

NORTHERNS SQUASH FEDERATION  
PRESIDENT'S 2017 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 ten days. A summary of the activities and achievements of the Board, the three Associations and associated structures ie Appeal Board, Audit and Governance Sub-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 Robert More.

The Appeal Board, under the able Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling together with Justin Hughes, Rob Cooper and Gerry Lemmer 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 R2,4m, comprising of Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling, Rodney (Toepie) Wood, Wendy Richards 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 are greatly appreciated. I wish to record sincere thanks and appreciation to Wendy Richards, who has finally retired as chairman of 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 able convenorship of Kyle Potgieter, in which capacity he serves as the 4th "Ex-Officio" member of the NSF Board, thereby bringing the number of NSF Board members to nine (9). Kyle – Thankyou for your considerable efforts. NSF – Auditing Financials for all three Associated Bodies. As Treasurer for Squash SA and for conducting the annual audit for SA Masters Squash and overseeing the Financials for the 2017 Jarvis/Kaplan Tournament.

The determination of Strategy lay with the members of the Board under the guidance of a Strategy Portfolio, under the convenorship of Willie du Toit, who aimed at determining and focussing strategic direction for squash in Northern Squash for the years ahead. As an appreciated gesture, upon his retirement from the NSF Board, Willie du Toit prepared and submitted an "NSF Strategy and Structure Report" to the NSF Board, the recommendations of which will be accorded due consideration and evaluation and implementation where deemed to be in the best interest of Squash in Northern Squash. Willie's contribution over a long period of time is greatly valued, and for which appropriate formal recognition by the Board should be considered.

2. The Northern Squash Association – NSA

The NSA reported that it had enjoyed a successful year in 2017, although there were areas in which they will work to improve in 2018. The NSA League season was completed without major problems and the performance of NSA players at the Annual JARVIS Kaplan Cup improved upon that of 2016.

The NSA Executive committee remained unchanged in composition from that of 2016.

The NSA was of the opinion that strategy implementation remained a weakness and some targets were not met due to the lack of capacity in time and skills, but it is hoped that new members joining the Committee will assist in developing an updated and upgraded strategy for 2018.

Blitz League – Pretoria Country Club successfully contested the final against Uitsig and the Women's' Blitz League was won by Harlequins having beaten a young TUKS side.

The League ran well with no major disputes arising. Uitsig Squash Club produced outstanding results with their teams dominating the men's leagues, with several of their younger players moving into the league rank, which augurs well for the future.

The TUKS sides performed well this year with their ladies winning the 1<sup>st</sup> League and their men's' side winning Reserve League and thus, by promotion, regaining their position in the men's' 1<sup>st</sup> League.

In the Tournaments Blaar Coetzee took over from Mark Southwood to run two very successful tournaments during the year.

The Satellite Tournament was won by Kelvin Ndlovu in beating Ray Simbale in the final. In the ladies final Christine Ferreira beat young Helena Coetzee. In the "B" Section under 16 players Johan van der Merwe beat Quentin Saunders.

In the Closed Tournament Kelvin Ndlovu won his 10<sup>th</sup> NSA Closed Title this year, defeating a determined Ruan Olivier in the final. In the ladies final Christine Ferreira beat Hannelize Human who had beaten Megan Page en route to the final. Johan Fourie won the "B" section against Mat Dewey and Blaar Coetzee won the "C" Section. Growth and Development remain key focus areas for the NSA with Thelma de Jager of CBC Tut being very active in Shoshanguve, Maryna Fourie runs a large and very active Junior Squash programme at Uitsig Squash club where underprivileged children have the opportunity to receive coaching and Liz Mackenzie's well established development programme through TUKS at TUKS and Menlo Park Hoërskool makes a very valuable contribution. The benefit of Northerners from all these dedicated coaches is enormous as can be seen in the school leagues and the NSA senior leagues. The performance of Northerners Juniors at their respective inter-provincials has been outstanding.

The four men's teams and two ladies teams entered by Northerners in the Jarvis and Kaplan Cup Tournament held in Pretoria performed well, with the ladies side very nearly winning the Kaplan Cup A Section and the Northerners men's "A" team winning the "B" section and gaining promotion back to the "A" section, with the other men's sides having a chance of winning their respective sections on the final day. Thankyou Steve for heading up and convening the Jarvis/Kaplan Committee and for ensuring the delivery of a very successful 25<sup>th</sup> Jarvis/Kaplan Tournament here in Pretoria.

