

NORTHERN SQUASH FEDERATION
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

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 few 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 Jenneker, Jan Westenraad and ex-officio members Rodney Wood, Blaar Coetzee and Wilna Lambley and the ongoing valued support of Willie du Toit. Anton Louw and Anna Botha have both completed their 4 year term of membership of the Board and consequently now retire. Anton Louw has indicated his availability for re-election, while Anna intends retiring. Our thanks is extended to Anna for her contribution to the administration of the affairs of the NSF over a period of 4 years.

The Appeal Board, under the able Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling together with Rob Cooper 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, Willie du Toit and Saartjie Cromhout, constitute integral components of the Northern Squash Federation structure and their valuable contributions are greatly appreciated. I wish to record sincere thanks and appreciation to Wendy Richards, who has retired from the Board of Trustees, having made a very valuable contribution over a long period of time.

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 details of this restructuring will be addressed under Clause 8 of the Agenda.

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 considerable, ongoing efforts in regard to this important matter.

The "Govas Committee", which previously had responsibility for overseeing issues pertaining to Finance, Governance and Strategy of the Federation, has been replaced by the "Audit and Governance Committee", the members of which shall have responsibility for financial control, auditing and governance and who shall be appointed by the NSF Board in terms of the Constitution, and the Convenor of which Committee shall serve as the 4th "Ex Officio" member of the NSF Board, thereby bringing the number of NSF Board members to nine (9).

The determination of strategy shall lie with the members of the Board under the guidance of a Board member allocated the Strategy portfolio.

2. The Northern Squash Association – NSA

The NSA enjoyed a very successful year on most fronts in 2015 with the new Committee of Rodney Wood (Chairman), Mark Southwood (Vice Chairman), Kyle Potgieter (Treasurer), Judy Usher and Pieter Beukes, who at the outset carried out some serious strategic planning sessions to ensure the achievement of the mission to be the best playing Province in SA. Significant changes to the by-laws have also been effected for implementation in 2016 and beyond.

The Blitz League, although regularly interrupted by electrical load-shedding, as was the League programme, was won by Centurion and the Women's Blitz League was won by CBCTUT.

In the Open League, Uitsig Squash Club excelled and were the clear overall winners of the Woody Kaiser Trophy by a substantial margin. The League ran very well and no disputes arose in the course of the League season.

Mark Southwood ran 3 very successful tournaments this past year, including a satellite tournament in March with Kelvin Ndhlovu winning the A Section and Jacques Kruger and Andrew McMahon winning the B and C Sections respectively.

The NSA Closed Tournament was won by Kelvin Ndhlovu in the A Section and Justin Cook won the B Section with Makgosi Peloakgosi winning the Women's Section.

The NSA's flagship event, the Northerns Open was very successful and well run with Kelvin Ndhlovu beating Rodney Durbach in the final and Milnay Louw winning against Elani Landman in the Women's Final.

Various development programmes have been pursued in the Northerns region with Thelma de Jager from CBCTUT involving in excess of 100 students in a programme in Soshanguve, Maryna Fourie from Centurion running a busy programme at Uitsig Squash Club which included coaching, whilst Liz McKenzie and Sonica Fritz contributing significantly to the benefit of Northerns underprivileged children with increasing numbers of these children entering the Schools Leagues and the Senior Leagues every year, which augers well for the future.

With the focus on improving Northerns, Jarvis and Kaplan Cup performance, the Men's A team won the B Section and is therefore promoted to the A Section and the Women's team avoided relegation in a very competitive A Section, thereby remaining in the Women's A Section for 2016. Northerns also fared well in the B, C and D Sections. Ruan Olivier won the Lance Sibbald Trophy for the most improved male player at Jarvis and Makgosi Peloakgosi was adjudged the Most Promising Young Female player at Kaplan Cup.

The NSA is in a sound financial position and obtained an unqualified audit report from independent auditors for which Kyle Potgieter is to be thanked.

The NSA conducted training squads on Monday nights and on Tuesday nights for women with overflow sessions on Saturdays under the guidance of Alan Colburn. Sincere thanks to Alan Colburn, Mark Southwood and Craig Stephens for contributing to the training initiatives.

The NSA has indicated it's support for the Squash SA squash levy.

Through the commendable performances of the Executive of the NSA including the Chairman Rodney Wood, Vice Chairman Mark Southwood, Administrator Craig Stephens and Treasurer Kyle Potgieter and the positive attitude, involvement and co-operation of all players and stake holders a very sound performance by the NSA was achieved in 2015

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. The vision of NJSA - to be the leading Junior Squash playing Province in SA and mission to create an environment wherein junior players can develop a love for squash and realize their potential, becomes increasingly attainable.

167 Junior players registered on the database for the NJSA for the past financial year. The services of experienced Exco Members, Gert Olivier and Suna van der Merwe, were retained.

The NJSA hosted another very successful Capping Ceremony for IPT players in May at St Marys DSH which was well supported.

