



# TAKE GRASS VAT GRAS

OFFICIAL SABLES BOWLS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

ISSUE 7

## SABLES AGM REJECTS NEW LEAGUE

### Special points of interest:

- *Disabled Bowlers Honoured*
- *Fred Bekker remembered*
- *Bowls etiquette*
- *Selectors*
- *Reader's view*
- *Venues for Sables Competitions*
- *News from AGM*

### Inside this issue:

Two sets of Laws?	3
Sables Executive	2
Fred Bekker memorial	3
Standing Committees	4
U/19 & U/25	3
CANSA receives donation	2
Editorial Comment	4

After the majority of Sables Clubs in Sables voted for a change to the new 9's league format (8 for 4 against) at the recent Sables Council meeting, this was overturned at the Sables AGM.

During the AGM which was held at Headquarters Krugersdorp Bowling Club JJ Bedford-Owen, spokes person for Discovery BC at the AGM, presented argument to the meeting for retaining the 'old' format of two teams of four per club and playing a double round over a much longer extended period of several weeks.

After various Clubs gave their input, the matter was put to the vote by President Ian Stayt, who made it clear that he had no personal preference or support for the new format, other than to execute the wishes from Council and whatever a vote result would demand.

Discovery Club's main objection to the new format was built around the structure of two sections of six clubs each, with the 'top' section including only one of each of the strongest clubs in the District for the first year, with promotion and relegation coming into play in the second year depending on the results.

JJ Bedford-Owen stated that Discovery Club fought hard to get their league teams to win and thereby qualify to move up. Based on last season's results, Discovery would this year have two sides in the Premier Division, which would not happen if the new league came into being.

This time however voting was done on proportionate votes depending on the membership of the

various clubs, giving the bigger clubs more than one vote. On this basis, when the votes were counted, the 'NO' vote carried the day for the bigger clubs and the proposed new league format rejected.

One might argue that leading up to Council and AGM meetings, clubs were asked to put the proposal of the new league format to their members for a decision, which it is hoped all clubs did, and that the result of a 'yes' vote by Council should have carried the decision.

No doubt based on the Council 'yes' vote at Council, the smaller clubs and numerous players will be disappointed. After all leading bowling nations internationally, have all moved away from the old 'Fours' format including South Africa, who did so well at the last Commonwealth games.

Sables Seniors have for some time very successfully run the annual Super 10 competition in 'unofficial' inter-districts with their neighbours. A team of 10 players are selected playing Singles, Pairs, Trips and Fours.

In fact it was from this years Super 10, enjoyed by all, that the proposal germinated to propose this format for the Sables League. The proposal for the league was based on only 9 players, doing away with the Singles discipline and obvious need to have markers.

Strong argument for the new format was also based on the need to make bowls more exciting and that bowls need to undergo change. At the AGM

counter argument was presented on "why change when something is not broken" to which President Ian Stayt responded with to just leave something, even if not broken, could have long term implications, quoting the South African roads as example which was not broken, just left and today are in a terrible state.

The new format would also have afforded the Clubs to compete in more than just one discipline which many would argue would have been even more representative of the clubs depth and skill in various discipline to include Pairs and Trips while still retaining the Fours.

The new format would only have been played over one round releasing a number of weekends for other activities such as Club competitions on a very busy annual bowls calendar.

So for the coming season anyway, the League format will remain unchanged and will again start in November with a Christmas break and continue again in the new year.



**Sables President Ian Stayt after handing over Sables donation to CANSA representatives Esther Pretorius and Melanie Walker**

## FEW CHANGES TO SABLES EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

At a Special General Meeting preceding the Annual AGM, a resolution was adopted extending the office period for President and Vice-President to two years instead of the previous 1 year in office.

This should greatly benefit the District mainly by ensuring continuity and providing a President with a longer time frame in which to lead and achieve.

The executive for the next year remains unchanged with the excep-

tion of Pieter Briel Snr (Rustenburg Impala BC, who resigned and who was replaced by JJ Bedford-Owen (Discovery BC). No doubt JJ's passion and support for bowls in Sables can only benefit Sables. JJ also represents Perfect Delivery, one of the main sponsors of bowls in Sables while playing serious bowls himself.

All the office bearers for Sables for the coming year are listed on the back page of the newsletter.



**SABLES PRESIDENT IAN STAYT**

## SABLES HONOURS ACHIEVEMENTS

At the recent Sables AGM held at Sables Headquarters Krugersdorp Bowling Club, Sables honoured a number of players for achievements during the World Championships for disabled bowlers

Recognition was given to Tracy Smith and her Director Tommie Smith, Jill Pearson, Duimpie J van Vuuren (Ditector) and Flippie Walker. The awards were presented by Sables President Ian Stayt.

Nic Rusling was also honoured for his recent selection to the Proteas and medals win at the Africa Games



Pres Ian Stayt with Tracy Smith and Director Tommy Smith



*Sables President and Nic Rusling from Discovery BC (Right)*



*Pres. Ian Stayt, Duimpie J van Vuuren and Flippie Walker*



*(Below) Jill Pearson receiving her award from Pres Ian Stayt*

## LAWS OF BOWLS— Comment from a reader

.Comment was received from Don Walker, (Leases Bowling Club) past President Sables Bowls. He writes:

An article in “Raakskoot/Toucher”, the quarterly edition of Boland Bowls newsletter on the Laws of the Game, was most enlightening. I feel it is worth being discussed in our edition of “Take Grass/Vat Gras”.

Leon Beer of Lagoon Bowling Club expresses his views on ‘Law of Possession of the rink, Law No 35. He mentions two specific instances, one is the Commonwealth Games in India, the other the Open Provincials played in Cape Town earlier in the

season.

I was myself very shocked at the way this Rule was abused in the Commonwealth Games.

