

President's Report 2019

1. Firstly, I wish to extend special thanks to the West Coast management team. It is a pleasure working with such an efficient team. I also want to thank LCE that they made their club house available for our meetings.
2. The highlight of the season was that we hosted the Western Cape under 45's tournament at Lagoon. The supporters enjoy excellent display of good bowls. A special thanks to the Lagoon club members who helped with the smooth running of this event – you did yourself proud. Thanks to WC DCAS for a generous contribution of R15,000 helping us host this event without their support this event would not have been the success that it turned out to be. Here I also wish to thank Craig Cornelius and his colleagues from the West Coast Department of Culture and Sport for their eagerness to advise and contribute invalid expertise which helped us immensely with the planning of the tournament.
3. We received R30 000 from the Western Cape DCAS for admin, development and capacity building. That helped us to send 3 under 15's teams to the Envar Buys tournament in Oudtshoorn. It also enable us to send 2 of our under 15 players to Bloemfontein.
4. It is with much joy that I share that the Western Cape DCAS have allocated another R50,000 to West Coast Bowls for the forthcoming year. R10,000 for Admin, R20,000 for development and R20,000 for capacity building. As many of you may be aware we have started coaching school children however there is a need in our area to approach more schools, thus increasing the number of schools children being introduced to the game of bowls. I wish is to introduce a schools league in 2020.
5. Technical Officials – Umpires and markers. Annette van der Sandt presented a L2 Technical Official course, Roleyn Nortier and Tom Tromp did the course. Peter Welensky and Roleyn Nortier presented a basic markers course to 39 players. Roleyn will be presenting a L1 Technical Official course in July of this year.
6. Coaching – Rika Mitchell from Darling did a L2 Coaching Course in Knysna. We have a number of players that are interested in doing a L1 Coaching course. Boland Bowls has promised us that the next course will be presented in the West Coast, so we are excited about this and wish to encourage clubs to encourage as many members as possible to enrol themselves for this course.
7. Greens – The greens were hard hit by the drought last year, but thanks to dedicated green keepers the greens are showing much improvement. Thanks to all clubs who have made their greens available for Boland and West Coast competitions – without your greens the competitions would not be able to take place.
8. Local competitions
 - 8.1 The much loved North/South competition was played on the Velddrif green this year. The North played well but it was the South who stole the honours. Arthur Melck made a suggestion that the boundary border be moved so that all the clubs north of the Berg River play for the North. This suggestion was accepted so in future Velddrif will be playing for the North.

8.2 The West Coast League was played in good spirit. Lagoon and Yzerfontein had the same points but Lagoon piped them on aggregate. At our last AGM Sakkie van der Merwe informed us that the northern clubs also wanted to participate in this league. After sending an invitation to all West Coast Clubs, LCE and Lagoon entered 2 teams and Yzerfontein, Darling, Velddrif and Moorreesburg each entered a team. Regretfully WMBC did not enter a team this year but we hope that they will be back on board next year. To enable the league to be run over the allotted time, the league was split into 2 sections and the winners of the 2 sections will play in a final to determine the West Coast League winner.

8.3 The Warwick senior league was won by Yzerfontein. We are extremely thankful to Warwick who have agreed to sponsor this tournament again next year.

8.4 The West Coast open singles was hosted for the first time. A full bowls calendar forced us to use a public holiday and Sunday. We received 27 men and 19 ladies entries. Thanks to Leon Beer who donated the men's single trophy.

9. Boland competitions – Regretfully this year saw a decline in the number of entries in Boland competitions. West Coast does however; still have more entries than the other 2 districts. The West Coast introduced a choice - to entry Boland or West Coast competitions. The result was overwhelming in favour of the West Coast Competitions. However, after attending a Boland meeting we have sent out an email regarding how district competitions will be run in the future.

10. The following West Coast players were selected to play for the Boland teams at the Inter Districts:

- Nicolise Carosini, Dale Gentle en Roleyn Nortier – Ladies B team and Annette van der Sandt as Team Manager
- Johan Pienaar - Men's B team and Leon Meyer as Team Manager
- Pikkie Mangiagalli– Men's Veterans team

11. West Coast Bowls sport awards – it is the first year that we will be awarding some of our local players with West Coast Bowls sport awards at our AGM. One of the conditions we must comply with to receive money from DCAS is that we nominate players for the West Coast Sport Awards. They only look at what the nominees achieve at the West Coast competitions.

12. Business league – Jannie Roos from Lagoon was asked to be the convenor of the business leagues in the West Coast. It is our dream that all clubs run business leagues in the near future. We see this as a way to aid with the increasing of club membership and the number of people being introduced to the game of bowls in the West Coast District. Zandvliet Wines sponsored our business league this year. In doing so they stipulated that all the players be registered on their data base. We must also remember to register these players on the SA Bowls data base. The reason for them being registered on Bowls SA data base is so that the sport of bowls shows constant growth.

13. Schools – We are convinced that starting bowls at an early age is an advantage to any player. Those of you who know Anneke Snyman know that she started playing bowls

while still at school – today at the young age of 25 she is an ambassador for our country, regularly playing for the S.A. Protea team.

She is playing skip for the Proteas at this moment in Atlantic Championship in Wales.

14.Small Bowls – We received 31 sets and are busy distributing them. West Coast Bowls have decided to subsidize part of the cost of these bowls and the clubs will therefore only be paying R200 per set.

15.On closing I would just like to share a reason for some excitement amongst the members of the executive – DCAS recently held a meeting sharing valuable knowledge regarding the establishing of sports academies. So with the possibility of establishing a bowls academy in the near future we will be contacting Con Dixie for her invaluable advice in this regard.

16.Finally, Thank you to all of you in your respective capacities for taking your precious time to come and participate at this the 3rd West Coast District AGM. To Velddrif for hosting this event – Thank you!

17.Go back home and spread the message of hope and excitement regarding the future of bowls to your members in order to grow bowls as a sport in our schools, suburbs, towns and district

Leon Meyer

President WCBD