



# EASTERN GAUTENG BOWLS

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## WITHOUT BIAS

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### EDITORIAL

#### SOME HISTORY!

Taken from an article in the official programme of 1976 World Bowls at Zoo Lake by Arthur Jones titled 'Bowls in South Africa.'

I quote:

"The Old World small town typically boasted a church, a coaching house and the squire's country mansion. The typical South African small town boasts a bowling.

As one drives through the country with towns sometimes 80km apart, one sees rolling plains and often rugged mountains, but at every stop on the road there is a bowling green, for bowls in South Africa has become a way of life.

It was not always so. Before the 1939 war there were about 300 clubs and it had taken up to 60 years to build up to that strength. After the war the

game quickly spread and now there are well over 800 clubs with more than 40 000 registered male players.

There is today hardly a small town without its bowling green. In one well-populated area it is possible to see four clubs with nine greens at a single glance. In a drive of 8km one can visit 6 clubs.

Three national tournaments are organised each season. The traditional national tournament, which lasts for 2 weeks, is made up of a club fours championship, a singles championship, a title event for players over 65 and a subsidiary pairs competition. Second national event is the Masters singles between 16 selected players, and the third is an inter-district tournament between the affiliated districts, which now number 15, including Rhodesia. These are all

meticulously organised and grand stand accommodation for the national singles and fours is in excess of 5000 seats.

All players must be registered and clubs are responsible for the payment of various fees for each registered player. Club colours too must be registered and all clubs require the wearing of club blazers at certain times. Dress is defined. The colours must be white or cream. Even coloured belts or socks are forbidden. Bowling shoes must be a shade of brown. Club hat bands must be worn on a white or cream hat, not a cap. Rainproof clothing is normally transparent or white.

South African bowlers always try to be good hosts. Visitors to bowling clubs, whether from neighbouring clubs or other towns or districts, automatically receive

V.I.P. treatment and fellowship is the order of the day. This is the way the game is played from Cape Point in the South to Messina in the North, and from the copper mine of O'Okiep in the west to the beachfront in Durban in the East, so the many thousands of visitors from other countries to the 1976 World Championships can expect the utmost in good will and the best in entertainment."

I hope you enjoyed that bit of history. Some of you will be able to identify with it, for some who weren't around at the time, that is what the game used to be like. Would it not be great if we could get some of that back.

## EASTERNS SENIORS



EASTERN GAUTENG SENIORS



The above Eastern Gauteng Seniors players played against seniors from Gauteng North at Colbyn in Pretoria, after some hard fought matches the Eastern Gauteng team were victorious and retain the trophy played for, for another 6 months. CONGRATULATIONS!

The above mentioned event is repeated annually against Sables Bowling Association and now Johannesburg Bowls, Sedibeng and Mpumalanga are showing interest in being part of this event as well.

For general interest, another very important challenge is the Super 10's tournament hosted annually by Sables, this tournament takes place over 3 days and is extremely competitive as there are 8 Districts that take part in the event which is for a single team of 10 players.

Easterns like Sables and Gauteng North are considering arranging midweek competitions for the seniors in singles, pairs and trips which will hopefully be supported by the members in our District.

Currently Jack Gray, Fred Els and George Anderson are the self-appointed committee looking after these events and hopefully this committee will be extended soon.

## PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONAL

The Eastern Gauteng President's Invitational Tournament was played over the weekend of 10/11 August at Modderfontein Bowling Club. Played in typical Gauteng winter weather with cool mornings and warm days, the tournament was blessed with no rain which had been predicted. The players invited to play in this tournament are, according to the selectors, the future of EGB.

Saturday morning the players took to the greens, some showing the nerves of players taking part in their first major tournament. The greens were slow to start off with due to the previous day's rain.

As the men got accustomed to the speed of the greens so the standard of the bowls improved. After the first round there were no players who stood out as firm favourites. After tea the greens sped up considerably. Each game was still fiercely contested and the overall standard was high. At the end of Saturday's play and 3 completed rounds there was no clearly dominant player in Section A with every player having lost at least one game, however, in Section B two players, Sarel Kruger and Cobus Galloway were unbeaten and were showing some brilliant drawing skills. After round 4 on Sunday morning Section A had two players, Lance Sayce and Derick Whitehorn on level points and an identical shot aggregate. In Section B, Sarel Kruger had lost in round 4 but had to play the unbeaten Cobus Galloway in round 5. At the end of round 5, in Section A, Sarel Kruger had beaten Cobus Galloway by a big enough margin to win a place in the final and in Section B, Lance Sayce had also won by a bigger margin than Derick Whitehorn to secure his place in the playoff. After an enjoyable lunch the final was played in front of a good bank of supporters. From the outset Lance showed his determination and experience by putting Sarel under a lot of pressure with some excellent play and ran out the winner 21 - 10. Through this victory Lance won himself a place in the EGB Masters.

In the ladies' competition, the standard of play was also very high and most of the games were closely contested. In the end Heidie Meintjies of Delville and Meaghan Hobbs of Modderfontein ran out winners of their respective sections. Meaghan won a hard fought final, which delivered some high quality bowls and booked her place in the EGB Masters.

The junior invitational took place at the same time at Edenvale Bowling Club. According to spectators spoken to the standard of bowls played by our younger stars was of a very good standard. The tournament was played on a round robin basis between 6 invited male and 6 female players. After 5 games Jason van Staden topped the boys event and Michelle Wort won the girls. It will be fantastic if this could now become an annual event.

# PRESIDENT'S INVITATIONAL SINGLES



Winner Junior Girls Invitational: Michelle Wort



Winner Junior Boys Invitational: Jason Van Staden



Runner-up Ladies: Heidi Meintjies



Winner Ladies: Meaghan Hobbs



Runner-up Men: Sarel Kruger



Winner Men: Lance Sayce

## PERFECT DELIVERY DISTRICT MASTERS

The EGB Masters took place at Edenvale and Modderfontein Bowling Clubs on the 16 and 17 August. The Open event took place at Edenvale and the Seniors were hosted at Modderfontein. The two days of bowls was well supported and the spectators were entertained with some very good bowls. The men's open event was won by Thinus Oelofse from Brakpan Mines who went through the tournament unbeaten and defeated Martin Lewis also from Brakpan Mines 21-9. In the Open Ladies event Jenny Jones of Edenvale was the winner after a good final against Wilma Richardson of Northmead 21-16. The senior ladies final was a slightly one sided affair with Lisa Smit of Alberton beating Santie Balios rather convincingly 21-2. The Senior Men's final was a closely contested affair with Terry Daley of Modderfontein winning the closely contested game against Tienie Gerber of Alberton by 21-17.

**A big thank you goes to Perfect Delivery for sponsoring the event.**



Runner-up Open Men: Martin Lewis



Winner Open Men: Thinus Oelofse



Runner-up Open Ladies: Wilma Richardson



Winner Open Ladies: Jenny Jones

# PERFECT DELIVERY DISTRICT MASTERS



Runner-up Senior Ladies: S Balios



Winner Senior Ladies: Lisa Smit



Runner-up Senior Men: Tienie Gerber



Winner Senior Men: Terry Daley

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 25th August - Bowls South Africa AGM
- 31st August + 1st September - Champion of Champions @ Avion Park Bowling Club
- 15th September - Eastern Gauteng Bowls AGM
- 28th September - San Michel Day @ Benoni Municipal's
- 5th October - EGB Opening Day

**NEW EXCITING TOURNAMENT FROM BOWLS SOUTH AFRICA.**

Eastern Gauteng Bowls is planning to run the District playoffs over two (2) weekends. Dates to be advised.

