

08 November 2020

NJSA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

2020 is a year that will enter annals as one that will be remembered for the incorrect reason: COVID-19. It is unfortunate about the pandemic however the safety of the sport and more importantly our juniors can never be underplayed.

With only the Start of Season Tournament and the ensuing Bloemfontein Open (a SA qualifying tournament), the season came to an abrupt end; shattering the dreams of many juniors more so the Grade 12's and their final year to showcase their skills.

A silver lining for the season was the inclusion of Damian Groenewald in the SA Squad for the World Juniors Championship in Australia, sadly cancelled.

Under strict conditions, the Seniors Growthpoint IPT took place with several junior representatives being selected to represent Gauteng North.

2020 TOURNAMENTS

Winners of the only internal Tournament: Start of Season

- U11: Starla Phillips and Milan Raffa
- U13: Chanté Leppan and Juan-Corné Brand
- U14: Namratha Niranjana and Frederik Botha
- U16: Awande Malinga and Hubert van Eck
- U19: Valmé Webster and Dian Muller

Bloemfontein Open Top 10 finishers (23 in total)

- U11 Girls: Starla Phillips (5th), Anushka Janse van Rensburg (8th)
- U11 Boys: Milan Raffa (4th)
- U13 Girls: Chanté Leppan (2nd), Elzandri Janse van Rensburg (7th)
- U13 Boys: Juan-Corné Brand (1st), CA Froneman (3rd), Ruhan van Eck (8th)
- U14 Girls: Nicole van Niekerk (9th)
- U14 Boys: Patrick Weir (1st), Judah Phillips (2nd)
- U16 Girls: Awande Malinga (2nd), Ashton Weir (3rd), Deneil Beukes (8th), Jeanne Craig (9th)
- U16 Boys: Brett McLachlan (2nd), Hubert van Eck (3rd), Luhann Groenewald (5th), Jarrod Cousins (7th)
- U19 Girls: Valmé Webster (2nd), Monique da Cruz (6th)
- U19 Boys: Damian Groenewald (5th), Rounen de Beer (10th)

2020 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brett Cousins (Chairperson), Jana Lessing (Vice-Chairperson), Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administration),
Chris Lessing, Donald Weir, Etienne Badenhorst, Hennie van Eck, Ian Craig, Reinhardt Falk

Senior Growthpoint IPT Representatives

- Men's A side: Damian Groenewald
- Ladies B side: Valmé Webster, Monique da Cruz, Deneil Beukes

SCHOOL TEAM PERFORMANCES & JUNIOR IPT'S

The pandemic was the unfortunate winner this year with the cancellation / non-completion of several tournaments and events

- SA Country Festival
- Junior IPT's
- High and Primary School League
- SA Top Schools

SA SCHOOLS CONVENTION

The convention was postponed to 2021 with the decision to hold the current SA Schools committee in place until such time it can be held.

FINANCES

With limited funding and lack of events, NJSA finances was impacted. However, the association managed to honour all fixed expenses and an unqualified audit finding was presented for 2020 and is attached with the Chairman's report.

The committee generously made a COVID-19 Coaches Fund available to assist those NJSA Coaches dependent on the game of squash for a living. 4 individuals were ably assisted with a R15,000 grant each during the trying times of Shutdown Level 5 & 4.

The 2020 results yielded an operating loss of just under R41 000. Investment interest softened the loss to under R12 000.

Due to the pandemic and curtailing of the season the committee has decided to not charge a Registration fee for any paid up 2020 junior.

ADMINISTRATION

The success of a joint administrator continued during 2020. Gerda Dryer continuously gives up more than required serving the three associations.

We said good-bye too one of our committee members, Celumusa Malinga, who served as our Marking & Referee expert. Thank you for your contributions at the tournaments and in the training room.

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Albeit a quiet year in terms of activity the team on volunteers were on call whenever required, providing advice, input and decisions to ensure NJSA continued to remain active.

Jana, Saartjie, Gerda, Chris, Donald, Etienne, Hennie, Ian and Reinhardt; thank you once again for making the running of this amazing association so much easier.

CONCLUSION

2020 was different, presented challenges and made us think and act differently. But there were still those that played a role and I wish to thank them for NJSA's success.

The changing of guard is on the horizon and we appeal to parents to step forward and assist the committee as we make the game available to our young ones.

We wish the players all the best for the upcoming year-end exams – unique as it may be and we hope that 2021 allows for more activity and the thumping of a ball against the front wall.



Thank you
Brett Cousins
NJSA Chairman

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