

NORTHERN SQUASH FEDERATION
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

On behalf of the Board, it is once again a privilege and a pleasure to report on the affairs of the Northern Squash Federation, comprising the Northern junior Squash Association, the Northern Squash Association and the Northern Masters Squash Association.

The period under review has been one of significant success in many spheres of Northern Squash activities and has been characterized by commitment and dedication by administrators and players alike in their respective pursuits of a culture of excellence in Northern Squash.

The activities and achievements of the three above mentioned Associations have been thoroughly and comprehensively conveyed, in detail, in very professional reports of the three Associations by their respective Chairmen in the course of these Associations' Annual General meetings held during the course of the last ten days.

A summary of the activities and achievements of the Board, the three Associations and associated structures ie Appeal Board, Financial Controller, Board of Trustees, follows:

1. The N.S.F. Board and Associated Structures

The Board of the NSF, upon which the Chairmen of the three above mentioned Associations serve as ex-officio members, met three times this year in order to determine and monitor policy, strategy and co-ordination for and within the N.S.F. structures and the detailed and comprehensive reports and feedback, input, suggestions, recommendations and participation of the respective abovementioned Chairmen at such meetings is greatly appreciated and of enormous benefit.

I wish to thank and to pay tribute to my fellow Federation Board Members for their considerable contributions of time, wisdom and support – Anton Louw (Vice-President), Anna Botha, Ashwell Jeneker, Jan Westenraad and ex-officio members Steve Doeg, Blaar Coetzee and Wilma Hambley and the ongoing valued support of Willie du Toit.

The Appeal Board, under the able Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling together with Rob Cooper, Gerry Lemmer and Justin Hughes were not required to deal with any appeals in the course of this past year.

The Board of Trustees overseeing the administration of the three Trusts with total funds of approximately R1,8m, comprising of Wendy Richards, Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling and Rodney (Toepie) Wood and the participation of the respective Chairmen of the three Associations and the Office of the Financial Controller consisting of Rodney Wood and Sakkie Perold and Saartjie Cromhout, constitute integral components of the Northern Squash Federation structure and their valuable contributions are greatly appreciated.

The NSF Board will be convening a Special General Meeting, together with the three Associations in February 2015, to amend and update the respective constitutions, in collaboration with the three Associations.

It is also to be proposed that the elected convenor of Govas becomes the fourth ex-officio member of the NSF Board. The meeting will also consider and approve the amended and updated Code of Conduct and will in addition discuss matters relating to the NSF Trust.

The NSF Trust, combining the three separate Trusts, being the Chairman's School Squash Trust (for the NJSA), the Northern Masters Squash Association Trust and the Northern Squash Trust (for the NSA) has been established and registered with the Master of the High Court.

The NSF website has served a very valuable function in the administration of squash in Northern and has been accepted and utilised by the league and tournament playing squash fraternity. The Board wishes to record its appreciation to Blaar Coetzee for his efforts in regard to this important matter.

2. The Northern Squash Association

The NSA has had a very full calendar for 2014.

The NSA took a decision to host the NSA Open as PSA and WSA events again this past year and the Open proved to be a fantastic event which drew considerable interest especially with clinics which the pros held for our young Northern players. The event was supported by players from 12 different countries and it formed part of a series of four tournaments held in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town.

The PSA event was won by Tom Ford (Eng) and the WSA by 16 year old Egyptian Nadine Ayman Shahn. Hopefully this event can be staged again in 2015, at a higher level.

The Season commenced with the traditional Blitz League with Tuks winning the Men's section and PHSOB the Womens' winner.

The Northern Closed was held in May and was won by Kevin Ndhlovu (for the 7th time) with Senade Haupt winning the Womens' section.

The final tournament of the year was the Satellite event, held at the Pretoria Country Club for 30th May to the 1st June, which was won by Andrew Martin and CheyneTucker winning the womens' section.

The NSA teams travelled to Cape Town to compete in the Jarvis/Kaplan Cup Inter-Provincial Tournaments (3 Men's teams and 2 Ladies teams)

Mens A 6/6 - relegated

Mens B 8/8 - relegated

Mens C 5/8 - a side of young hopefuls who will take Northerns into the future

Ladies A 5/6

Ladies B 8/9

Unfortunately Northerns had a few players either withdraw at the last moment or were not available to go to Cape Town. The C –team will in future be a group of young under 21 players who are earmarked to take the Province forward in years to come.

The NSA received a grant of R500000.00 from the NLDTF and these funds were put to good use with the bulk thereof being allocated to player preparation and assistance.

Thelma de Jager and her development programme in Soshanguve is growing with the participation of a large number of enthusiastic young development players. Thelma is receiving as much assistance as she requires and it is hoped that this programme will expand to other areas of Pretoria and surrounds. A further programme was run at the Tshwane University of Technology under the supervision of Anton Louw.

Sonica Fritz at CBCOB has a group of youngsters whom she is developing , as is Liz Mackenzie at Menlo Park/Tuks and Maryna Fourie has her very large contingent in Centurion.

The League season was concluded early in September as many of the senior players (60) travelled to Durban to compete in the SA Masters IPT.

The SA University's team participated in the 8th World Universities Squash Championships held in Chennai, India, where the SA team, including Nel van der Merwe of Northerns, finished 4th overall. Anton Louw and Liz Mackenzie, both of Northerns, accompanied the team in an official capacity.

