

# *Eden Bowls*

## Presidents report to AGM 2013/2014

It is a great honour and a huge privilege to present my report as President of Eden Bowls.

When giving this report some thought, one can only look back, not that anything can be changed, but one looks back to the lessons learnt, so that one can move forward and build or improve on what was done and at the same time give recognition to those who made a difference to Bowls in the District.

In writing this report out of Glasgow from the Commonwealth Games where I had the privilege to speak to many people from many countries and from diverse cultures and backgrounds, one thing is common regarding Bowls in every country: There is a great concern regarding the future of the game. Yet everyone in their own way wants to be positive in keeping the game alive and each country has started with membership drives; great news for the survival of the game.

With that thought, I came across the following:

**BY: CRYSTAL MYERS**

LIFE IS GREAT,  
IT'S ABOUT LIVING IT TO THE FULLEST (CARPE DIEM)  
EACH AND EVERY DAY.  
NO  
TOMORROW IS NOT PROMISED TO NEITHER ME NOR YOU  
SO, TAKE EVERY CHANCE, EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT PRESENTS ITSELF  
RUN LIKE THE WIND,  
LOVE, LAUGH, LIVE, LEARN, GROW, SMILE  
EACH AND EVERY DAY,  
INSTEAD OF THINKING NEGATIVELY LOOK INTO THE FUTURE WITH GREAT  
HOPES  
RELY HEAVILY ON YOUR FAITH IN THE HEAVENLY SKIES,  
FOR HE HAS ALL THE ANSWERS,  
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE ANY OBSTACLE BEARABLE.  
RELEASE ALL GRUDGES HELD AGAINST ANOTHER IN WHICH THEY HAVE  
WRONGED YOU.  
LIVE, LAUGH, PLAY  
BE YOU!  
BE UNIQUE, BE CREATIVE,  
IT'S GOING TO BE A BRIGHTER DAY.  
LIFE HAS SO MANY TREASURES TO OFFER.  
LIFE IS LIMITLESS ENDS WITH A GREAT CAUSE, TO TEACH, INSPIRE, HELP.  
ONE MUST DISCOVER THESE TREASURES BY OBTAINING KNOWLEDGE  
AND GROWING FROM EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED WITH TIME.

In looking back over the past year we get the perspective of where we are, and recognise the challenges still ahead of us. And may I say, there are many challenges that are still on the forefront of our actual right to exist as a sport and recreation. Every person from a variety of countries spoken to at the Commonwealth Games expressed the need for top administrators and the lack of new candidates coming forward to offer their services to the game. May I say *every sport* as I had the opportunity to speak to other sporting codes while travelling to the venues every day, and it was concerning that everyone had similar feelings regarding the growth or should I say, the lack of growth in every sport.

In looking back, I came across the old and very well used saying and quote:

***In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took your breath away.***

The year 2013/2014 was not an easy one. There were challenges that can still be turned into positives and challenges that put forward movement on temporary suspense. Even with this there were times that the positive outcome took my breath away.

On District level we had many such moments that took my breath away:

1. The Senior Men's Inter District team winning a bronze medal in Pretoria.
2. The men's national singles runner up, Billy Radloff, in Cape Town.
3. The Ladies All Cape runners up who, for the third successive year played in the final. The team consisted of Elma Davis, Maureen Muller, Arlene Bosse and Johlene Bronkhorst.
4. The ladies National Fours winners for the second year with Elma Davis, Maureen Muller, Arlene Bosse and Jenny Raymond.
5. The Youth Festival held in Oudtshoorn and Development in general and the growth in numbers and enthusiasm amongst these learners.
6. The establishment of a tournament for development players on a regional basis, named after Envar Buys, as a permanent feature on the annual calendar.
7. With the generous support of Outeniqua Bowling Club this district has been able to obtain our own office facility. The office was officially opened at the occasion of the first Eden Bowls Presidents Day on 27 March 2014. The opening took place with much fanfare with representation from George Municipality, including the Mayor, Alderman C. Standers, the general secretary of Western Cape Provincial Sport Confederation, Mr Dave vd Walt and the Vice President of Bowls South Africa, Mr Kallie Haupt.
8. Capacity building: Administrative workshops attended by most clubs were presented in all zones including Central Karoo. A Level 1 Greenkeepers course was also held with 20 candidates representing 13 clubs attending. The results from these workshops are already noticeable and will surely bare positive fruits in years to come.

