

**28 October 2019**

## **NJSA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

2019 produced more Junior Country Festival and IPT teams, more SA Top 10 players than the previous year and we can boast a European Junior Champion.

Off the backend of my predecessor's 2 years at the helm of a growing junior association, 2019 proved a very successful season for Northern's Junior Squash. The leadership team has been tireless in ensuring a resounding year of growth and with that, outstanding results.

### **2019 QUICK FACTS**

#### **Tournaments**

- 4 internal tournaments (the most by any province)
- 170+ registered NJSA Players
- 600 entries
- 1 500 matches
- 45 000 minutes
- R60 000 in prizes

#### **Country Festival and Schools League**

- 10 CSF Teams
- Over 30 Primary School League Teams
- Over 60 High School League Teams

#### **IPT's**

- 20 teams (highest by any province)
- 97 players
- 10 medals (highest by any province)
- 16 SA Top Ten (representing 25% of the country's Top 10)
- 2 players represented SA Juniors at the recent Junior World's Championship

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#### **2019 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Brett Cousins (Chairperson), Jana Lessing (Vice-Chairperson), Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administration), Etienne Badenhorst, Blaar Coetzee, Ian Craig, Maryna Fourie, Chris Lessing, Musa Malinga, Hennie van Eck, Donald Weir

## INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

A few outstanding performances need mentioning as we showcase several individuals:

- 3 Bloemfontein Open Champions: Elzandri jv Rensburg, Judah Phillips, Damian Groenewald
- 2 SA Schools Closed Champions: Helena Coetzee, Damian Groenewald
- An u13 European Champion: Luhann Groenewald (European Junior Open and runner up in the Dutch Junior Open)
- 2 Junior World Representatives: Helena Coetzee, Reece McLachlan
- SA Nr 1 ranked player: Damian Groenewald (u16)
- 16 SA Top 10 Representatives:

Jeanne Craig	SA Top 10 Girls u14
Jordin Phillips	SA Top 10 Girls u14
Kiara Poole	SA Top 10 Girls u14
Luhann Groenewald	SA Top 10 Boys u14 - Nr 2
Johan Coetsee	SA Top 10 Boys u14
Awande Malinga	SA Top 10 Girls u16 - Nr 2
Ashton Weir	SA Top 10 Girls u16 - Nr 4
Deneil Beukes	SA Top 10 Girls u16 - Nr 9
Damian Groenewald	SA Top 10 Boys u16 - Nr 1
Gareth Craigen	SA Top 10 Boys u16 - Nr 6
Hubert van Eck	SA Top 10 Boys u16 - Nr 9
Brett McLachlan	SA Top 10 Boys u16 - Nr 10
Helena Coetzee	SA Top 10 Girls u19 - Nr 2
Reece McLachlan	SA Top 10 Boys u19 - Nr 3
Joha van der Merwe	SA Top 10 Boys u19 - Nr 10
Robert Howarth	SA Top 10 Boys u19 - Nr 10

## SCHOOL TEAM PERFORMANCES

Midstream College Girls and St Albans Boys defended their Top Schools play-off titles and representing Northern Juniors at the Top Schools Tournament in Pietermaritzburg.

NJSA also had representation at various school events namely: Stayers Festival in Cape Town, St Andrew's Festival in Bloemfontein, St Mary's DSG Girls Invitation,

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## **SALLY WHITE U13 IPT**

We had the honour of hosting the inaugural Sally White u13 Junior IPT in Pretoria. Over 150 players and 40 managers descended into Jacaranda City for a week of intense on court battles, fun off court events and plenty camaraderie. It is amazing how this game gels our players and creates long term friendships.

Able hosted at Affies Seuns Hoerskool, thanks to the organisers (Jana, Donald, Gerda) and stewards (Barry and Braam); who gave up their week and "lives" to instrumentally run the best IPT in our history of NJSA.

## **SA SCHOOLS CONVENTION**

The convention was hosted by NJSA at The Elegant Lodge and attended Brett Cousins, Jana Lessing and Etienne Badenhorst. Full feedback from the convention is available on the Squash SA website.

## **FINANCES**

The NJSA finances are in a very healthy state. We received an unqualified audit and we have a reasonable surplus for the year.

2019 allowed us to contribute to the players well-being through various discount vehicles and making the game a little bit more affordable to the parents. Accompanying this are the several parents who generously gave up their 10% IPT discount (parents with more than one child representing the province) to allow other players the privilege of representing NJSA. Thank you!

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication worked exceptionally well this year through the myriad of Tournament, IPT and CSF group chats. The NJSA Parent Group has just under 300 participants alone.

This was ably supported by the Northernns website, newsletters and the Northernns Facebook pages.

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## ADMINISTRATION

The three associations joined forces this year and brought in the services of an administrator. This stroke of ingenuity proved a major success and without a doubt Gerda Dryer has selfishly given more than what was asked for. They say a what looks calm above water is due to the flurry of paddling underneath it. Gerda made NJSA look calm above water.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank a variety of others who made our season a special one.

- Midstream School and Heleen-Mare Brand: The facilities and catering year in and year out, adding that extra touch to our ceremonies.
- Squash Clubs: The use of their facilities, opening them up to our plethora of youngsters. Thank you to the member's as well for their patience.
- Court stewards: We wouldn't be able to run tournaments as we do without them. The long hours running around making sure we are on time, assisting with marking and maintaining discipline. I have no doubt the parents loved their enthusiasm and professionalism.
- Central Gauteng Referee's: Paul Vermaak and his team for coming out every tournament and volunteering their time to advise and referee at our tournaments.
- Coaches: Their tireless support, endless encouragement, magic motivation and of course wiping of those crocodile tears. Their contribution is priceless.
- Parents: The weekends, the coaching sessions and the finances. Thank you for providing your little treasures the opportunity to play the best game in the world.
- Players: Yip, to all you young guys and girls; they are the reason we, the leadership team, do what we do. Their passion on and off the court, their behaviour, their discipline, their fun ... is what makes this the best junior province in the country.

## FAREWELL

Never easy to say good bye but two of our long-standing members have opted to leave the committee for 2020. Blaar Coetzee and Maryna Fourie. Thank you for your contributions in your own unique way. All the best on your endeavours as we know we will still see you around the courts giving it your all, as always.

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The above would not have been achieved without the leadership team alongside me: Jana, Blaar, Chris, Donald, Etienne, Hennie, Ian, Maryna and Musa and administration support from Gerda and Saartjie.

Their tireless efforts to ensure our tournaments, fun events, leagues, country festival, IPT's were of the highest quality epitomized by our hosting of the Sally White u13 IPT which undoubtedly was rated one of the best run IPT's for 2019. Thank you, team, you have shown what team work achieves.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, 2019 has really set the bar high and makes for an exciting 2020 season. I wish to thank all those who in their small and big way contributed towards NJSA's success. We wish the players all the best for the upcoming year-end exams.

In parting, remember that this great game is the catalyst for friendships so play hard, play to win but most important make friends.

Thank you  
Brett Cousins  
NJSA Chairman

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