

**NORTHERNS SQUASH FEDERATION**  
**PRESIDENT'S 2018 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,

The period under review has seen a few changes within the NSF Structures, most notably that of the resignation of Mr Mike Pierce as President of the NSF Board. Mike served for many years in many positions on both the NSA as well as the Board but most notably as President for 12 years. I would like to pay tribute to Mike for the many hours that he served Northern Squash and for all his contributions in promoting squash not only in Northern, but also at a national level.

A further change in the province is the decision by the Board to appoint an administrator to serve all three associations instead of only the NSA. As the outgoing NSA administrator I also want to acknowledge the work that Craig Stevens has done for Northern squash.

For record purposes, the NSF Board is a non-operational, coordinating body consisting of the Chairpersons of the Northern Junior Squash Association, the Northern Squash Association and the Northern Masters Squash Association who serve as ex-officio members. A further 5 members are elected from whom the President and Vice President are elected. In addition to these, the convenor of the Audit and Governance Committee also serves as an ex-officio member.

The function of the board is to establish, promote, control and administer the sport within the boundaries of Gauteng North

As only recently elected president, this report will deal with a few relevant Board matters but will also focus on the highlights of each Association

**THE N.S.F. BOARD AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES**

The Board met twice during the 2018 season to oversee and monitor processes within the different associations.

I would like to acknowledge the input of the members that served on the Board – Michael Pierce (President), Ashwell Jenneker, Rodney Wood, Robert More, Blaar Coetzee and Kyle Potgieter.

As mentioned Mike Pierce resigned mid-term from his position which required the position of president to be filled. Subsequently the position of Vice President also became vacant. Ashwell Jenneker was nominated and elected

The Appeal Board, under the Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling again did not need to deal with any appeals in the 2018 season

The Board of Trustees comprising of the founder member Willie du Toit, Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling, Rodney (Toepie) Wood, as well as the Chairmen of the three Associations attended a meeting in July to deliberate on the Trust Funds which is currently totalling in excess of R2m. Wendy has indicated that she intended to resign from the Board and finalisation of the resignation is pending. Although there was a slowdown in the growth of the fund due to external factors, the fund is still sound and well managed. A vote of thanks is therefore in order to everyone involved in managing the finances of Northern Squash

A word of appreciation goes to the Audit and Governance Committee with Kyle Potgieter as convenor who were again responsible for the auditing of the financials of all three Associations.

The NSF website again played a big role in communicating with the Squash fraternity. It assisted hugely with players' information, tournament administration, league results and many other issues within the province.

Although Blaar Coetzee has put in a lot of effort to make it one of the best and up-to-date websites in the country I do feel it is still under-utilised and we should encourage our players and members to contribute more in the way of photos, results etc. I would again like to thank Blaar for all the work he has done throughout the year to keep us informed.

The core function of the Board is to coordinate functions and disciplines within the three associations. I feel that we have neglected the importance and value of having good quality coaches, referees/markers and other structures in our province and that should be our priority going into the next year.

We currently have two vacancies apart from the two additional positions that are also finishing their term and I feel that it is important to elect people onto the board who can assist in establishing the necessary structures to oversee all the different environments that needs urgent attention.

#### **a) THE NORTHERNS SQUASH ASSOCIATION – NSA**

Northerns Squash Association (NSA) reported that it has enjoyed a very successful 2018 with Northerns winning the Gary Thomson Trophy for being the most successful province at the annual 2018 Growthpoint interprovincial.

They reported that there are still areas that need improvement Strategy implementation being one of them. Some targets were not met basically due to a lack of capacity in time and skills.

#### **Participation**

- **Blitz league**

Pretoria Country Club defended their status as league champion in the men's competition with Tukkies winning the ladies section.

- **League and league results**

The league season as usual started in February and finished earlier than normal this year (early August). No serious disputes arose although some issues were reported seemingly as a result of misinterpretation or lack of knowledge of the rules.

Uitsig deserves to be complimented for entering 20 teams in the Open section and 6 teams in the ladies and winning a total of 8 of the leagues.

#### **Tournaments**

##### **Satellite**

Only one Satellite Tournament was organised by Tukkies with Kundanji Kalengo winning the men's A section and Christine Ferreira the ladies A section sections:

##### **Closed**

The NSA Closed tournament was played this year in May with the biggest field in the past 25 years taking part.

In the men's A-section final Gary Naidoo won gold while Christine Ferreira won when Hannelize Human unfortunately had to withdraw due to an injury.

##### **Growth and development and coaching**

The NSA reported that development remain the key focus areas for the NSA and various development programmes continue within the Northerns region.

Special mention was made of Liz Mackenzie and Maryna Fourie who each made huge contributions towards the development of squash in Northerns.

