

# **Bowls Southern Cape**

## **Presidents report for Council meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

It is again a privilege to report to you the council and governing body of Bowls in the Southern Cape and possibly my last report in this name to this forum, as at the SWD federations meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November we were advised that the SWD has to change its name to EDEN. So this will be our last meeting as Bowls Southern Cape. This will however be a cosmetic change to our constitution as it's only a name change.

This is indeed a historic meeting where we have the presidents of the Blind Bowlers, Ladies Nomads and Men's Nomads in attendance today. As historic as it may be this should also indicate that we are all here for Bowls and its players and growth is paramount to our total existence.

However, it becomes very serious that our game and ultimate existence revolves around the Business leagues, which please don't get me wrong, is very important for the financial injection it brings to the clubs. But when I see on a club return that a player has resigned to "join and play in the business league", surely this must set off all the alarm bells. Yes it may be said that the business leagues are definitely the mechanism to sow seeds for long term membership, BUT it does not help that we have a bumper crop in 20 years' time and we have no one to feed on the crop and bowls no longer exists then. We will be discussing this later and trust that this forum will come up with some solution to integrate ALL players, from players with disabilities to the corporate world, and I trust that together we can find that "glue" and solution to find the common way forward.

In reflecting on the past few months since my report to this forum at the AGM, it again gives me great pleasure to report positively and to thank you the clubs for your positive input and forward thinking in what has been achieved. You, the clubs, are Bowls Southern Cape and it's been great to see what has been done at club level. Let me congratulate Plettenberg Bay club for the amazing Facebook page and for the way they have opened communication to all their members. You might be stuck out on the edge of the district but you have shown us how easy it is to get everyone involved. I would encourage everyone to go and "like" the Facebook page so that we can all see what the club is doing and let's grow with them. Your efforts are reflected in your growth in numbers, as well as the fact that you are the club with the greatest growth in the year and the greatest growth as a percentage of members as well. So your enthusiasm and efforts are paying off and you must be applauded for whatever you are doing, it's working, so keep it up.

I must also congratulate Outeniqua Club, for the historic presidents day, which I was part of. To have the Mayor and all his councillors attending the opening, with two greens full, 112 players on the green, this must be the first of its kind in the country. Even with the All Cape it was not possible to get such a municipal council participation at the opening. This is great and can only be good for our sport. Well done Louis, great to see and have been part of.

It would be amiss of me, if I again don't give due recognition to our secretary Christine, for what she does and brings to this district going beyond the call of duty virtually on a daily basis for the betterment of Bowls and I am sure that without you, the committed and dedicated administrator, this sport would not be what it is.

Then to our Competitions Secretary, Treasurer, Data Base administrator Koos Louw, three portfolios that has become a full time job. Koos has turned competitions around in the past 2 months with a simpler "paper system" of getting the results published. The fixture book, which is a

nightmare to any district, Koos you have again made it look so easy. We are very lucky to have two such persons who go beyond the end of the world for Bowls. I don't even want to try and comprehend the value you bring to this District, THANK YOU.

To our web site administrator, Elma, thank you for the hours you spend loading documents to the web to ensure transparency and that everything is available to everyone. Sometimes it takes 20 minutes to load one document to the web, but you persist even though you have in the last while sacrificed your own training to stand by me. So please fellow bowlers use our web site.

I have visited and played in days at Sedegfield, Hartenbos, Knysna, Still Bay and Outeniqua this month and I would like to thank these clubs for their hospitality. It is great just to see what is going on at our clubs.

I again this month urge every club to look at their own ways of growing our numbers. Each club is unique in its own way but there must be a way, by thinking "out of the box" that you can grow your own clubs. We all need to grow even if it is by one member (net growth) a month/club.

### **Provincial Sports Councils;**

For my sins this is a portfolio that I was not looking forward to, but it is amazing that if one just attends the meetings regularly how important it is that we are part of this structure and that we comply with their requirements. I have attended two such meetings in the last while and on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, after some lengthy debate we were left with no option but to fall in with the boundaries as set out in our countries constitution. We (and that is all federations) have to change our name from Bowls Southern Cape to EDEN BOWLS. Fortunately the meeting decided to retain our logo and our colours of green, white and blue and to extend the phasing in of clothing over two years. Then the name Southern Cape or SWD will vanish forever. We have to change our constitutions by January 2014, but more on that later. All federations were also instructed to add a clause on dispute resolution to their constitutions.

### **Coaches refresher course**

To the clubs that hosted these courses, may I express my gratitude for the arrangements and the way we were hosted at Knysna, Still Bay, and Outeniqua. A total of 47 coaches re-qualified and 12 aspirant coaches attended the clinic in Still Bay. There was a lot of preparation that went into these days and I can assure this forum that we now have an excellent group of re-motivated and dedicated coaches wanting to coach all those new members that we are going to attract to our game. May I also express my gratitude to Susanna and Elma for assisting me with the preparation and presentation of the courses. There are a few coaches whose badges expire soon and I trust that we will also be able to accommodate them to keep them in the system, as it is a national and SASCOC requirement that coaches do a refresher course every 4 years. For those who did the refresher, all the documents and hand outs are on the web site under the heading, "about us, and then coaches and technical officials".

An interesting scenario happened at Outeniqua club the last day when a lady, walking past the club and with a green full of tabs in players and the other green full of coaches doing a skills circuit and laughing and having fun, she walked into the club and asked Elma how she could become part of this game. If that is not the most positive thing that I have seen for a long time and a lesson to be learnt then I don't know. Positive attitude and FUN that is what any person observing our game should see.

