



# *Irene Bowling Club Newsletter*

*NO. 2, 19 October 2009*

Hi there fellow bowlers

So the new season is starting to get into full swing. Both greens are open and they really are looking very “green” – heavy, as is to be expected this early in the season, but looking very good, and not playing at all badly. At Schoeman, an outside fundi on grass and greens, is often down at the club and has given us plenty of good advice, which has been put into effect. And this is where the second factor in the appearance of our greens comes into play – Lynn Coetzee has been tireless in his care of the greens. The time and enthusiasm he has put into supervising and liaising with the greens’ staff has been something that has been sadly lacking in the club for a long time. To take an example from Saturday: When the committee members arrived at 8:45 am for a meeting, Lynn was already on the green, busy going over it with a roller. As those of you who were at the club later on Saturday know only too well, the sky turned very black and there was lightning all around, resulting in the inevitable siren calling us all off the green. While members and league guests milled around the bar Lynn could again be spotted, one of our large umbrellas over his shoulder, two or three scoreboards in one hand, and a couple of mats tucked under his arm as he made his way to our bowls storeroom to clear all the equipment. Thank you Lynn, we really appreciate your quiet presence and efforts!

Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> saw the beginning of the league season. We had three sides at home – the men’s second and fifth divisions and a ladies’ side. BGN decided that due to the Currie Cup semi-finals being played that afternoon, teams could make an early start. At the suggestion of Eric Fish of Wingate, who may well be rueful about his initiative, the second division side, started their game at 11 am, and completed it within a few minutes of the siren sounding. In their very first game in the second division, Irene’s first team gained a fullhouse, winning 11-0 against a powerful Wingate II! A great victory, a great start to the season!

The other teams were not as fortunate. The men’s 5<sup>th</sup> division side only started playing at 1pm and had to be satisfied with sharing the points as the rain came down before they could complete 15 ends. The ladies’ team also shared the points. They started at 2pm and I’m not sure that they progressed beyond the trial ends before play came to an end. The other Irene sides in both the men’s and ladies’ sections, who were playing at Old Boys’ and Pretoria Country Club respectively, also had to be satisfied with sharing the points.

Since the appearance of the first letter, Bonny Starke, who has been ill for some time, passed away. I have such vivid memories of Bonny and her late husband, Alec, also a member of Irene bowls, whirling energetically across the dance floor at a tennis section dance when they were both well into their seventies! She had a great enthusiasm for life.

Her funeral was held on 1 October at St Stephen's Anglican Church in Lyttelton, and was attended by about twenty bowling members, mostly but not exclusively, of the old guard. Listening to the eulogies of her children and grandchildren, I was led to reflect how little we know of the lives of our fellow bowlers away from the greens. Farewell Bonny!

Perhaps you will have noticed that our Honours' boards have been updated, with thanks to Gerhard, with the help of input from Claude and myself.

Lane Genricks will be away for most of November, and with all the holidays and people being away, December is something of a write-off, but Lane has a long list of people who want to attend her next clinic which she will hold in January. As you know Lane is somewhat of a workaholic when it come to the clinic so I am sure that if you have someone you know who would like to become a member, Lane will still be able to find the space to include them. She plays a remarkable role in our club, not only in the clinic, but in January she will also organize courses for our novices to bring them up to speed in bowls etiquette and the duties of markers, both issues that were raised at the recent AGM. Incidentally, Lane has to submit regular reports to the BGN coaching bosses on the time she has spent on the green running the clinic. To do this she has to keep a log. This year, between 1 January and 1 August, her logbook showed that she had spent a staggering 69 hours in running clinics, and this did not include many hours helping bowlers correct errors in their delivery and so on. And just to top it all, she is the engine behind our major fundraising event of the season the SPCA Day, and is already beginning to report on the money she has collected and the sponsors she has contacted!

Our competitions will soon be getting underway. In external competitions, we have two teams in the Novice tournament to be played at Municipals under floodlight on a round-robin basis, and also a number of teams entered into the BGN men's and ladies' fours. Meraai has circulated details of the entries in other upcoming BGN competitions.

As far as the internal competition scene is concerned, we are going to start off the season with the two-bowls competitions that we were unable to play last season. Most of us have already paid our entry fees for this last year. Chris Patton will encourage entries from our newer bowlers, and then it will be "A" for away!

On the fundraising side, which Lee Barnes is propelling, there is a tournament at Irene on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Anton du Plessis is taking the lead in organising this and has put in a good deal of work already towards making it a success. BGN requires R1500 for every member selected to a BGN side, and the purpose of this tournament is to help pay for those Irene bowlers who may be selected, as the status and image of Irene is enhanced by the number of players selected from our club. At the same time the running of such a tournament will in itself enhance our standing in the local bowling community. Excess funds raised will be used to promote other tournaments. Because there is prize money involved, a number of high-powered teams from other clubs have already entered this mixed fours competition. If you have a team in mind, Lee says you are free to enter, and although you may not win, you may surprise some of the more fancied teams, and at the same time have the opportunity of playing against top provincial players.

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