## **Growthpoint Interprovincial**

Northerns entered four men's teams and two ladies teams for the 2018 tournament being held in Johannesburg.

The feedback from the players were that it was one of the most enjoyable IPT's that they have experienced and it bodes well for the future of Northerns Squash.

### **Highlights of the year.**

Exceptional Individual and Team performances that need to be recognised are:

- Kelvin Ndhlovu winning gold, Kundanji Bronze the Individual Championships (Men) at USSA with Lauren Siddall winning silver in the ladies section
- TUT winning the men's section at USSA 2018.
- Kelvin Ndhlovu and Kundanji Kalengo in the men's' section and Lauren Siddall and Kim McDonald being chosen for "Best of the Rest" in their respective position at USSA this year.
- Lauren Siddall, Hannelize Human, Kelvin Ndhlovu and Kundanji Kalengo all being chosen for the USSA 2018 top six.
- Anton Louw was appointed as Head of Delegation of the USSA Team that participated in the 10th World University Championships in Birmingham, UK.
- Andrew Martin being awarded the Seccie de Villiers trophy this year at the Growthpoint inter provincial
- Kyle Maree being awarded the Face of the Future Award at the Growthpoint inter provincial
- Donna Lobban and Callan Hall being chosen for the "Best of the Rest" team at the Growthpoint inter provincial in Johannesburg at number 1 and number 4 respectively.
- At the Squash SA awards the following people received awards:
  - **An Honours Award to** Brett Cousins for his massive contribution to Uitsig Squash in particular and Northerns Squash in general.
  - **Mass Participation Coach of the Year going to** Maryna Fourie for her tireless work with so many juniors at Centurion Junior Squash.
  - **Castle Coach of the Year awarded to** Liz Mackenzie in recognition for her coaching expertise and efforts over many years.
  - **Administrator of the Year – this award going to** Blaar Coetzee for his contributions to squash on numerous fronts.

Finally, the Chairperson reported that he would be stepping down and I can confirm that's since receiving their report Blaar Coetzee was elected as the new NSA Chairperson. Congratulations to Blaar, but for now and more importantly I would like to voice my appreciation and thanks to Rodney Wood for the hard and often challenging work that he has done over recent years. We trust he will still play a major role in the administration of Squash in the years to come

## **b) NORTHERNS JUNIOR SQUASH ASSOCIATION – NJSA**

The NJSA reported that 2018 was a hugely successful year thanks to the tremendous effort by our players, supported by their parents and coaches.

The chairperson reported that Northerns dominated the IPT's with more players in the SA top 10 that we've had in a long time. Unfortunately there was a decline in the number of players that had registered in 2018. The latter should be a focus point for the incoming committee to ensure continuous growth within Northerns

## Events

Numerous tournaments and events took place with the following as highlights:

1. NJSA Round Robin Open tournament in January
2. FNB Invitation Festival Boys' schools teams
3. St. Mary's DSG Girls' schools teams Invitation festival in February
4. U11-U19 Bloemfontein Open SA Schools Qualifier in February – top 3 positions:
5. U11-U19 Northerns Open Graded tournament in March
6. U14, U16 & U19 SA Schools Closed Qualifier in March – top 10:
7. SA Country Schools Festival from end April to early May
8. NJSA High Schools league

*Mention needs to be made that 70 teams participated in a modified format where age groups were discontinued and schools entered teams based on strength only, not age. More than 280 players were involved.*

9. NJSA Closed in May – final event before IPTs
10. Angela Difford u11 Festival was hosted in George
11. Junior IPTs. Special mentions are:
  - 13 teams entered
  - 3 gold medals for boys u14, u16 and u19
  - 2 silver medals
  - 4 bronze medals
  - 9 medals was a fantastic performance

12. Northerns Top Schools play-offs and National Top Schools
13. Start of Season tournament in September
14. Primary schools league
15. Stayers Festival in Cape Town in October

### Top individual performances:

The following 14 NJSA players were placed in the SA Schools Top 10 rankings (against 10 in 2017):

Brett McLachlan, Luhann Groenewald, Hubert van Eck, Jarrod Cousins, Damian Groenewald, Gareth Craigen, Mikael Clayton, Reece McLachlan, Zian de Swardt, Deneil Beukes, Ashton Weir, Valmé Webster, Awande Malinga, Helena Coetzee

Mikael Clayton, Murray Scheepers (also top 10 on the Squash SA rankings) and Helena Coetzee were selected by Squash SA to represent South Africa at the Junior World Championships in Chennai, India in July.

Damian Groenewald, Brett McLachlan and Deneil Beukes were invited on the u14 & u16 tour to Malaysia, arranged by SA Schools Squash.

