

Northerns Squash Association

Chairman's report – 2020

1 Introduction

2020 will forever be remembered as a year disrupted by the impact of Covid-19 on all spheres of life. Almost all official squash activities for year had to be cancelled due to the hard lockdown implemented by Government and could not resume due to remaining regulations and fears about the virus. Some of the regular season events were postponed to after the financial year-end and will be reported on in the 2021 annual report.

2 Names of the Committee

Blaar Coetzee (Chairman), Cornelia Read (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administrator), Musa Malinga, Bronwen Martin, Angelo Shaik, Derek van der Merwe continued to serve as the committee, with Blaine Verhage and Innes de Vries serving for a first term. Musa Malinga resigned during the year.

3 Grass Roots development

Schools: Liz Mackenzie and Maryna Fourie continue to do squash development at primary and secondary schools in the province.

4 Coaching and Refereeing

Coaching: The process to accredit coaches was put on hold and will resume next year. We are awaiting further information from Squash SA about historical qualifications and future courses.

Refereeing: As required by a change to the by-laws that require more players to be qualified, Northerns coordinated with Squash SA to present 6 Level 2 marking & refereeing courses at the start of the year and 319 players obtained the Level 2 qualification.

We identified players who are interested in taking their qualifications to a higher level and will be working with them in 2021 to develop our refereeing base.

2020 Management Committee

Blaar Coetzee (Chairman), Cornelia Read (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administrator), Innes de Vries, Bronwen Martin, Angelo Shaik, Derek van der Merwe & Blaine Verhage

5 Elite Development

The Northerns IPT players trained as a squad over several weeks, despite the challenges with Covid-19.

6 League/Tournaments

Blitz league: CBC Men and Tuks Ladies won a very successful Blitz league at the start of the year, with Centurion winning the Men's reserve league section.

League: Northerns seniors played in 15 men's leagues and 4 women's leagues. Only 2 or 3 rounds were possible before the lockdown and around 750 players participated. The league will be reset for 2021 without promotion/relegation after the 2020 season.

Tournaments: The association hosted a PSA Satellite tournament before the lockdown. All other tournaments were cancelled.

7 Strategic Planning

Northerns will keep to our overall strategic plan with a focus on constant improvement of the general level of play, good governance and staying competitive at the annual inter provincial tournament.

8 Business Plan

The Province is well run as shown by the unqualified audit reports that we received, our annual financial statements being available within a month after financial year end, AGM's being held as per the constitution and the general state of the financial affairs of the Association. Efforts are being made to secure long term sponsorships and other partnerships to contribute to funding of the association's activities – 2020 was not a great year for that.

The committee, after consulting with the clubs, for 2020 reduced the annual fees to 25% of the standard fees to assist clubs financially but still enable the Association to cover its costs.

9 Lowlights

The cancellation of so many official squash events because of Covid-19 was a sad state of affairs.

10 Highlights

The only tournament of the year, the PSA Satellite tournament, provided some excellent squash. The hosting of the SA National Championships and the Growthpoint IPT felt like highlights of 2020 but will be elaborated on in the next annual report.

11 Conclusion

For most of us the year served to remind us how we would miss squash if it were not available and maybe taught us a bit of gratitude towards the game and everything that goes with it that we sometimes take for granted.

I hope that 2021 will be a normal year again and not any “new normal”, just the good old normal that we all love.

Blaar Coetzee

Chairman: NSA