

16 November 2021

## NJSA CHAIRMAN'S YEAR END REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

2021 has come to an end with a start-stop-start momentum due to the COVID pandemic and again the safety of the sport and players not to be taken for granted.

NJSA managed to complete more internal tournaments during 2021, including the Primary Schools League. Unfortunately, we lost out on the Serious Fun Events, High School League and SA Top Schools.

Spectator restrictions was a bitter pill to swallow but through the innovation and determination of the committee, NJSA successfully streamed

- 2 NJSA Tournaments
- SA Schools Nationals and
- The Northern Chapter of the annual IPT's (all 19 teams)

Special thanks to Kelsey Cousins for the hours she put into the Fb page links and equipment set up. Our parents, and community, were literally a click away from being able to watch their child play – even family from afar as New Zealand!

### 2021 NJSA TOURNAMENTS

- Graded Open
- Round Robin Open
- NJSA Closed: 2021 Champions
  - U11: Dewan Borstlap
  - U13: Elzandri jv Rensburg / Gerhard vd Westhuizen
  - U14: Darcey Brown / Judah Phillips
  - U16: Jeanne Craig / Luhann Groenewald
  - U19: Awande Malinga / Daman Groenewald

### 2021 NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- Bloemfontein Open
  - 18 Top 10 finishers and 2 Champions
  - Winner: Girls u14: Chante Leppan
  - Winner: Boys u14: Judah Phillips
- SA Schools Closed
  - 17 Top 10 finishes including 3 Champions
  - Champion Boys u14: Judah Phillips
  - Champion Boys u16: Luhann Groenewald
  - Champion Girls u19: Awande Malinga

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### 2021 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, Kelsey Cousins, Reinhardt Falk

- SA National u17 Championship
  - The inaugural event resulted in 2 finalists: Awande Malinga and Luhann Groenewald
    - Awande narrowly missed out in the Girls Final.
    - Champion Boys: Luhann Groenewald

## JUNIOR IPT'S

The IPT, albeit a different approach, showed NJSA's strength with a split event. Port Elizabeth hosted the Coastal chapter, whilst NJSA participated in the Northern Chapter hosted by Joburg Squash, Johannesburg

Sending 19 teams, NJSA's depth came to the fore by 7 out of 13 Sections and runner up in a further 2 sections. The northern Chapter IPT Winners were:

- Winners Girls: u14A, u19A, u19B
- Winners Boys: u13A, u13B, u14A, u19A

## SA MERIT SQUAD

SA Schools agreed that a SA Schools Squash Merit Squad would be announced. In addition to the Merit Squad, they agreed to further extend the platform for recognition with an Emerging Squad.

A staggering 21 juniors were named in the SA Emerging and Merit Squads. The next province comprised of 10 juniors. These squads, announced in alphabetical order are:

### SA Schools Emerging Squad

- Boys u16: Johan Coetsee
- Boys u19: Hubert van Eck

### SA Schools Merit Squad Members

- Girls u14: Chant Leppan
- Boys u14: Juan-Corné Brand, CA Froneman, Judah Phillips, Ruan van Eck
- Girls u16: Jeanne Craig, Jordin Phillips, Kiara Poole, Lara van Niekerk
- Boys u16: Luhann Groenewald, Patrick Weir
- Girls u19: Deneil Beukes, Shannon Fraser, Awande Malinga, Ashton Weir
- Boys u19: Jarrod Cousins, Gareth Craigen, Damian Groenewald, Brett MacLachlan

Added to this was the inclusion of Damian Groenewald into the SA Men's Promising Squad. Congratulations to all our players.

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## PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEAGUE

The Primary Schools League, under immense time constraints was held in conjunction with the Tuks Inter Schools Challenge. 22 sides partook in the weekend event and congratulations to the schools involved. This is our breeding ground for squash and to never be underestimated.