Kelvin Ndlovu has to be thanked for his distinguished service to Northerners over the past ten years, having played some of the top players in the world and having achieved some spectacular results.

As far as individual performances are concerned Milnay Louw is to be congratulated on winning the South African National title and reaching the final of the SA Open Tournament and on her outstanding results at the Kaplan Cup. Hannelize Human and Kalengo Kundanji were selected amongst the top 6 players at the SA Universities week and Hannelize was selected for the best of the rest at number 5 at Kaplan Cup in the "A" Section and Anton Louw being appointed as Chairman of USSA Squash and Ms. Liz Mackenzie as General Secretary.

Special mention should be made of Mark Southwood for his considerable contribution to the NSA over many years and his presence on the Executive will be sorely missed following his retirement.

The NSA remains in a sound position financially with the finances extremely well managed by Honorary Treasurer Kyle Potieter.

Congratulations to NSA Chairman, Rodney Wood and his competent committee and highly efficient administrator Craig Stephens for a sound performance, which augurs well for 2018.

### 3. Northerns Masters Squash Association –NMSA

The 2017 committee consisted of Rob More (Chairman), Mandi Joubert (Vice-Chair), Izak Lamprecht, Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer)

Members: Anna Botha and Willem Klopper.

Overall, 2017 was considered a very successful squash year for the NMSA under the leadership of chairman – Robert More and the above committee.

A Satellite Tournament was held in March at PBHSOB Club and was well supported with Wayne Muller, Ashwell Jenneke and Gielie du Toit winning the men's 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 Sections respectively. The combined mens 60+ and Ladies Section was won by Tony Sebastiao and Marlise Boshoff.

The Sponsored League played on Friday evenings at the Pretoria Country Club was well supported and was won by the Conslab team with the runners up for the singles being Cock and Bull and MDP Midway in the doubles, after a great final evening, followed by a very successful braai function at PCC that ended in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The Closed Tournament in August attracted more than 40 players with winners of their respective sections: Mandi Joubert, Bennie van der Merwe, Gielie du Toit, Conrad van der Merwe, Anton Meyer, Steyn van Blerk and Peter Carey. A very successful tournament followed by a super prize giving lunch afterwards at PHBSOB Club.

Master IPT singles tournament was held in September in Port Elizabeth with Northerns represented by 41 players with all players competing being subsidised by an amount of R500 each which was sourced from, and approved by the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Northerns mens 45A won their Section but unfortunately lost in the final to Winners Gauteng.

The IPT National Doubles Tournament, with Northerns sending 28 players takes place in Durban in November. The Dave Short Tournament, held in Pietermaritzburg was held at the beginning of June with over 30 players representing Northerns, was very successful and although not winning any Section, Northerns teams acquitted themselves well.

The finances of the NMSA are sound under the guidance and control of Saartjie Cromhout.

### 4. Northerns Junior Squash Association – NJSA

Blaar Coetzee and his extremely successful NJSA Committee team of Brett Cousins, Chris and Jana Lessing, Hein van Wyk, Gerhard Naude, Musa Malinga and Saartjie Cromhout had an outstanding season in 2017.

The NJSA activities followed the National Squash Calendar.

The NJSA Round Robin Open Tournament at the end of January had 146 entries including 29 from other provinces Pretoria Boys High, St. Albans and Menlo Park participated while St. Marys DSG, AHMS and Menlo Park participated in the St. Marys DSG Girls schools Invitation Festival.

In the U11-U19 Bloemfontein SA Schools Qualifier Northerns performed extremely well -

U19 – Mikael Clayton (2<sup>nd</sup>), Helena Coetzee (3<sup>rd</sup>), Blaine Verhage(4<sup>th</sup>) . U16 – Reece McLachlan(5<sup>th</sup>). U14 – Damian Groenewald (2<sup>nd</sup>) Gareth Craigen(4<sup>th</sup>) Catelin Robson (5<sup>th</sup>) whilst Northerns players also featured in the U13 and U11.

