

NORTHERNS SQUASH FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S 2016 REPORT

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, Audit and Governance Committee, 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), Ashwell Jeneker, Willie du Toit, Jan Westenraad, Kyle Potgieter and ex-officio members Rodney Wood, Blaar Coetzee and Wilma Lambley.

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

The Board of Trustees overseeing the administration of the Trust Funds totalling approximately R1,8m, comprising of Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling, Rodney (Toepie) Wood and the participation of Willie du Toit and the respective Chairmen of the three Associations, constitute integral components of the Northern Squash Federation structure, and this past year have been tasked with the consolidation of the Three Trusts into a single registered NSF Trust, within which the contributions of the three Associations are identifiable whilst the administration is less complex and more economical. The valuable contributions of all concerned in this afore-mentioned exercise is greatly appreciated. I wish to record sincere thanks and appreciation to Wendy Richards, who has finally retired from the Board of Trustees, having made a very valuable contribution over a long period of time.

The NSF website has played a very valuable role in the administration of Northern Squash and has been utilized extensively 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 issue.

The "Govas Committee", which previously had responsibility for overseeing issues pertaining to Finance, Governance and Strategy has been replaced by the "Audit and Governance Committee", within the structures of the Board, under the convenorship of Kyle Potgieter, in which capacity he 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 Strategy Portfolio, under the convenorship of Willie du Toit, who recently chaired a successful Strategy "Bosberaad" aimed at determining and focussing strategic direction for squash in Northern for the year ahead.

2. The Northern Squash Association – NSA

In a year that had its ups and downs, saw Uitsig Club dominating the men's leagues and Harlequins the women's leagues with the women's Northern "A" nearly winning the Kaplan Cup A Section.

Etienne Champion and Hannelize Human joined the Committee with Pieter Beukes relinquishing his role.

Blitz League – Pretoria Country Club contested the final with victorious Uitsig in the men's Section with Uitsig also winning the Ladies Section.

In a dispute free League Season, Uitsig dominated the Mens' Leagues, with their high performance strategy bearing fruit, whilst the womens' leagues were dominated by Harlequins.

The Tournaments were very successful under the guidance and expert management of Mark Southwood, with top seeds Kelvin Ndhlovu and Christo Potgieter meeting in the final and Christo Potgieter winning the A Section, Justin Cook the B Section and young Reece McLachlan the C Section. Christine Ferreira beat Makgosi Paloakgosi 3/2 in the Ladies Final.

The Northerns Closed was won by Kelvin Ndhlovu in a great game against Gary Naidoo with Christine Ferreira triumphing over Megan Page in the Ladies Final. Credit goes to Mark Southwood for his outstanding tournament management.

Growth and Development are key focus areas for the NSA with Thelma de Jager from CBC, TUT being very active in Soshanguve, Maryna Fourie continues to run a very busy junior programme in Centurion with under privileged children being afforded the opportunity to receive lessons. Liz McKenzie's development programme through TUKS continues to make a significant contribution to the Northerns development programme and the impact of the influence of these dedicated coaches is strongly felt in Northerns junior school leagues as well as NSA senior league.

The highlight of Northern's performance in the Juniors Kaplan Cup Tournament was the outstanding performance of the Ladies side of Milnay Louw, Megan Page, Christine Ferreira, Makgosi Paloakgosi with guest player Sarah-Jane Perry, very nearly winning the Kaplan Cup A Section.

The Northerns mens' teams faired less successfully, hampered by the injury and withdrawel of four of the Northerns top players, resulting in a situation where they are staving off relegation.

Mikael Clayton playing in his first Jarvis Cup at the age of 15 won 5 of his six matches in the Northerns B team – an amazing achievement.

The spirit amongst the teams remains strong and with the best teams being available for future Jarvis/ Kaplan Tournaments, vastly improved performances can be expected.

There were some creditable highlights to the season.

- Milnay Louw winning the SA National Ladies Title and her excellent results at Kaplan Cup.
- Sarah-Jane Perry, our world class guest player, won all her matches at No1 at Kaplan Cup.
- Mikael Clayton's performance as stated above.
- Megan Page, Nel van der Merwe and Ruan Olivier being selected to represent SA Universities side on their overseas tour.

The NSA remains in a sound position financially and once again obtained an unqualified audit report , with the finances well managed by Honorary Treasurer Kyle Potgieter.

Congratulationa to the NSA Chairman, Rodney Wood and his extremely competent Committee colleagues Mark Southwood (Vice-Chairman) and Craig Stephens as highly efficient administrator, backed by Honorary Treasurer Kyle Potgieter For an outstanding performance which augurs well for 2017.

3. Northerns Masters Squash Association –NMSA

The 2016 Committee consisted of Mandi Joubert (Vice-Chairperson), Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Rob More and Willem Klopper (General members).

In the course of 2016, two Satellite Tournaments were held in February and April/May respectively. In the 1st Tournament Mike Wilson beat Yusuf Timal in the final and in the 2nd Tournament Ashwell Jenneker beat Brian Farham in the A-Section final and Chris Muller beat Peter Howorth in the B-Section final.

Northerns was resonably well represented at the SA Masters championships in March, with the following Top Three results:

Craig Ruane – 2nd in the men 35-39 Section
Trevor Wilkinson – Winner Men 55-59 Section
and Hugh Wallace 3rd in this Section
Johnny Orsmond – Winner 60-64 Section
Gordon Daniel – 2nd in Men 65+ Section
Peter Swart – Winner in Men 70+ Section
Delana de Jong – 2nd in the Ladies 45-49 Section
Mandi Joubert - 2nd in the Ladies 55-59 Section

Northerns Masters fielded 5 teams in the Dave Short Tournament in June 2016, with the Men winning the A Section, coming 2nd and 4th in the B Section and 3rd in the D Section.

