

# **Eden Bowls**

## **Presidents report for Executive meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

What a privilege to be part of this Executive and the amazing District Eden Bowls. So much has happened to make me so proud of Eden Bowls. The opening of our new offices yesterday with two full greens (28 teams/ 112 players) in attendance being most of our club presidents, the mayor of George, the General Secretary of the Western Cape Sports Confederation, Dave vd Walt, and the press to mark the opening of the offices and the official changing of the Southern Cape flag to the new Eden flag.

My gratitude to everyone at Outeniqua Club for their support and the opportunity that Eden can now have meetings at any time without prior arrangements. I am very aware of the feeling of a minority of club members and trust that they too will see the advantages of us as a federation having an official office for which we have signed a four year contract. In giving thanks may I not forget every member of Outeniqua club especially the club Chairman Louis du Preez and Greg Young for their input and assistance.

How does one express one's emotions when the Mayor pledges R10000.00 to assist with the furniture for our new offices. One can only be grateful and express gratitude to the entire District for the way everyone has supported us as the Executive and showed that together we are stronger than any single entity. To all the clubs that played in the Presidents day and were part of the day's activities and history in the making, your contribution to the day's success was again evident in everyone's attendance.

In saying my thanks we must not lose sight of the years of assistance from George club. Their input towards the growth of this federation is amazing; from meetings at short notice to the continuous supply of administrators that they have produced for the benefit of Eden Bowls.

The final furnishings will and can come over time and we are not concerned regarding the lack of a board table etc. However the advantages are overwhelming and today's meeting with selectors and managers is just the first of many meetings where the federation can meet at any time and be self-sufficient with teas and snacks.

With the new offices very much on the forefront I may not forget the Senior Men's inter-districts team making us proud by returning home with a bronze medal, well done to all players and everyone who contributed to their success.

While on the Inter-Districts let me compliment the district on their appearance and dress at the tournament. Compliments were received from many other districts especially after all the rain where some districts' clothing looked very shabby and mud stained by the third day when wet and stained clothing would not dry. Eden, on the other hand, looked as fresh on the last day as they did on the first day.

Membership stays priority one and I was very impressed by an article placed on the web site from Bowls Scotland who have just had a national membership and development indaba. The final finding was that membership should begin with family and friends and that each club is responsible for their own growth and bringing new players to the game. Great to see that National federations even as far as Scotland see the necessity to have national indaba's to ensure that bowls in Scotland grows together with the hosting of the Commonwealth Games. So let's use their example and let's get our families and friends into this wonderful game of BOWLS.

### **Provincial Sports Councils:**

Nothing to report except that the Western Cape Bowls committee has now applied for membership of the WCSC and all the forms have been completed. We are in very good standing with the WCSC and receive regular assistance and appreciate their continued support and have received further funding for capacity building.

### **Coaches**

The coaches' return has been finalized by Elma and I would like to thank all the coaches for their continued support and coaching in the district to a total of 2100 hours being given freely to the benefit of clubs and the district.

It is with regret that Susanna has withdrawn from the squad practices at Hartenbos due to lack of commitment from many players in that region and we will later today have to contemplate the road ahead for that area regarding squad training.

### **Inter Districts 2014**

I will report back to the meeting with the selectors and managers as to the final results. I have mentioned the Senior men winning bronze. The ladies overall standings remained 5<sup>th</sup>, the same as last year. The men climbed from 12<sup>th</sup> last year to 10<sup>th</sup> this year, thus making us overall 6<sup>th</sup> where we were 7<sup>th</sup> last year. A few very interesting observations : both Boland and EP have climbed to positions 1 and 2. This I can only put down to their use of the younger players and giving them the opportunity to grow, and I can also say, from what I have heard, their focus on rules and commitment to do well. The opportunity with the meeting of selectors and managers must be used to early on in the calendar year take the correct decisions for the 2014/2015 inter districts

### **Web Site**

This stays the info centre for everything that is happening in our district and used by so many players not only in our district and even now being used by players enquiring regarding the All Cape being held in Border. It is just amazing what questions and information is sought from us on the web site.