The U11-U19 Northerns Open Graded Tournament attracted 128 entries, including 21 from other provinces. Numerous other successful Tournaments featured on the Northerns Junior Calendar in all of which Northerns Junior players performed very well, including the NJSA Closed in May with 143 entries, all Northerns, and over 400 matches played.

The Angela Difford U11 Festival was hosted by Northerns with excellent feedback from all involved.

The Northerns Top School play-offs and National Top School Tournament saw Pretoria Boys High under the guidance of Craig Stephens, ending 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationally and Menlo Park girls ending 8<sup>th</sup>.

The start of Season Tournament has been held with 126 entries including 11 from Botswana and 6 from other provinces.

The Primary Schools League involved 9 girls' teams and 22 boys' teams.

Mikale Clayton, Blaine Verhage and Helena Coetzee represented SA at the Junior World Championships in Tauranga New Zealand in July, whilst Reece McLachlan and Awande Malinga were selected for the U14 and U16 tour to Malaysia, arranged by SA Schools Squash. Thankyou Blaar for affecting most of the arrangements for New Zealand for the SA contingent participation.

Tournaments have been run on a very professional basis by Brett Cousins and his team of court stewards.

The supply of provincial clothing remains a problem that is being addressed by the NJSA Committee.

The AGM and Awards function were very successful.

Blaar Coetzee and Brett Cousins attended the SA Schools Convention – full feedback is available on the Squash SA website.

The NJSA Calendar will be issued before the end of 2017 and updated participation criteria for 2018, as well as new challenge procedures, have been published on the Northerns website.

The NJSA finances are in good shape with an unqualified audit and a reasonable surplus for the year.

Two coaches continued to play a major role in developing juniors in Northerns, namely Liz Mackenzie and Maryna Fourie whilst 13 other coaches were named by players who registered in 2017.

The issue of development is being given serious attention and two major programmes, on an experimental basis, are being launched in 2018.

Communication is being upgraded in NJSA and 210 players were registered with NJSA and 11 Newsletters and notices were circulated in 2017.

The committee will make every effort to encourage players to play in IPT's and to achieve higher levels of fitness.

All in all, a very successful season for NJSA in 2017 and once again, congratulations to Blaar and the Executive Committee and all Coaches, Players and Parents. The NJSA has a great platform from which to launch 2018.

## 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, TUT and Soshanguve, all of which initiatives have been successful. The Development Programme will again be vigorously pursued in 2018. 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 their respective teams at TUKS, Menlo Park and Centurion/Uitsig continue to make their respective, significant and valuable 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 liable and 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 oversight and double checking of the Financial Statements of the three Associations and of the Trusts.

Squash SA is to be congratulated on the outstanding initiative “The Academy Programme” of High Performance Junior Academies, in terms of which, through Professional Coaching Workshops, top young players from around the country are selected to participate in ¾ Professionally presented coaching workshops at locations around the country and 3 at the University of Pretoria, High Performance Centre under the guidance of highly professional coaches including Graham Prior, Liz MacKenzie, Sally White, Alan Colburn and Aidan Stiff (Coach to the World’s No. 1 ranked players). The top 10 girls and boys in each of the U-14, U-16 and U-19 groups (a significant number of Northerns Junior players) are participating in at least 3 training workshops over 4 days, all of which are funded by the National Lottery (including branded clothing, transport, airfares, coaching fees, accommodation at the High Performance Centre.

To all the players and hardworking coaches at all levels, as well as to the many dedicated and committed administrators who contributed to the success of Northerns Squash in 2017, congratulations and thank you very much indeed for your participation, co-operation and courtesy both on and off the court.

On behalf of the NSF Board Members and myself personally I wish to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to Willie du Toit for his enormous contribution to Northerns Squash over a period of 20 years, through his playing involvement, coaching of younger players and his considerable efforts in the planning and execution of the Northerns Squash Federation concept and its implementation. I personally have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Willie for the past 15 years and have experienced at close hand the impact which his continuous efforts, involvement and drive have had on Northerns Squash.

I know that Willie will always be around for Squash in the years to come, quietly observing the progress of the game to which he has contributed so much, unselfishly over a long period of time and that has been such a large part of his life during that time.

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 continuing generous and willing 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 2017