The success of the juniors is attributed to those schools and coaches who have put in the hours, days, weeks, and months of sweat on the court; we thank you! Special mention to Liz MacKenzie (Tuks) and Maryna Fourie (CJS) as our biggest contributors to junior squash.

### Boys Primary School Results

- Boys A Winner: Midstream College / Runner Up: Midstream Ridge
- Boys B Winner: Hennops Park / Runner Up: LS Rooihusikraal
- Boys C Winner: LS MenloPark / Runner Up: CJS Invitation
- Most Promising Team: Rooihuiskraal

### Girls Primary School Results

- Girls A Winner: Midstream Ridge / Runner Up: Midstream College
- Most Promising Team: DSG

Special mention to new schools that were represented: Bakenkop, Southdowns, Villeria, Wonderboom, John Vorter.

## SA SCHOOLS CONVENTION

The convention was held in Cape Town in August and was well attended by all provinces. After 3 decades of service Grant Norton stepped down as SA School President with Margo Morgan stepping into the role.

It is also with great pleasure to note that Gerda Dreyer was voted onto the SA Schools Executive Committee.

## NJSA AWARDS FUNCTION

An intimate affair due to crowd restrictions and COVID-19 protocols, a successful event was held recognising the individual awards for outstanding performance.

## FINANCES

Albeit an increase in activity we did experience a reduction in player entries and as such the average revenue from events was not as per the norms of 2018 and 2019.

NJSA finances were impacted, however, the association managed to honour all fixed expenses and a clean audit finding was presented for 2021.

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There was also an investment made with the creation of streaming kits to allow spectators to witness matches off-site. 16 kits have been created for future use.

A net operating loss of R32 000 was recorded for the financial year but it must be noted that no registration fee was charged for any 2020 active juniors: usually recognising more than R40 000 per annum.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The NJSA Committee, a team that didn't waiver in their support, voiced their opinion when required and kept me in check with many words of wisdom.

The team ran what is now regarded as the best run junior tournaments in the country but most importantly, put junior squash first.

I owe my gratitude to you for an amazing junior province.

To our administrator, Gerda Dreyer, without you we would simply not be. Always a smile on her face, and the will to do her best, not only NJSA and all associations are most certainly better off today.

We bid farewell to two members who have decided to move on and make way for new members to experience the exhilaration of NJSA. Chris and Jana Lessing came on board in a dire situation to organise an IPT within 3 weeks, leaving 6 years later with NJSA in a healthy situation. Thank you.

We welcome the new committee for 2022, duly elected at the AGM Brett Cousins (Chairperson), **Donald Weir (Vice-Chairperson)**, Saartjie Cromhout (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administrator) and **Christo Oliver**, Etienne Badenhorst, Hennie van Eck, Ian Craig, Kelsey Cousins, Reinhardt Falk, **Tracy Randall** (All general members)

Another tough year awaits with a high standard being set but we are in good hands.

## 2022

2022 sees the introduction of a 5<sup>th</sup> NJSA tournament at the end of January. The NJSA Closed Ranking Tournament which will aid in the creation of the new age group ladders.

All major Schools tournaments have been pencilled into the calendar and we hope to have full season including National IPT's of which NJSA have been elected to host the National u16's.

The calendar will be released before the end of November for planning purposes.

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## CONCLUSION

2021 was, again, a different challenge making us think and act differently; and successfully so. We have literally compressed the last 6 months of squash into 2 months, and it has been frenetic.

It has been my privilege to serve the Committee, Parents, NJSA and NSF. Thank you for entrusting me and the committee in the welfare of the children, we are grateful.

We hope that 2022 allows for normality to prevail and the thumping of a ball against the front wall.

To the parents, congratulations on what has been a tough year COVID-19 wise. Your patience and gratitude shown towards our team and tournament stewards was humbling.

Enjoy the year-end break, travel safely (if going away) and bring our NJSA players safely back for the 2022 season

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Cousins', positioned above a horizontal line.

Regards

Brett Cousins: NJSA Chairperson

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