

Eden Bowls

Presidents report for Council meeting 6th June 2014

It is again a privilege to report to you the council and governing body of Eden Bowls. So much has happened since November 2013, the last time we were gathered together.

I would like to welcome Kallie to our meeting and trust it will be an encouraging one for him, as Vice President of Bowls SA and a member of the Eden District and that he is made aware of what has been achieved in the past 6 months. I am also very pleased to openly at this forum, thank Kallie for the open and frank meeting that we had at the ladies Nationals. We as Eden accept the value of having one of our members serving bowls at the highest level, and we thank him for the hours spent in bowls administration. I have repeatedly stated that administrators are a dying breed and we desperately need to encourage newer bowlers to come on board and become involved in the administration of Bowls, as in this way, we will ensure the longevity of the sport we all love. It is important that every bowler gives back to the game and not just take. I agree that it is very easy to sit on the side-lines and find fault. It is a lot harder to give and give willingly to Bowls, with the continuous demands from those players that have not yet decided to have a mind-set change from “what can I get out of Bowls” to “what can I do for Bowls”.

With this thought I would like to single out Henk Barnard for his foresight in development and growth with his club adoption program, that as reflected by figures on the data base, has started to gain momentum and have the desired effect on membership. The attitude of past Presidents of George club, to take responsibility for his adoption program, forms part of the success. How many “Henks” can we clone in the next 6 months? We as an executive will be watching the program and I am sure within a year this will be the model for growth for all clubs. Well done, Henk and George club.

As indicated in the above we as a District and Executive have also been through some difficult months and the fact that the Executive consists of an even number of members makes decision taking, very difficult. As President, I will not use my casting vote and I would recommend that this council look at the possibility of increasing the Executive by an additional member to ensure an uneven number.

Finance, is top of any Federations list of problems, and with falling numbers and rising costs, no Federation can survive if it continues to delve into its nest egg or capital. I had two meetings with Accountants in the district and both were adamant that we should be budgeting for at least break-even and not a loss. However the Inter-Districts are becoming a bigger headache every year. We requested all other Districts to let us know how they balance the books and still keep participating in the Inter Districts and the responses were interesting. Our treasurer will be placing the books and budget before you, the decision makers of the District, and I would ask that input is given to ensure that we as Eden Bowls find that fine line of balance. We must remember the value that District players bring to the bowling fraternity, but also stress that a larger portion of the costing will have to be funded by the players themselves.

I must thank all the clubs that attended the first Eden Presidents day and thank Outeniqua Club for their contribution. From my side these get-togethers by the presidents can also go a long way to improve the “networking” between clubs and District.

To be a federation with its own office is amazing and for that we as Eden Bowls would like to thank Outeniqua Club and its members who gave willingly of their labour and time to ensure the completion of the offices. I would however like to single out one person: Greg Young for his input and financial contribution. For an Executive to have its own place of meeting, as meagre as it is without furnishings, we know Rome was not built in one day. We are also very grateful to the George Municipality for their contribution of R10 000.00 towards the boardroom table and chairs.

The loss of the Vice President of Eden Bowls Japie saddens one. I would like to thank him for the time and effort given to Bowls.

Provincial Sports Council:

This portfolio is so important and may not be overlooked. Although it is hard work and time consuming, with late notices of meetings that have personally deprived me from playing and having to withdraw from certain District competitions, it remains essential. The results were grants totalling R105 000 from the Provincial Sports Confederation over the past two years. Without this funding we would have been a lot further in the red by now. So, affiliation and compliance to this Confederation is worthwhile. Fellow members, it does not mean doing what is not right, but compliance is the correct path to travel with this Government organization. I can mention that one of the biggest Districts over the past two years has only received R10 000.00, so whatever we are doing, it is making a difference.

Coaches

We hope to be hosting the National level 2 Coaches course here in November and await quotations from both George and Outeniqua clubs for the meals, etc. We will also be looking for accommodation from players in the George area, to home host these coaches from our own and neighbouring Districts. We will be funding a part of the course out of funding received from the Provincial Sports Confederation for capacity building. I request that especially the two George clubs make this known to their members and that willing bowlers, prepared to host these coaches, contact me. Believe me it is an honour to host and be part of this Bowls SA initiative to ensure coaches are equipped with the necessary skills to take coaching to the next level. We will be selecting and nominating the coaches for this course from those that qualify within the next month, and again I ask that clubs, that have coaches who have given so much and are selected, assist with the costs for these coaches. I would like to see some sort of contract between the club and coach and should a coach be nominated and included in the course, that the clubs assist financially and that the coach is committed to repay the costs in hours given back to the club and its members.

Junior Bowls

The Executive have already taken a decision to send as many Junior teams as possible to Bloemfontein next year and would encourage all clubs to ensure that as many of these players as possible take part in the Oudtshoorn Youth Festival, which we will be using as trials for next year. So let's ensure we give **every youngster** the opportunity to participate, no matter how long they have been playing Bowls.

