



# PROFESSIONAL BOWLS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

## INFO 2024

### **Change in Chairman**

We want to convey our sincere gratitude to outgoing chairman, Johann du Plessis for playing an integral role in revitalizing the PBA in SA. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Johann is unable to continue in this role. To this end, we are extremely pleased to have secured the services of the well renowned, experienced, and greatly respected former Protea, Alan Lofthouse, to take over as chairman of the PBASA with immediate effect.

### **Main Sponsorship**

We are delighted to announce that our main sponsor of the 2023 Qualifying event FAIRTREE, has once again committed for the 2024 event. Without their extremely generous sponsorship, everything that has been achieved up to now, would never have been possible! We want to sincerely thank FAIRTREE and Lombard Barnard for their commitment towards the PBA and we are excited, with their support, to take the 2024 event to the next level.

### **Finances**

The total cost of the 2023 event was R344 000. Fairtree as main sponsor contributed R225 000 in cash and the cost of the goody bags was an additional R20 000, Drakes Pride R30 000 and small contributions were received from Atlantic Fertilizers, Cape Foods and KBAC Carpets. Entry and member fees totalled R80 000.

The total worth of prize money is over R170 000 which includes cash, air tickets, VISAS and accommodation.

Other main costs were R70 000 for clothing and catering at R46 000.

## Membership

Membership is open to any registered bowler and new members are most welcome. The annual PBA membership fee of R250 was included in the first events' entry fee for 2023. This will not be the case in future and the membership fee **of R250 must be paid before the 15<sup>th</sup> of January each year**. Please note that the membership fee does not automatically guarantee you a spot in the 2024 event but has perks.

Advantages of being a PBASA member:

- First opportunity to enter qualifying events (again note, no guarantee)
- Membership rates on PBA merchandise (the range will include better quality caps, tops and more)
- Access to the PBA application and possible loyalty program (in development)

## 2024 Date & Format

The 2024 Qualifying event will once again be held at Durbanville BC, and the same format will be used. The event has been moved forward and will take place over Easter weekend.

Do note that only new participants in the 2024 qualifying event will be given playing shirts. Existing members that played in the 2023 event who qualify or enter the 2024 event will not receive a second red and green playing shirt, which you are all required to play in. Additional shirts can be purchased at the discounted member's price TBC.

## 2024 Participation

The same process will be used to enter the 2024 event as was used for 2023. However, with the ranking system now established, there are some changes made to who gets first option to enter. The top 26 ranked players will get the first opportunity to enter (with any partner of their choice) on the condition that their membership fee is paid by 15 January 2024.

The **ranked players will get a window until 31 January 2024 to enter**, whereafter entries will open for PBA members on a first come first enter basis. If the tournament is not fully subscribed by **15 February 2024**, it will be opened to general entry, but the entry fee will automatically include the membership fee for them.

## The way forward

Because of the enormous success of the 2023 event, the temptation was certainly there to expand. After careful consideration and a lot of discussion with our main sponsor, the decision was made to not move forward too fast, but rather establish the qualifying event at Durbanville as the premier event on the South African bowling calendar. To expand the field would mean more venues. More venues would mean more infrastructure, which would drastically increase cost. We want to improve on our product by utilising our sponsorship effectively, rather than expanding and increasing the number of participants.

This certainly does not mean that we are not looking to the future. We are already considering several ideas on expansion, including, a limited number of ranking events in central areas across the country. Over the next few months, further debate will take place to ensure that we choose the appropriate way forward for all stake holders.



**FAIRTREE**