We need to ensure that, with immediate effect, certain links are placed on our web site: the link to Bowls SA and World Bowls.

We also need to expand the use of advertisements on the web site as a source of income, I will be looking at setting up a meeting with the developers and Koos that the speed of getting adverts placed on the web be shortened.

We have to give recognition to the WCSC that they do supply us with funding.

### **Blind Bowlers**

It is now time that we put our weight behind this committee to try and grow this section including for persons with any disability. Every club should be looking at this aspect as we are required by the Sports Council to ensure we are inclusive of all aspects of society and it is amazing to see Jackie working with her blind bowlers and how they appreciate being part of the club structure. I can say that while in Pretoria with the Snr inter districts one district included a player on merit with very limited sight and walked around with assistance and a white stick. Let me assure you he never let his side down and was an inspiration to all of us there.

### **TO's**

The new TO shirt will be delivered shortly and I thank all the clubs that ordered shirts for their TO's.

### **PPA**

We as executive are very fortunate that the PPA and their players contribute to raising funds for the tournaments and this will also be discussed at the meeting with selectors and managers later today. Costing of the various tournaments has to be addressed and the continuous problems with transport to and from the tournaments have to be solved as well as the proportion of our total income spent on these tournaments. The way that other districts fund the costing of these tournaments should be investigated.

### **District competitions**

With Inter Districts behind us and once the All Cape and Nationals has been completed I trust that the entries will continue to grow this year just as in the first few competitions of the year.

### **League**

I am personally very pleased with the way the first rounds were played and it was great to see club camaraderie back on the green and games in the new format generally accepted. For those sceptics that said that it was “micky mouse” format, I trust that they see that any medal won at the Commonwealth Games later this year will be worn with pride, even though it will be played with a similar format.

### **Senior Inter Districts 2015**

As an executive we are very pleased to advise everyone that we have been awarded the competition for 2015 and this is going to take a huge effort from EVERYONE to ensure we put on a classy act and ensure a great competition on good greens. I must say from the outset it is going to take sacrifices from everyone to ensure the greens are 100% and everyone should be aware of the criteria that we have to meet to comply with Bowls SA modus operandi.

### **Greens**

Our greens are paramount to our game and I trust that all clubs will comply with the recommended specifications as set by our greens committee under leadership of Vlam. We thank him in advance for what he does for the districts greens. Vlam and I have done inspections at Knysna, Oudtshoorn, Great Brak, Outeniqua, George and Mossel Bay in February and in March. I am pleased to report that our greens have shown a drastic improvement in the past 2 months and I thank the clubs for what they have done to improve our playing surfaces.

### **Mini Inter Districts vs Boland and EP**

These were concluded and well organised and stay an integral part of our preparation for the Inter districts. Even though we as a district did not come out victorious they remain an important tool in our preparation.

### **Men's and Women's player of the year**

This was introduced and Billy Radloff and Elma Davis were the winners of the first presentation, the trophy is still in the final process of being made and it will be presented later to the council.

### **SA Masters 2014**

We again congratulate Elma Davis and Japie Combrink who acquitted themselves well and look forward to possible medals next year.

### **Prize giving and Capping ceremony**

This year's function was again a huge success to follow on last year's success and my personal thanks and appreciation to *everyone at Outeniqua Club and the organising committee* for a day to remember and the inspiration for any player going to represent their district at the Inter districts. A special thanks to Greg Young and Johan Meyer for their contributions and especially financial contributions.

In closing I again give recognition to my executive for their support and understanding as to where we need to be as a district, also to our management committee that don't know the limits of giving of their private time to ensure Eden bowls grows; to Koos and Christine we as a district are totally indebted to you and I fear the day that I can't pick up the phone no matter what the time is, and I always have a listening ear to share my concerns with, or especially to share my excitement of a district achievement or a player's achievement.

**I thank you**

**TREVOR DAVIS**

**PRESIDENT EDEN BOWLS**