### **Administrative workshop**

May I appeal to all administrators to make an effort to attend the workshop as Koos and Christine have given up of their time to share their experience and wide knowledge of administration of our game, and at the same time assist with any administration matters of concern.

### **PPA**

I again request that teams will challenge our District teams on the 7 December 2013. So let's see this year how many District teams will end up with red faces by being beaten by the "CHALLENGERS". Watch this space for more information and details. The PPA will also be driving this initiative with vice president Japie

### **Web Site**

I again ask everyone to make use of our web site. Anything you want to know regarding what is going on in the District you will find there and if you don't find it there we will get it onto the web, nothing is secret. So there is no reason that anybody can say they don't or did not know. On the web site please go and join our Facebook and see what is happening in your district.

### **Communication**

Communication in the District has done a 360 degree turnaround in 18 months and it's great to see the bulk sms being used to spread the word and making everyone included in all and any bowling activities.

### **District Clothing**

Final approval has been obtained from the sports council and everything is in the final stages of manufacture. The jacket sample is being made that Vice President Japie and I have put together and that should arrive within a month. Our thanks again to AESSEAL for their generous donation and assistance in getting a large portion of our clothing paid for. It would appear that Bowls will also be the first federation to officially wear the EDEN badge.

In future NO clothing can be made without a letter from the district secretary as the provincial sports council is very concerned that in certain sporting codes Eden colours are being issued to players not yet selected to represent the District, and they have insisted that all federations comply with the code of conduct relating to the wearing and issuing of Eden colours.

### **EDEN BOWLS district office**

It is with great anticipation that we await the completion of our offices and move into them hopefully on the first of January 2014. This brings a request that should anyone have contacts for a board table and chairs they should talk to me as there must be Businesses out there that may be upgrading their own offices and we could make use of their old office furniture.

### **Loeries**

I extend my and the executives congratulations to all players playing in Swellendam this weekend and wish them good bowling and may this be the start of big things to come for each of you. To the managers that have given up their time to contribute to the success of this tournament and the growth of each player, we are indebted to each of you for your time and effort given to bowls willingly.

### **Blind Bowlers**

We will be facilitating a meeting with all interested parties after this meeting and we would like the Chairperson Jackie Jacques to have the backing of this forum. We even look forward to welcoming a section for persons with other disabilities to participate in our sport but one thing at a time. Jackie, be assured we as the Executive of Bowls in this area the "Garden of Eden" will give you and your

committee all the support and backing you need to grow. I trust that later when I call for acceptance of this committee to become part of our council it will be favourably considered.

### **Media**

It has been great to see the changing attitude in media coverage and even in very poor health and in tremendous pain Les had set up a meeting with the media with positive results and better coverage to Bowls. Thank you Les and Laura.

### **Awareness day**

Clubs must be congratulated on their efforts to participate in this day. Clubs decided to do it when and where they felt comfortable and even with very bad weather from the reports submitted it is all positive, well done. In considering this event next year it may be time to change the emphases from AWARENESS to do like the WP, who changed the name to a "CARNIVAL OF BOWLS" as that is what it actually is. Let's bring the FUN back into bowls. Never forget we don't only make people aware of our sport on one day a year we should be doing it everyday.

### **Green keepers meeting and Level 1 course**

A meeting was convened yesterday by myself and the convenor of our greens standing committee with the sole intention that together we can ensure that all clubs in the George area follow the same program to give the District greens that are of top quality for the 2015 Senior Inter Districts scheduled in this area then. Greens don't get turned around in a month and it was this foresight from Vlam that impelled us to start early and ensure top greens for 2015. It will be seen from the report on Greens from Vlam that there are areas of concern but with forward planning we can ensure that this is corrected. The meeting was attended by Presidents and green keepers from Oudtshoorn, Ouetniqua, George, Sedgefield and a delegate from Groot Brak. It was agreed that Vlam would visit these clubs and report back to the executive every 3 months. Vlam gave the criteria that would be considered by the BSA greens committee and BSA executive member and stressed the importance of certain aspects that are taken into consideration when awarding a tournament to the club. Vlam would prepare a report for the executive and this would be forwarded to these clubs. Again like our Secretary and Treasurer/Compt.secretary we as District can be very fortunate to have someone like Vlam in the Eden district who gives willingly to ensure the betterment of our greens and sport.

The level one Green Keepers course planned for 25<sup>th</sup> of November has already attracted large numbers and every club should be encouraged to support this course and together ensure that greens are maintained at a high standard. I can report that even Riversdal have indicated 3 candidates will attend, and they must be commended for their effort. Even with limited members they are prepared to attend and learn from one another. There is also a Green keepers manual available from Bowls SA at a cost of R300. 00 which I can assure every club it is a must to have for any club. This comes with amazing input from Dr Chales Louw who I worked with in the SFS for years and was involved with in the construction of 2 new clubs which included 4 new greens. At R300 it is a bargain.

**This being the last council meeting this year, may the Executive wish you all a wonderful Christmas and festive time and family time. If you are going to be on our roads travel safely and return to the "Garden of EDEN" here in the Southern Cape, where each of you are important to our game of Bowls.**

**May 2014 be the one that we all wish for.**

**I thank you**

**TREVOR DAVIS  
PRESIDENT BOWLS SOUTHERN CAPE**