The NSA has had a good year on all fronts barring the performances at the Jarvis/Kaplan Cups. The lottery grant was well utilised and hopefully the Province can now build on the programmes held and which are going to be held in the future. Craig Stevens took over from Mark Southwood running the administration and Craig has put in a great deal of effort in answering queries from Clubs and players, which has assisted the Exco in running the affairs of the Province smoothly. Congratulations to Steve Doeg and the Members of NSA Executive for a job well done.

3. Northerns Junior Squash Association

This year has been an exciting year for NJSA, which performed well on all fronts, individually and in team format.

A number of changes to the Exco team and to portfolios and responsibilities were implemented successfully.

The NJSA hosted its Capping Ceremony for IPT in May at Menlo Park High School.

The Country Schools Festival was well supported by NJSA players, and Maryna Fourie again did a fantastic job assisting the committee with team managers and selection of players for the event.

NJSA sent a large number of players to the IPT Tournaments across the country –

The Boys under 19 team and the girls under 14A team received Gold Medals with the under 19 Boys A team and Girls A and B section teams all achieving medals – The results were an improvement on last year and very encouraging.

Makgosi Peloakgosi was selected to the SA Junior girls' team in Windhoek and Egypt and has been awarded a Squash Bursary to Yale University in the USA.

The PBHS team won the Annual Top SA Schools Tournament and St Mary's DSG won the Bronze Medal in the Girls Section.

Junior and Senior Schools leagues had large participation numbers. The primary schools leagues were very closely competed events and saw some great squash from future players.

The NJSA has expressed its great appreciation to the senior clubs who have generously made their facilities available to the juniors for leagues and tournaments and have thereby contributed enormously to the development of junior squash in Northerns.

NJSA hosted 4 tournaments during 2014 –

The Start to the Season Tournament played in September 2013 attracted 154 entries and the NJSA open Round Robin played in January 2014 was a major success with the same number of entries.

The NJSA High School league was well supported and with Alex Verhage and Liz Mackenzie's involvement in 2015, should increase further in participating numbers.

Thanks was expressed to all the dedicated coaches and school sport organisers who assisted in the High School league and to the schools who made their squash courts available.

PBHS won all but the Under 16C and Under 14B League Sections and DSG "A" , Zwartkop and Menlo Park "D" won the Girls 3 Sections.

In the Junior League Maryna Fourie and her supporters took on this very important task and again did a great job – Midstream, Anton van Wouw and Hennops Park featured most prominently amongst the winning teams.

The Under 11 Angela Difford Festival was played in George with NJSA fielding 3 teams.

IPT's were played in Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg (under 14) where Mikail Clayton was ranked No 1 player and Helena Coetzee No2 amongst the girls. The U16IPT was played East London with Nico Ras being placed no 4 in the top 10 ranking and in the Under 19 IPT played in Paarl and Stellenbosch the boys "A" finished "2" in the "A" Section with top 10 Rankings going to Makgosi Peloakgosi (No 2), Marko Fourie (No 5), Josh Pretorius (No 8) and Boipelo Montwedi (No 10). The NJSA received a generous R100000.00 grant from the Lottery Fund which went a long way in enabling Inter-Provincial players to attend the various tournaments and contributed to the ongoing promotion of Development Squash in Northerns (see also report under "Overview" and "NSA" above).

The NJSA is to be congratulated on a very good year under the Chairmanship of Wilna Hambley, and Vice-Chairman Gert Olivier and the Exco excelled in many areas of endeavour with the ongoing assistance of Suna van der Merwe. This performance augurs well for Junior Squash in 2015 with the continuing loyal support of the parents of the junior players.

5. Development Programme

The Development programme has primarily been focussed on encouraging the involvement of the Eersterust Club in the main stream of Northerns squash activity – 3 teams participating in the NSA League – and the development of young players from Eersterust and Soshanguve, both of which initiatives have been successful. The Development Programme will again be vigorously pursued in 2015. See also the report under “NSA” above.

6. Governance and Compliance

The provision of Public Liability Insurance Cover for all the Associations is being put in place, as is the provision of Directors and Officers insurance cover for all members of the various Executive and designated managers of all divisions of the NSF, in order to ensure cover against any claims for liability jointly and severally against any of the aforesaid officials of Executive entities within the NSF who make decisions and carry responsibility and consequently may be accountable and liable for damages occurring.

In 2015 all bodies within the NSF structures will also be required to include an item on all the respective agendas of the various committees under the heading “Declaration of Interest – Conflict of Interest”, as has become common practice and good governance amongst most legal entities.

The Annual Financial Statements of the three Associations, as well as those of the Trusts were approved by the Sub-Committee of the Financial Controller, were duly audited and subsequently tabled and approved at the respective Annual General Meetings of the three Associations

To all the players and coaches at all levels, as well as to the many dedicated and hard working administrators who contributed to the success of Northerns Squash in 2014, congratulations and thank you very much for your participation, co-operation and courtesy both on and off the court.

To the many sponsors who contributed generously in 2014 to ensure the continued financial viability of Northerns Squash, our very sincere thanks and appreciation, also to all those Clubs who made their squash facilities available to our Associations’ players, we are extremely grateful.

In conclusion I wish to report that Northerns Squash is well positioned, adequately financed and clearly focussed for growth and improved performance. The structures are sound, are continually being tested and have been shown to function successfully and effectively. Skilled, experienced and dedicated people are in place to implement strategies and policy and to ensure operational efficiency.

Whilst there remain many challenges for the future, members of the Associations constituting the Northerns Squash Federation can, I believe, look forward to continued efficient and effective administration and competitive excellence in the year ahead.

Thank you

Michael Pierce

President N.S.F. – On behalf of the Board

Pretoria – November 2014

