



Irene Bowling Club Newsletter

NO. 4, 15 February 2010

We are halfway through February and this is our first newsletter of the year. This does not however mean that members have been starved of feedback or kept in the dark about what is happening. Claude wrote a Christmas letter, and early in the year followed this up with a substantial Note in which he reminded us of etiquette, behaviour on and off the greens, and also drew members attention to existing by-laws regarding practice games. I don't want go over this, but it was an important Note that members would do well to pin up in some prominent place where it can periodically be referred to.

The last newsletter was written after the first round of league games, and before the start of the final rounds from 9 January. In that newsletter I wrote that: "For the ladies, unbelievably the league is over. There were only two sections of six teams, with five games in total. In fact, due to the withdrawal of a Meyerspark team, our ladies in the 3rd division only played four games."

A lot of people from all clubs have been unhappy with this, and Meraai has taken the lead in garnering support not only from our own club but from other clubs as well, to remedy the situation. She has asked our ladies to write and let her know their feelings on this matter, and has had an encouraging response from some of our ladies, including Gertrude Mynhardt, Lee-Ann Barnes, Eugeni Brink, Patricia Cummings, Petronella Genricks, Sarie Gous, Jane P Kritzinger, Geraldine Lawrence, Trevine Lemke (whoever heard of a stupid name like Trevine, whatever were you thinking of Mrs Lemke when you gave your daughter this name!), and Christine Patton. So we'll see what comes of this initiative.

As far as the men are concerned, I have published the logs at the end of this letter. By now it is all water under the bridge, but our first team came so agonizingly close to gaining promotion to the first division, that it is still with a measure of disbelief that one looks at the log, which they topped right until that very last week. But nevertheless, a great showing. We are very proud of them!

The men's 3rd and 5th divisions did very well and in both divisions ended up in a creditable fourth position. Well done to all league players. The men's 7th division unfortunately propped up the wrong end of the log, but a number of new bowlers gained some experience of what league was all about, and also had the opportunity of playing on

different greens, and I may tell you there were some quite astonished and perplexed faces as some members realised for the first time that not all bowling greens are the same!

On the external competition side, Irene has been doing very well in the various competitions. In the Novice BGN competition, three of the four semi-finalists came from Irene, namely Branden du Plessis, Hank Brink and Ashley van der Merwe. The two finalists were Hank and Ashley, with Ashley triumphing as the 2010 BGN Novice champion. Interesting enough, Hank was drawn against last year's Novice winner, and we initially thought that last year's champion, by virtue of having won it, would be excluded from this year's competition, but BGN pointed out that about a year ago this bylaw had been changed to give the Novice champion an opportunity to defend his title so long as he or she was still a novice (Incidentally, Hank beat him). Our club committee decided however, that with regard to our own Novice competition, we would abide by the old regulations, arguing that any person having won a novice competition, was by virtue of that win no longer a novice.

Speaking of Novice competitions, the Novice Super 9 league, played on Wednesday evenings at Municipals, started on Wed 3 February, under the Management of Chief Whip, Meraai. Each team consists of 9 players, 3 skips and 6 novices, playing fours, trips and pairs. At the moment with three games to go, the two Irene teams are placed 5th and 7th out of 12 teams. Not bad, eh? But the important thing is that they are enjoying themselves enormously, which is what it is all about.

The Ladies' Nationals, are to be held in Pretoria in April, and the Selection Committee has selected the following ladies to represent Irene: Doreen Cook (skip), Cathy Coetzee, Astrid Spangenberg, and Ansie Walker, with Debbie van der Merwe as Reserve.

With regard to external BGN competitions, invitations to play in the Masters and Presidents competitions has been extended to Vicky (Section A of the Ladies' Masters), Anton (Section B of the Men's Masters). Invitations to the Presidents competition, include Lee, Ashley, and Jan du Plessis. So we can all be very proud of the recognition we are receiving from BGN!

