up by then as we are just “the ham in the middle of the sandwich”.

5. ***Selectors and selection policy to be clarified.*** This was done and the selection criteria published on the website for everyone to see. The constitution was also amended so that selectors can no longer be considered for selection to any BSC team.
6. ***A more user friendly Fixture book which would include club open days.*** This was achieved by Koos with all his communication to the clubs ensuring that there were no clashes of dates and I must commend Koos for the excellent job of the new look Fixture book
7. ***Costing of Inter District Tournaments and greater fundraising by the players and the PPA.*** This was achieved and a huge thank you to everyone that made it possible that each player could receive an amount back to cover green fees, teas and lunches.
8. ***Travelling costs need to be addressed.*** This I can say was achieved by saving costs on travelling for Convenors of Standing Committees by them not having to attend Executive meetings. To ensure their input they have to submit reports 7 days prior to any meeting. Travelling was also the biggest item taken into account in the decisions on the new League format.
9. ***A more enthusiastic and active environment of all clubs and players within the district.*** This was seen and the total commitment of all clubs to find a working solution for the league for 2014 is proof of this, as well as every club's preparation and working together to ensure total success of the All Cape.
10. ***SMS data base.*** When I proposed this it was a “shot in the dark”, never realizing the huge impact that this system would have on the improved communication within the district and at time with total hilarity on how each member receiving the sms would check what was being required, and if the necessary information had been sent to BSC.
11. ***Membership drive.*** This did not have the desired result and it is a difficult call from an Executive, to try and get new members, as we the Executive do not have clubs and liquor licences, so this will have to be taken over by the clubs and will be discussed later.
12. ***Constitution.*** This was a tremendous effort from everyone involved and I trust that we have now cleared up all the necessary changes as required with the formation of the Central Karoo Zone, Selectors and the disciplinary procedure as required by the Sports Council.

In summary of our goals for 2012/2013 with improved communication and just a new vibe in the District, it also gives a clear reflection of what needs to be done and can now be used as a starting point for the year to come.

**When reflecting, one must give recognition, to those that have made it possible.**

1. **The Workshop** after the AGM last year: To all the clubs that attended and bought into the system of change, your support and assistance is appreciated.
2. **Achievements by Masters players:** Billy Radlof ,Elma Davis and Rozanne Rossouw were invited to the SA Masters and Elma won her second Bronze medal, in three years. Andre Bezuidenhout was selected to mark the final for the SA Masters. Well done, your dedication is an inspiration to many.
3. **Inter Districts:** Our teams climbed one place in the over-all rankings and the Open A ladies again played for Bronze but unfortunately this year lost the play-offs for Bronze, but still, a sterling effort.
4. **All Cape:** Again a very successful tournament under the leadership of Kallie Haupt was hosted with a large entry. BSC sides were involved in both men's and ladies finals day. Elma Davis and her George side won back to back ladies tournaments and a team from Great Brak, skipped by Andre Lombard lost in the playoff for the plate championship. All in all a very successful tournament with good results for BSC.
5. **National ladies fours winner:** Elma, Rozanne, Theuna and Maureen all members of the George Club, well done.
6. **National level administrators:** Kallie Haupt was elected as Vice President of Bowls SA, Peet Badenhorst was re-elected as National selector and Vlam Basson was also re-elected onto the national Greens standing committee. It is a privilege knowing that we have members from this district serving Bowls at national level.
7. **Council meetings:** I am pleased to note the greater attendance at these meetings as well as the input by clubs and especially the workshop to ensure the way forward for the BSC League for 2014.
8. **Executive meetings:** These were held regularly as published with tremendous input from all. The only concern is the attendance of one of the working members who found it difficult to get off work for the meetings and the scheduling of these meetings may have to be addressed to accommodate everyone, especially now that we have a permanent executive member from Beaufort West where time and travelling now become a factor for consideration.

8.1 **Management committee:** This is the engine room of this district and we are very fortunate to have committed and dedicated people willing to serve this District. No words can express my gratitude to these members for going beyond the call of duty for bowls in this district and without them we as Bowls SC would not be what it is.

8.1.1 **Secretary, Christine** what can I say, a work-horse and she always gives 200%, in time and commitment. Christine I am not sure that thank-you is sufficient but you can be assured we appreciate everything that you do, and do in your own quiet way. To Elma who stood in while Christine was on leave a huge thank-you

8.1.2 **Treasurer, Koos,** what a pleasure to know that our finances are in good hands, for your commitment and support to me and always there for me when times got rough, thank- you. Koos also received

the administrator of the year at the SWD Sport Councils prize giving, a well-deserved winner for years of service to the district and 13 years to George club. Koos now takes over two portfolios, both Competition secretary and Treasurer and here again there is a silent worker in the background and that is his wife Rita for giving so much of Koos to serve BOWLS. Thank you Koos for the years that you have given and given willingly to BSC.

8.1.3 **Competitions, Les and Laura.** Les, in times of pain and ill health always got our competitions done and was always “on duty”. For your dedication and again always being there when I was not focussed on what we set out to do, thank-you, I trust that your retirement from district administration and your major operation early in the new year will go well and we trust that you will be back soon.