Oprah said the following:

“Many people want to ride with you in a Limousine, but what one actually wants, is that when the Limousine breaks down that person will take the bus with you”.

Bowls has no remote control. YOU have to get up and change the channel, and make that difference. It is easy to find fault with somebody who offers their services and time to our sport. On the counter side you cannot find fault with anybody not doing anything. So come on let YOU be that bowls remote to make the change for the growth of our game.

In looking back we can see that road we have travelled and it gives time to assess if we chose the correct road. Even though the road at times became very corrugated with its ups and downs, and at times progress and forward movement became very slow due to the condition of the road, we have again arrived at the AGM.

We look back, at the route that we travelled and planned 2 years ago and reflect on the achievements of these goals set for the District. Some of them were the following:

1. ***Clubs would be involved in decision making by personal contact:*** This was done on a monthly basis with Executive members phoning the clubs. As a group of clubs, this council was able to indicate the route the Executive should travel. One example of this was the Council decision to change the route and rejected the Executive's proposal that a portion of the profits from the All Cape be utilized in funding the 2015 Inter Districts. The total cost for any Inter Districts may not exceed 50% of the Districts income from affiliation fees. This is a new section of narrow road that still has to be travelled by the Executive, players and the Players Association alike. However with co-operation and assistance from all involved I am sure we will overcome this hurdle and assist the players in their fundraising efforts.
2. ***Decisions will be faster but democratic and feedback will be given:*** This road was travelled and proposed deviations, placed before us, were resolved amicably and with consensus.
3. ***Communication with improved and better web site will be created/ updated and if necessary changed:*** This section of the road has been upgraded and is now fully tarred and functional. All credit must be given to Johan Erasmus from IT4me and Elma Davis who have done a sterling job to get as much as possible loaded on the web site even when on holiday or playing in the All Cape and Nationals. This site was also used for the 2014 All Cape results with much appreciation from players and Border Bowls. The site is presently being visited by many non-players seeking information on Bowls in general.
4. ***Creating a Central Karoo Zone to comply with the demarcation requirements of the Western Cape Sports Council and SASCOC:*** This organisation is functional, however at the last SWD and now Eden Sports Council meeting, we were informed that Central Karoo has to form their own organisation and members have to affiliate to Central Karoo. However dispensation has been given that their players may represent Eden. The formation of the WCBF was also completed and I trust that at the AGM of the WCSC this federation will be accepted as a full member of the WCSC and in such will receive the necessary and much needed funding.
5. ***Selectors and selection policy:*** This is an area that needs re-construction as the criteria were not adhered to, and especially certain players' resistance to skills practice. To the selectors who gave of their time to ensure teams were selected our gratitude goes out to all of you. Dawn Hicks, in her passing, has left a huge vacuum as she brought a large amount of experience to the selectors and especially with her having played at the highest level, she had a huge base of persons that she could call on from outside the District. Dawn you will be sadly missed.
6. ***A more user friendly Fixture book which would include club open days:*** Thanks to Koos this has worked well and continues to improve and assist with better communication between clubs and their sponsored days are advertised clearly.

7. **Funding of Inter District Tournaments with greater fundraising by the players and the PPA:** This was achieved and a huge thank you to everyone who made it possible that each player received an amount back from the PPA to cover green fees, teas and lunches. This remains the single area of most concern and a very bad section of the road ahead. I foresee many a “stop go” before this road construction will be completed, and this is going to take a huge effort from everyone. As an Executive we managed to get feedback from most Districts and I can assure you that all their roads are under construction with huge cut backs and a greater responsibility being placed on the players themselves and the Players Associations. Many Districts allow each player a fixed amount and the players have to make the arrangements themselves. This Executive debated and found this fairly harsh, as bookings especially for accommodation has to be done well in advance and invariably before the District sides have been selected.
8. **Travelling Costs:** With the ever increasing cost of fuel this remains a challenge to everyone not only the Competition Secretary in an effort to accommodate a fair draw to avoid competitive players playing in the same area all the time.
9. **Membership:** This remains our life line to existence and I am pleased to say that many a club has come forward with ingenious ideas to grow membership. To the George Club initiative of a “buddy” sort of system, I am aware of many clubs that are watching your progress with this one, again well done for thinking out of the box.

With us having travelled the above road, we just have to ensure reasonable maintenance and road works and we can grow, on what has already been done.