Northerns Ladies won the A Section.

The Sponsored League was contested by 8 teams of 4 players each. The winning team was "Cock and Bull" team with Ryneveld Storage as runners-up.

Thanks is extended to sponsors, FH Chamberlain Trading, Ryneveld Storage, Midway Quantity Surveyors, Primo Negotium, Scholtz and Partners, Diagnostic Radiologists Inc., Steel & Pipes for Africa and "Cock and Bull" Pub and Restuarant.

The premier event of the Northerns Calendar- the NMSA Closed – was well supported and very successful. Results were as follows:

Ladies Winner - Sharon Cousins – Runner-up – Mandi Joubert
35-39 Mens Section – Winner Craig Ruane – Runner-up – Brian Farham
40-44 Mens Section – Ashwell Jenneker - Runner-up Mark Southwood
45-49 Mens Section – Winner – Peter McLachlan – Runner-up – Freddy Lapage
50-54 Mens Section – Winner – John McLachlan – Runner-up – Conrad van der Merwe
55-59 Mens Section – Winner – Hugh Wallace – Runner-up – Steve Artman
60+ Mens Section – Chris Muller – Runner-up – Arthur Dyason

In a remarkable achievement in the SA Doubles Tournament in April, father and son combination of Chris and Wayne Muller came third in the Masters Section.

As a result of the World Masters Championship being held in South Africa in 2016 in Johannesburg, the 2016 Masters IPT was cancelled.

In the World Masters Championship, Johnny Orsmond and Trevor Wilkinson were included in the official SA Masters Team and a number of Northerns Masters participated in the Tournament.

Johnny Orsmond finished 2nd in the 60-64 Mens Event and Trevor Wilkinson came 3rd in the Mens 55-59 Event.

The SA Masters Doubles IPT takes place in Cape Town in November and a few Northerns players are participating.

The Finances of the NMSA were, as always, competently handled by Saartjie Cromhout and are in good shape and an amount of R100000-00 was donated to the NSF Trust.

Congratulations to Chairman Blaar Coetzee and his Executive team on another outstanding year.

After five years at the helm of the NMSA, (six years on the committee) Blaar Coetzee is standing down and we thank him profusely for his considerable contribution to Northerns Masters Squash, which is greatly appreciated.

4. Northerns Junior Squash Association – NJSA

The Vision of the NJSA is to be the leading Junior Squash playing province in SA and its mission is to create an environment where junior players can develop a love of squash and realise their potential.

NJSA had 160 players registered on its database in the past year.

The existing committee was bolstered during the year by the addition of Blaar Coetzee, Chris and Jana Lessing and Deon Groenewald.

An annual Capping ceremony for the Junior IPT players, well supported by players and parents, was held in May at the Anton van Wouw Primary school.

Despite political unrest, the unavailability of the University of Pretoria and Technikon squash courts, differing school holidays between private and government schools, the last minute request by Squash SA for the NJSA to host the under sixteen IPT in place of Boarder was accommodated by the Committee of the NJSA with player accommodation being secured at increased cost at Hotel 224, which resulted in an overall financial loss to the NJSA. The tournament itself was, however, a success and enjoyed by all.

The NJSA was represented at all other Inter-Provincial Tournaments throughout the country and at the Top Schools Tournament by Pretoria Boys High School and Menlo Park High School, where Pretoria Boys High School was very successful.

The Junior Senior Schools leagues had large participation numbers and were successful with the invaluable assistance of Jana Lessing and at primary school level Alex Verhage and Liz McKenzie at Tuks, and it is hoped that this area of Junior Squash is persued vigorously in the future.

The thanks expressed by the NJSA to the NSF and the Clubs who make their facilities available to Junior Squash in Northerns, is greatly appreciated by all.

NJSA hosted four tournaments "Three Open and One Closed", during the 2016 season and these were well supported by a total of 547 participants.

Jana Lessing, NJSA committee member, ran a very successful tournament over a week in October which was very well received.

The Country School Festival, which is so important and an excellent opportunity to build the skills of our developing junior squash players, was, with the assistance of Maryna Fourie and committee members Chris and Jana Lessing in assisting with organising teams as well as the team managers, a very successful Squash Festival.

The Under 16 Tournament, with Northerns entering 6 teams, thanks to the efforts of Jana and Chris Lessing, Gerhard Naude, Brett Cousins, Mia Oberholzer, was a very successful event.

The following Northerns players were selected for the SA Team to play in Malaysia "Top 5 in each age group": Under 19 – Callan Hall, Nothando Ntimane and Under 16 – Mikael Clayton and Helena Coetzee, whilst the following players achieved SA Top 10 Rankings:

Under 19: Callan Hall, Nico Ras, Nothando Ntimane

Under 16: Mikael Clayton, Stefano Pitsillis, Joha van der Merwe, Helena Coetzee

Under 14: Valme Webster, Jeanemie Vorster, and Danica Capazoria.

The above represents a very successful year of achievement by the NJSA for which the parents of all the children must be thanked, as well as the Chairman and members of the Committee and team managers, tournament organisers and coaches for supporting the Junior structure which is financially stable with an unqualified audit.

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 2017. See also 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 "Audit and Governance" Sub-Committee, were duly audited and subsequently tabled and approved at the respective Annual General Meetings of the three Associations. There is constant checking and double checking of the Financial Statements of the three Associations and of the Trusts.

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 2016, 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 2016 to ensure the continued financial viability of Northerns 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 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 2016