With this we were forced to recall Development bowls from clubs that they can be used where needed. We allowed one set per club that they can still be used for new members which is also development, but the sole purpose of the smaller sized bowls was for the schools program which is vital for our Sports Confederations funding. We are obliged to make our greens available to scholars and to grow the game amongst the youth, and request that the clubs support us in this initiative. If we have left Development Bowls at your club, the proviso being that we get a MONTHLY report and photos. We as a District will also be ordering a few new sets with funding received for capacity building and should any club like to also purchase sets we are very willing to do a bulk order and negotiate a price with the suppliers.

PPA

I again ask that clubs assist its players together with the PPA to raise the necessary funds to ensure participation in the 2015 Inter Districts. The PPA is there for and to assist the players but cannot do it without the clubs support.

Web Site

The web site was used for the All Cape to publish the results daily and Border Bowls was very grateful for the assistance. We still get the most amazing requests on our web site which Christine passes onto the relevant Districts. I again would like to thank Elma for her hours of dedication in her spare time to place as much as possible on the web site.

Nominations

May I remind all clubs that they give recognition to their own members by nominating them for the Eden Awards.

Nominations for the Executive also close shortly and I would ask every club to encourage those administrators for the future of the game, to come forward.

I am aware that both Koos and Christine are NOT available for further duty from the AGM next year 2015 and these two posts are vital to the smooth running of any District. Both Koos and Christine will be sadly missed; however there are no better tutors to teach any administrator the fine "ins and outs" of administration. So please it's now or never: we have to appoint assistant administrators as secretary, Treasurer, and Competition Secretary with almost immediate effect. So please let these nominations also be forwarded to Christine.

Data Base

I appeal to all club Data Base administrators that this is again cleaned up. There have been numerous pleas to remove all spaces out of the cell phone numbers, and remove all land line numbers from the cell phone column. Some cell phone numbers have a back slash (/) in front of the number. All these discrepancies make it very difficult to use when bulk sms's are sent to all members. Capitals used in any word except the first letter, makes the data base look untidy. Some clubs do not have one email address for members, this is not possible. The Bowls SA cards are printed from the data base from the preferred name. It is fine to have Jacobus Pieter Jan Henry Edward van Zyl as the name, but the preferred name is Kobus and the card will be printed Kobus. However, if all the names are in the preferred column and even worse if in capitals, the name on the card could end up JACOBUS PIETER JA, as the name is too long with all those names in the preferred column. Please, I appeal to all clubs to get the data base standardised and use it, I challenge each club to "let's get it right"

New members and the incentive that goes with new members can only be captured with the first entry and once submitted cannot then be included. We would like to ensure that any member bringing along a new member gets the credit for this but then the loading of the member with the person introducing that player to the game of bowls has to be done at first registration.

Management Committee

To Christine and Koos, every day I can only say "Thank You" for what you do and have done for this district and for bowls in general. I can only admire you and your commitment. I can only say, you are 2 in a million.

Achievements

In the past 6 months the District has again produced players with exceptional results for the Eden District.

1. Senior Men Inter Districts: won a bronze medal in Pretoria. Congratulations to all players and manager well done.
2. BSA Masters: Elma was invited to play in the BSA Open Masters and Japie Combrink to the BSA Senior Masters.
3. All Cape: Elma Davis and her George team, including Arlene Bosse, Maureen Muller and Johlene Bronkhorst lost in the final by one shot and played in their 3rd successive final.
4. Mens Nationals: Billy Radloff won the silver medal in the singles. Very well done.
5. Ladies Nationals: Elma Davis and her team including Maureen Muller, Arlene Bosse and Jenny Raymond won Gold for the second year, and thus in two nationals did not lose a single game. They must be congratulated for the way they performed.
6. National Zone Camp, those invited are Billy Radloff, Henk Barnard, Maryke Rabie and Elma Davis. We wish them well.
7. I have also been invited to officiate at the Commonwealth Games from 18th July and returning 5th August. As one of only 5/6 non Scottish Citizens who have been selected from around the World, I look forward to the opportunity to see the best in the World in action and being on the green marking and Umpiring for the world's best. It is an opportunity of a life time, and I thank my creator for the opportunity afforded me.
8. Bowls SA awarded the 2015 Senior Inter Districts to Eden where the men will play in Oudtshoorn and the Ladies in the George area. To the clubs that went that extra mile to ensure their greens were prepared to perfection for the inspection last week, we as a district thank the clubs that made the grading, namely Oudthoorn (sub HO), Outeniqua, and George club (HO). To Sedgefield and Great Brak that were not so successful we trust that next time they may get the opportunity to host a major.

9. To you the council that have grown in commitment, to grow this game, you too must be applauded.

I thank you

**TREVOR DAVIS
PRESIDENT EDEN BOWLS**