## 8.2 Executive

8.2.1 **My Vice President Japie** thank you for your support and also the quiet call when times were hard and it felt that we were not going along fast enough, your calls of encouragement were appreciated as well as your vision and understanding of where we as a team wanted to get to.

8.2.2 **Executive members Claudia, Philip and Johnny** thank you for what you brought to the Executive. To Claudia who is not standing for re-election due to her making herself available for greater commitment at club level. I wish you well and trust that your expertise back at club level will grow the club as we as a district are as strong as the weakest club environment and Oudtshoorn is a lucky club to have you as an administrator. To Johnny de Kock we wish him well in his semi-retirement from the game. Philip thank you for the quiet way that you went about your duties.

## 8.3 Selectors,

8.3.1 **Ladies Selectors,** (Dawn Claudia and Sarie) under the leadership of Dawn Hicks at times also not feeling well, yet you stayed committed and took selection to new heights of integrity. Claudia and Sarie for what you brought to that committee and at times under very difficult conditions

8.3.2 **Men’s Selectors,** (Peter, Piet, and Francis) under the leadership of Peter Hudson did a sterling job again under difficult conditions. To Peter who has also decided due to personal commitments to step down, thank-you for your always positive approach and integrity. Enjoy your time off and we look forward to your return to Bowls administration in the near future. To the new convenor, who will be announced at the end of this AGM, you have huge boots to fill in those of Peter.

8.4 **Standing committees,** to everyone who served on these committees and especially the convenors. **Coaching** Peet Badenhorst, **TO’s** Elize Nel,

**Membership growth and marketing** Theo van Aswegan, **Schools**, Johan Havenga and Daphne Farber and Hilton Prins, and **Greens**, Vlam Basson. Well done to all of you for your leadership and to each of the members of the standing committees that gave of their time willingly, we thank you. Thank you for the difference that you have made in this district, each one of these committees operate individually and each one in a speciality so far apart yet each one in their own right way ahead of anything that I have previously experienced. Let's look at Peet with the coaching, at times also not in 100% health, but his input to the squads and selectors invaluable. Vlam and his greens committee to ensure that we always have playing surfaces acceptable to all to compete on, not an easy task. Elize Nel new on the block and a job well done. When it came to arranging markers for Champ of Champs and Masters, a task arranged and sorted out in the shortest of time. Theo, and I want to include Johan, Daphne, Hilton and Susanna here for your input into the survival package of our schools program and the marketing of the game, your input goes unseen by many, but I am aware of what this portfolio takes, well done. To the three managers of that fateful U19 trip to Klerksdorp all I can say is I salute you in the way you were able to assist the players and one another in probably the darkest hour for Bowls SC.

- 8.5 It would be remiss of me not to thank **Elma** for her input into this District and her assistance to me as a full time personal assistant and secretary as well as the very long and late hours put in to ensure the website has updated information.
- 8.6 **General.** How will I ever forget the prize giving and **capping ceremony** held at Outeniqua with a marimba band, and at the closing where everyone was standing and with a glass of champagne singing together with Chariots of Fire at full volume. **The Loerie tournament** where the men against all odds ended up winning this section. The return practice game between Boland and BSC was cancelled by Boland in their wisdom but we were very fortunate to arrange a game against EP in Jeffreys Bay and the return match will be either in Plettenberg Bay or Knysna early next year. Our managers attended a Managers symposium at Kenako and all the selectors attended a full day's workshop also at Kenako Golf Academy. Again to all the players that committed themselves to fundraising to assisting with the additional funds required, Thank - You.
9. We have so much to be grateful for and, should I have omitted any person in name, be assured we as an Executive, are very grateful to any and every one that made a difference or contributed in whatever small way to the growth of the District. To you the dedicated Council that have given us the Executive the strength and support - we Thank You.

Alexander Graham Bell stated that, when one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones that open for us. In moving into the new year we and I include all of our clubs

need to address the membership issue, we need to find innovative ways to ensure that we are not constantly looking at a closed door, before it becomes a reality that we start to look at our own clubs closing. New members and a way to encourage them to become involved members must be found. We as a District cannot drive membership, it needs to be done from each club to ensure future growth of our game. Further we need to encourage players to get involved in administration, this too is a dying breed and I state again without administrators we can have as many players as we want, we cannot survive. We need to find that fine balance that everyone contributes to the administration of this game, we just cannot leave it to the few that are prepared to stick their neck out.

Abraham Lincon said *the best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.* I say today everyday lost in not doing something positive for Bowls is a day lost and a day closer to us no longer having a game that we all love so much. We need to take action now and not wait for somebody else to take action next week or next year. We need a life line/injection NOW before it's too late. I refer you again to the model of Pyramid building and how everyone worked and pulled together to get the Pyramids built. Is it not the time to build the biggest, tallest, widest, pyramid and let's call it Bowls or are we going to wait that our grandchildren come and say "that is the sport my father played" and they called it BOWLS.

David Livingston said : I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it is forward, so let's start going forward and GROW BOWLS but it's going to take each and every member of this District and not just a few of its members.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve this game, called BOWLS and the District BOWLS SOUTHERN CAPE.

TREVOR DAVIS  
PRESIDENT