

BOLAND BOWLS

GREENS MAINTENANCE NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2023

Self-evaluation of greens

Bowls South Africa has developed and continues to refine a document according to which greens to be used for S A events are assessed. Where a District has asked to be considered as host for a national event, the Clubs which the District nominates have to complete this document prior to a visit from BSA. During the visit, the local greens are assessed and a rating (A+, A-, B+, B-, C etc) is allocated.

Whether your Club intends qualifying to host a national event or not, the exercise of evaluating your own greens can be of great value to the GKP and to the Club Committee. It helps to identify problem areas. It also helps the GKP to accurately monitor progress.

Boland Bowls would like all the Clubs to be allocated a grading over the next few years. By carrying out your own evaluation prior to a visit from a grading team, you will better understand the factors that come into play in evaluating a green.

We have attached a Guidelines document which we hope will assist you in carrying out an evaluation of your green/s. The evaluation process is not a lengthy exercise and if you have a team of three or more, it should not take up more than 30 minutes.

The official BSA Evaluation Sheet is also attached. Please note that it refers to acceptable green speeds of 12.5 to 16 m/s. In the Western Cape, on our softer, sandier soils, a green speed of 11.5 + m/s is considered acceptable.

Level 1 Greenkeeping Course

A well-attended Zoom Course was held recently. A follow up practical session involving Machine Care, Levels and Greens Evaluation is scheduled for the next few months. This will be done on a regional basis. The first session is scheduled for the Winelands region. This will probably take place in the last week or two of March. We will notify you of the date fairly soon.

While this has been arranged particularly for those who attended the recent Level 1 Course, other GKPs are most welcome to attend.

Some reminders

If you have been letting your grass grow a little longer to protect it against extreme heat and heavy winds over the past weeks, please ensure that when you cut, you remove **only a third of the leaf** at a time. Cutting more than this will put the grass under stress with unfortunate results.

A box cut (ie parallel to the bank) once every two or three weeks, will help **to produce a bigger draw** on your rinks. This should preferably be done at the beginning of a week and the Tabs that follows should be at right angles to this cut otherwise the cutting lines are likely to affect the running of the bowl.

For most bowlers, **run off** (where the bowl actually speeds up over the last two metres) can be very frustrating. With grass growth slowing down as we move towards autumn, this is our last chance to check for run off and topdress those areas where it is most obvious.

And finally. Remember, it is far more preferable to **groom for speed** rather than cut too short.