**When looking back on the path we have travelled, one must give recognition, to those who have made it possible and to those who carried out most of the maintenance on the road that we have travelled. If I look back to my earlier quote as to travelling in the limo, then these are the people who have travelled on the bus with me when the limo was in for a service:**

- 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 the district. Without them Eden Bowls would not be what it is.
  - 1.1 **Secretary, Christine** what can I say, a work-horse and the calm one who will always bring things together and never misses a deadline to Bowls SA, the clubs, or the Sports Councils, she always gives 500%, in time and commitment. Christine I am not sure that Thank-you is sufficient but you can be assured I appreciate everything that you do, and do in your own quiet way.
  - 1.2 **Treasurer/Competition Secretary:** What a pleasure to know that Koos has always had our finances at heart and now combined with a financial committee our finances are in good hands. Koos for your commitment and support to me and always there for me when times got rough, thank you. Thank you for the years that you have given and given willingly to Eden Bowls.

**2 Executive:**

**2.1 Vice President Japie** thank you for your support. I wish you well in your nomination as President and trust that the road ahead in your endeavours will be to benefit bowls in our region.

**2.2 Executive members Susanna, Matilda, Jan and Billy** thank you for what you brought to the Executive and for the hours of dedication to ensure that Eden stayed on the right road. To Matilda who has decided to work at club level may I thank you personally for being one of those administrators always on the go and working for the greater bowling community.

**3. Selectors:**

**3.1 Ladies Selectors,** (Claudia, Dawn\*, and Sarie) under the leadership of Claudia de Hahn took selection to new heights of integrity

**3.2 Men's Selectors,** (Jan, Piet, and Francis) under the leadership of Jan Stadler did a sterling job again under difficult conditions. Your foresight resulted in achieving the Senior Inter District bronze medal.

**4. Standing committees:** A huge thank you to everyone who served and especially the convenors. **Coaching:** Peet Badenhorst, **TO's:** Elize Nel and Andre Bezuidenhout, **Membership growth and marketing:** Theo van Aswegen, **Schools:** Johan Havenga, Daphne Faber 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 who 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.

**To Peet** who retired from bowls due to poor health, may I thank you for the years of service that you gave to the game.

**Vlam** and his greens committee ensured that we always had playing surfaces acceptable to all to compete on. This is not an easy task, at times being criticised when greens are closed to District competitions, however done with the greatest of concern to get those greens back to the high quality required for District competitions.

**Elize Nel** who also gave up bowls to have more time for her family and work, I thank you for your input. To Andre Bezuidenhout who willingly stepped in to ensure that TOs can move to the next level especially with Eden playing host to the Senior Inter District Tournament next year.

To the **Development committee under the leadership of Theo van Aswegen**, and his highly qualified and capable team of Johan, Daphne, Hilton and Susanna for their input into the survival package of our schools program and the marketing of the game. Your contribution goes unseen by many, but I am aware of what this portfolio takes, well done. For the amazing results and growth and commitment from both you and the Oudtshoorn Municipality for the Youth Festival, WELL DONE.

**To the team managers** of our District sides namely, Jan, Piet and Andre, as well as Claudia, Susanna and Sarie, thank you for your time and effort as we must be one of the few Districts who don't contribute to your expenses while away, but we appreciate what you all do for the sport

It would not be correct if I don't thank **Elma** for her input into this District and her assistance to me. Thank you.

**General:**

How will I ever forget the **prize giving and capping ceremony** held at Outeniqua for the second year with a marimba band, and at the closing where everyone was standing with a glass of champagne.

**The Loerie tournament**, where this year the ladies, against all odds, ended up winning the tournament.

**The ID practice matches, in December and January did not render the greatest of results but gave our players that valuable practice in preparation for the ID.**

Again to all the players who assisted in raising the necessary additional funds required, to ensure participation in this tournament, Thank You.

We have so much to be grateful for and, should I have omitted any person in name, be assured we as an Executive, were very grateful to everyone who made a difference or contribution in whatever small way to the growth of the District. To you the dedicated Council that has given us, the Executive, the strength and support, I Thank You.

Charles Darwin said the following: "It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intellectual; it is the one that is most adaptable to change." So let's ensure that we change in filling our greens and clubs with new members, new ideas and make this a game for everyone.

Winston Churchill said: Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.

I trust that Eden Bowls will continue with courage and foresight to extend this great game to EVERYONE.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve this game, called BOWLS and the EDEN BOWLS district.

TREVOR DAVIS  
PRESIDENT