Serious problems were experienced with clothing supplier F.S. Sport, refund of the initial deposit has been effected and legal steps taken against F.S. Sport, following the cancellation of the contract.

Participation in the Country Schools Festival by NJSA players was excellent and Maryna Fourie did an outstanding job assisting the committee with team managers and selection of players for the event.

A large contingent of players was sent to the various IPTs throughout SA and the NJSA was represented at the annual Top Schools Tournament by Pretoria Boys High School and Menlo Park High School.

Junior and Senior school leagues had large participation numbers successfully supported by Maryna Fourie, Liz McKenzie and Alex Verhage.

The NJSA reported a strong working relationship with the NSF and sound and strengthened relationships with Senior Clubs who have made their squash facilities available to the NJSA.

The NJSA has hosted 4 Tournaments during the 2015 Season, in a format aimed at encouraging top players to play tournaments but also giving developing players ample opportunity to experience the tournament environment.

The NJSA Round Robin in January 2015 was a major success.

The NJSA Schools League, supported by 18 High Schools and an NJSA Invitation team played 143 matches in total.

The Junior League, comprising 155 primary school players, organised by Maryna Fourie and her team of CJS supporters provided and outstanding league season.

The Country Schools Festival continues to be very successful and Northerns fared very well.

NJSA also hosted the Angela Difford Tournament for under 11 year players and Alex Verhage, Brett Cousins and the Van Ecks produced an outstanding tournament.

The u/14 IPT had Joha van der Merwe and Reece McLachlan in the Top Ten Rankings, the u/16 IPT in Bloemfontein had Mikael Clayton, Blaine Verhage and Helena Coetzee in the Top Ten and u/19 IPT in Cape Town Nicolas, Cuan Verhage and Nothando Ntimane in the Top Ten.

All in all an outstanding year for the NJSA, enrolling a maximum number of teams for IPTs with 8 Players achieving SA ranking, an outstanding Schools League and hosting the SA Schools Squash Convention and ending the season in a sound financial position with an unqualified audit opinion.

Congratulations to Wilna Lambley and her dedicated Executive team.

4. Northerns Masters Squash Association

The NMSA 2015 Committee consisted of Mandi Joubert (Vice Chairperson), Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Rob More and Willem Kloppers.

In the course of 2015 2 Satellite Tournaments were held with Farrah Sterne and Sharon Cousins winning the A and B Sections respectively.

In the second Tournament, Craig Ruane, Kofi Ageyi and Pieter Swart won the A, B and C Sections respectively.

Northerns were not well represented at the SA Masters championships in March, however, Wayne Muller, Hugh Wallace, Toepie Wood and Pieter Swart all finished 2nd in their respective Sections.

At the Dave Short Tournament the Northerns teams results were Men's A (2nd), B (3rd), D (3rd) Mixed (1st) with the Ladies A (2nd).

The winning team in the Sponsored League were the "Cock and Bull" team with the FH Chamberlains team as runners-up.

Thanks, most sincerely, to our loyal sponsors, FH Chamberlain Trading, Ryneveld Storage, Midway Quantity Surveyors, Medi-Clinic Muelmed, Primo Negotium, Stan Rio Pipe and Steel (pty) Ltd., Scholtz and Partners, Diagnostic Radiologists Inc., Steel & Pipes for Africa and "Cock and Bull" Pub and Restaurant.

The NMSA Closed Tournament was very successful with the winners in their respective Sections being Ladies – Sharon Cousins, and Men – Craig Ruane, Ashwell Jenneker, Milan Radmanovic, Conrad van der Merwe and Steve Artman.

Northerns entered 10 teams in the SA Masters IPT in Cape Town with two of the Men's Teams ending 2nd in their Sections with a further two in 3rd places, two in 4th place and three in 5th place. The Hosts Western Province won the Monty Shotland Trophy with Northerns ending in 4th place.

It is pleasing to note that the Finances of the NMSA are in good shape and are competently managed by Saartjie Cromhout; the net profit for the year was R42157, with a total amount of R237438 in the bank at year end,

Congratulations to Chairman Blaar Coetzee and his team on an outstanding year with the prospect of utilizing the available funding to improve performance in the Province in 2016 and beyond.

5. Development Programme

The Development programme has primarily been focussed on encouraging the involvement of the Eersterust Club in the main stream of Northern's 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 2016. See also the report under “NSA” above. Thelma de Jager at Soshanguve and Anton Louw at TUT are to be commended and thanked for their respective contributions to the Development Programme, whilst Maryna Fourie and Liz McKenzie and Sonika Fritz continue to make their respective, significant contributions.

6. Governance of 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 for damages occurring.

In 2015 all bodies within the NSF structures were 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 Northern's Squash in 2015, 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 2015 to ensure the continued financial viability of Northern's Squash, our very sincere thanks and appreciation as well as to all those Clubs who made their squash facilities available to our Associations' players. We are extremely grateful for your support.

In conclusion I wish to report that Northern's Squash is well positioned, adequately financed and soundly 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 Northern's 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 2015