The players in this tournament are suppose to be the very best who play at a very high standard. Therefore it is expected of them to “know the laws”. It seems the top players simply read the Law but do not comprehend the meaning of the Law.

Not only are the players guilty, the Technical Officials are also guilty for not penalizing the abusers. Please let the TOs be more efficient, do not pamper to the Proteas or Provincial

players. How can we then expect the players at a lower level to adhere to the possession Law?

In closing I wish to use a statement that was once made at a final of a District competition, I quote:

“Bowls is the only game that has two sets of Laws, one for the top player and one for other players who are constantly reminded of the Laws.”



## UNDER 19 AND UNDER 25 CHAMPIONS CROWNED

The Under 19 and Under 25 Sables competitions were held in Rustenburg recently, bringing the hard work and support received by Pieter Briel Senior and his wife Annatjie to an exciting climax of the season.



*Young Powell Mogani in action on his way to winning the U/19 Title*



*Corrie Tagg from Discovery BC displaying intense concentration*

## FRED BEKKER TO BE REMEMBERED

.On the 24 and 25 September, Florida North Bowling Club will be hosting the Fred Bekker Memorial Day by means of a Fours Competition.

The Tournament starts on Saturday afternoon and continues on Sunday.

To most people in Sables, the name of Fred Bekker is synonymous with bowls, not only in the achievements on the bowling greens but what Fred Bekker meant for bowls in the Sables.

What better way to remember Fred than getting supportive bowlers together over two days on the bowling green.

All players are urged to support this tournament by entering a team of Fours, either men, ladies or mixed teams.

Entrance fee is R500 per team and the first 28 teams will be accommodated. Entries can be done with Jenny Martin by phoning (011) 692-4489. Teas and lunch are included.

Hester Bekker, Fred’s widow who together with Fred achieved a remarkable record and amongst many achievements won the SA Mixed Pairs title twice! Hester has entered a Team herself and for her this day would have special meaning.



*Hester Bekker*

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## SABLES EXECUTIVE

<b>President:</b>	Ian Stayt
<b>Vice President</b>	David Parker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eileen Foxcroft
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jenny Martin
<b>Members:</b>	Hester Bekker (Women Competition Secretary ) Theo v d Walt (Men Competition Secretary ) Robin Beard Denise Clarence Annatjie Briel JJ Bedford-Owen

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[WWW.SABLES.BOWLS.CO.ZA](http://WWW.SABLES.BOWLS.CO.ZA)

## NEWS FROM SABLES AGM

### Sables Competitions

<b>Open 5's</b>	<b>Discovery &amp; Florida Nth</b>
<b>Fours</b>	<b>Discovery</b>
<b>Trips</b>	<b>Leases</b>
<b>Pairs</b>	<b>Leases</b>
<b>Singles Open</b>	<b>Discovery</b>
<b>Singles Seniors</b>	<b>Discovery</b>
<b>U/19 &amp; U/25</b>	<b>Rustenburg Impala</b>

### Selectors

<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
<b>Denise Clarence</b>	<b>Tom Kneen</b>
<b>Susan Nel</b>	<b>Mike Marnewick</b>
<b>Moira Coombe</b>	<b>Mervyn Lynn Jnr</b>
<b>Debbie Perrucatti</b>	<b>Don Walker</b>
<b>Rika Lynn</b>	<b>Chris Theron</b>

### Standing Committees

<b>Coaches</b>	<b>Tom Kneen</b>
<b>Constitution</b>	<b>Tom Kneen</b>
<b>Development</b>	<b>Chris Peel</b>
<b>Greenkeepers</b>	<b>Steven Johnston</b>
<b>Technical Officials</b>	<b>Richard Chard</b>

## EDITORIAL COMMENT—Food for thought



*Chris Theron*

Sables must be one of the smallest Districts in South Africa, yet have produced some incredible results to be proud of. Not forgetting past achievements, current achievements deserve mention. At National competitions Sables players remain top contenders and this year Theo v d Walt and Louise Longmore took the Mixed Pairs Title. Mike Marnewick after winning National titles last year again ended in the medals in the SA Masters this year and has again been selected to represent SA in the Seniors test against Namibia. Then there is Nic Rusling in the Protea side, Rika Lynn and Susan Nel, all selected to represent SA in upcoming events with Theuns Fraser joining the SA teams as head Coach!

Then disabled bowlers with SA colours in the persons of Tracey Smith and Jill Pearson, Flippie Walker and Directors

Duimpie J van Vuuren and Tommy Smith. Sables also has players in the other SA National squads knocking on the door to be considered for representation.

Not bad for a small District with only twelve clubs!!

Dare we send a warning to other Districts that Sables have every intention to bring home some medals at the next Inter-Districts?

It further makes the point that you do not need numbers to make a difference as Sables can quite easily fill the role of 'David' when facing any 'Goliath'!

Surely it can also stand as evidence that in every club it only takes one or two devoted and committed members to drive a club and make a meaningful difference, often in the face of obstacles and odds put in their way by negative members who contribute very little if anything at all, yet ready to complain, unwilling to change and certainly reluctant to contribute.

The greatest threat challenging the future

of bowls as a sport will not be found in outside factors but in fact apathy and negativism within the sport right down to club level.

This has clearly been my experience as Editor of this newsletter over the past year. Receiving contributions and input from only a few and I must say the same individuals, all other work had to be done or sourced by myself.

It has been a hard and rewarding if also a disappointing experience, forcing me to make this my last edition through lack of support. I believe in the value of this newsletter in the District and sincerely hope some individual will take up the reigns.

My sincere gratitude is extended to the Sables Executive for their constant support and encouragement as I move on to give my undivided attention in upgrading and managing the Sables website.

Good bowling wishes to all

Chris Theron