On 12 February 2010, BGN announced the names of those who would play in the Men's and Ladies' Provincial teams in Bowls South Africa's Inter-District Championships, scheduled from 9 – 12 March. Vicky is in the Ladies' A team which will play in Kingfisher; Anton and Hugh will represent the Men's B team in Port Elizabeth. Good luck and good bowling to all of you!

The BGN Mixed Pairs and BGN Nominated Pairs both start shortly. In the first round of the BGN Mixed Pairs on 27 February, one of the teams from Irene, although consisting of two experienced bowlers who have played in the competition before, will be playing under a completely new banner – that of Mr and Mrs Rolfe! We wish them every success in their new partnership, and not only on the bowling greens! Good luck you guys!

The BSA cards for 2010 have arrived, and last weekend quite a few bowlers collected them from Hugh. I shall be down at the Club on Saturday for those of you who have not yet collected their new cards.

Besides Pierre Goosen, who a number of you have seen around the green and playing for the men's second team in the last couple of league games, new members include Mieke and Murray Coombs. Murray is at present a member of the Squash section of the club. A hearty welcome to you all. Unfortunately we have had to say farewell to a number of bowlers. Some of them have not been bowlers for very long, like Brandon Smith, but the disappearance from our list of names like Shirley and Ken Delaney, bring to an end a whole era. Shirley was at one stage Northern Transvaal Women's Bowling Association President, and the opening of the Northern Transvaal Bowling season that year was held at Irene. She took the leading role and worked tirelessly and eventually successfully to have Northern Transvaal's bowling colours changed from green to navy blue! She and Ken were also responsible for introducing the SPCA Day at Irene. Others who have resigned since the last newsletter include Peter Arnold and Myrna Lamb, who still continues to battle with her shoulder. Louis Ulyate has also decided to call it a day for the present. Allan Ingram, who joined us as a dual member from CBCOB, has had a period of bad health and elected to become a social member while he recuperates from a series of serious operations. Earlier resignations were Mike Groves, who has moved to Natal, Sheila Parsons and Dave Spangenberg.

May I remind members to regularly consult the Notice Board. At this time of the year there are numerous fundraising events at various clubs, and they can be a lot of fun.

Men's league, Division 2				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Col/Oos I	9	69.0	+65
2	Irene I	9	67.5	+103
3	CBCOB II	9	59.5	+70
4	Municipals II	9	56.0	+40
5	Vriendekring III	9	55.0	+21
6	Wingate Park II	9	47.0	+9
7	PHSOB II	9	40.0	-54
8	Lynnwood	9	37.0	-118
9	Centurion I	9	35.5	-54
10	Koedoe Park I	9	28.5	-82

Men's league, Division III				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Zwartkop I	9	63.0	+81
2	Lynnwood II	9	59.0	+36
3	Meyerspark I	9	57.0	+36
4	Irene II	9	55.0	+1
5	Bronkhorstspuit I	9	51.8	+27
6	Pretoria North I	9	47.5	+3
7	PHSOB III	9	47.5	-31
8	Wonderboom II	9	44.5.0	-11
9	Harlequins II	9	43.0	-41
10	Meyerspark II	9	28.0	-101

Men's league, Division 5				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Sunnyside I	8	60.5	+86
2	Wonderboom IV	8	55.0	+28
3	Wingate Park III	8	49.5	+36
4	Irene III	8	48.0	+20
5	Municipals III	8	43.0	-3
6	ZwartkopII	8	41.0	-38
7	Capital Park II	8	39.0	-27
8	Col/Oos III	8	32.0	-34
9	Military II	8	28.0	-68

Men's league, Division 7				
Position	Side	Played	Points	Shot Av.
1	Col/Oos IV	6	47.0	+63
2	CBCOB IV	6	43.0	+18
3	Lynnwood IV	6	38.0	+9
4	Brooklyn I	6	31.0	-14
5	Vriendekring V	6	29.5	-6
6	Zwartkop III	6	23.5	-21
7	Irene IV	6	19.0	-49

Ken Smith