All the above achievements and performances can only be credited to the dedicated team under the leadership of Blaar Coetzee ably assisted by his committee of Brett Cousins, Chris and Jana Lessing, Gerhard Naude, Musa Malinga, Saartjie Cromhout, Hennie van Eck and Maryna Fourie.

Unfortunately Blaar has stepped down as Chairperson but his position as chairperson will be filled by Brett Cousins. A big thanks to Blaar under whose leadership the NJSA has developed in surely one of the best junior programs in the country.

### c) NORTHERNS MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION - NMSA

NMSA hosted and participated in the following tournaments:

- **Northerns Masters Closed Tournament** were hosted at PHSOB with 37 entries

Final placings as follows:

- Men's 35 – 44 – Jason Phillips (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – Wayne Muller (Second Place) – Sifiso Musi (Third Place)
  - Men's 45 – 54 – Yusuf Timol (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – Mark Southwood (Second Place) – Ralph du Toit (Third Place)
  - Men's 55+ and ladies – Steve Artman (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – Douglas Senekal (Second Place) – Pete Howarth (Third Place)
- **Northerns Open Doubles Tournament** were scheduled for 26 – 28 October 2018 at Adelaars Club. As a result of this report being drafted earlier no results are available as yet but another 36 Entries were again expected.

Other events that took place on the Masters Circuit were the following:

- **Sponsored League** with the Steel & Pipe for Africa Team the winners of the Singles Tournament with Team Royal Access Control Systems, the winners of the Doubles Competition
- **IPT Singles Tournament**

Northerns only entered 6 teams for the tournament held in East London from 7 – 11 September with a positive feedback from everyone who had participated.

- **IPT Doubles Tournament**

The Tournament took place from 7 – 11 November 2018 in East Rand (Easterns)

Northerns are hoping to send a large contingent of players who will be competing in the men's double, ladies doubles and mixed doubles

The Chairperson expressed his sincere thanks to all the committee members that assisted in making it a successful year. They were

- Robert More - Chairman
- Mandi Joubert – Vice Chair
- Anna Botha
- Izak Lampbrecht
- Bertus Kruger
- Anton Meyer
- Willem Klopper
- Saartjie Cromhout (Finances)

#### **Development Programme**

Unfortunately there seems to have been a decline in the initiatives to develop squash amongst all communities. In the past the programs have focused largely on the Eersterust Club as well as programs at the TUT Pretoria Campus as well as TUT Soshanguve. Eersterust however became inactive in 2018 and the program at Soshanguve has virtually fallen away although some of their players have been incorporated into the Pretoria Campus program run by Kelvin Ndhlovu.

Apart from the development that Maryna Fourie and Liz McKenzie has done in their "academies" and programs, I have no information about any other formal development programs within the boundaries of Northerns.

Although many of the players that have been coming through these programs naturally filtered into some of the clubs, this is a serious challenge that we have to face if we want to continue with the sport in South Africa.

I believe one of the major reasons for the drop of on this level is the lack of capacity in human resources who are prepared to drive these programs. Although there are some offers on the table to assist with development and training, it comes at a cost and with the relatively small amount of funding available it is almost impossible to have sustainable programs

## **6 Governance of Compliance**

Squash SA together with SASCO are in the process of implementing policies and guidelines to ensure good governance within the different sports structures. These guidelines will focus on processes, structures, communications, rules and regulations, selection criteria etc.

I believe Northern Squash is one of the very few Associations that are run in a professional way. Our structure of 3 associations operating basically independently but under the umbrella of the NSF is to my knowledge probably unique in South African Squash, although not so within other Sport Federations.

In my opinion it allows the administrators to focus more directly on relevant issues instead of having to cover all bases by only a handful of people. The key to success for our structure however, is the availability of people who are prepared to sacrifice their time and energy to serve the sport and everyone involved with it.

On Behalf of the NSF Board Members and myself I therefore want to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional people we have on all levels and on all committees that so selflessly offers their time and energy to serve squash in Northern. So often we find that the vast majority of players enjoy all the benefits of playing in competitions and tournaments and not realizing the massive amount of energy spent by the people behind the screen. In Northern we have many exceptional people and South African Squash has acknowledged with awards at the Squash SA Awards Function, as mentioned in the NSA report. However there are many more who serves on other bodies in South African Squash who go unnoticed.

To all the players, coaches' parents and everyone else who contribute to making it such a successful year for Northern Squash congratulations and thank you again for participating, on and off the court.

Although there are several areas where we wish to improve and will make all efforts to do so, I can repeat what the previous president had mentioned in his 2017 report; Northern Squash is in a healthy financial state, have good and functional structures in place to deal with most challenges and are blessed with a team of extraordinary people in our midst.

We look forward to a new year and to continue with the growth and development that we have experienced in the 2018 season

Many thanks



Anton Louw  
President N.S.F.

30 October 2018  
Pretoria