

# Scottburgh Bowling Club

## August Tournament – A brief history

The August Tournament started in 1959, largely as an incentive to attract bowlers and visitors to the town of Scottburgh and surrounding area in the off-peak season. The town was much smaller then but boasted five hotels which competed for business and for the visitors to the area.

The competition attracted the country's top bowlers and participants came from as far afield as Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, plus many inland bowling clubs. There have been participants that have represented South Africa and or have been (are) Provincial and District players. The number of teams competing was originally set at 60 Men's and 60 Women's teams and was largely by invitation only.

The Tournament was a resounding success attracting many bowlers to settle in the area and the membership of the Scottburgh Bowling Club increased to 400 player members.

The Tournament became so popular and demand grew so much that an additional 24 teams were added to the Tournament number, increasing the maximum number of teams competing to 84 Men's and 84 Women's teams. The number of teams dwindled slowly over the turn of the Century and the infamous Y2K period but started increasing again from 2010.

The number of teams participating stabilised at around 100 teams (Combined Men's and Women's) as shown :

2014	118 teams
2015	112 teams
2016	89 teams
2017	78 teams
2018	94 teams
2019	94 teams
2020	Cancelled – Covid
2021	Cancelled - Covid
2022	48 teams – Post Covid

Arranging the Tournament is a daunting task and the responsibility of a Special Tournament Committee. The players are subjected to an "Open draw" but evert effort is made to ensure that teams from a common district (and club) do not play against each other, and to try and ensure that "Inland Clubs" play against "Coastal Clubs" as a basis for the Tournament.

At the peak of entrants, teams had to play across several Bowling Clubs on a rotating basis ,spread from Amanzimtoti, Winkelspruit, Umkomaas, Scottburgh, Umdoni (AMBC) and Sezela.