

Northern Squash Federation

President's Report 2012

On behalf of the Board, it is once again a privilege and a pleasure to report on the affairs of the Northern Squash Federation, comprising the Northern Junior Squash Association, the Northern Squash Association and the Northerns Masters Squash Association.

The period under review has been one of significant success in many spheres of Northerns Squash activities and has been characterized by commitment and dedication by administrators and players alike in their respective pursuits of a culture of excellence in Northerns Squash.

The activities and achievements of the three above mentioned Associations have been thoroughly and comprehensively conveyed, in detail, in very professional reports of the three Associations by their respective Chairmen in the course of these Associations' Annual General meetings held during the course of the last ten days.

A summary of the activities and achievements of the Board, the three Associations and associated structures ie Appeal Board, Financial Controller Board of Trustees, follows:

1. The N.S.F. Board and Associated Structures.

The Board of the NSF, upon which the Chairmen of the three above mentioned Associations serve as ex-officio members, met three times this year in order to determine and monitor policy, strategy and co-ordination for and within the N.S.F. structures and the detailed and comprehensive reports and feedback, input, suggestions, recommendations and participation of the respective abovementioned Chairmen at such meetings is greatly appreciated and of enormous benefit.

I wish to thank and to pay tribute to my fellow Federation Board Members for their considerable contributions of time, wisdom and support – Denver Hendricks (Vice-President), Anna Botha, Anton Louw, Jan Westenraad and ex-officio members Steve Doeg, Blaar Coetzee and Renier Cronje, and the ongoing support of Willie du Toit.

The Appeal Board, under the able Chairmanship of Glenn Hickling together with Rob Cooper, Gerry Lemmer and Justin Hughes are to be thanked and congratulated on the resolution of the matter concerning Pretoria Boys' High School and Menlo Park Hoërskool pertaining to the Top Schools Annual Tournament issue. In consequence of the aforementioned ruling by the Appeal Committee, the National Schools Squash Committee has revised and updated the national rules of the Top Schools Tournament. The Board of Trustees overseeing the administration of the three Trusts with total funds of approximately R1,2m, comprising of Wendy Richards, Alan Colburn, Glenn Hickling and Rodney (Toepie) Wood and the participation of the respective Chairmen of the three Trusts, as well as the Office of the Financial Controller, extremely efficiently administered by Illette Strydom, ably assisted by Rodney Wood and Sakkie Perold and Saartjie Cromhout, constitute integral components of the

Northern Squash Federation structure and their respective valuable contributions are greatly appreciated.

2. The Northerns Junior Squash Association (N.J.S.A.)

The year has been an extremely busy and successful year for the NJSA in respect of both individual and team performances.

The Executive Committee worked well together in the face of several challenges and positive and gratifying results were achieved.

The NJSA held another successful Capping Ceremony of Junior IPT players at St. Mary's DSG in May, which served to afford players the opportunity to meet their respective managers and to order their provincial clothing. The problems relating to clothing experienced last year were successfully overcome. Participation by Junior players was excellent and the NJSA were consequently in the privileged position to be able to select full strength teams in most age groups to the various age group Inter Provincial Tournaments held throughout the country, as well as to the South African Country Festival Tournament, where those players who were not selected for the Inter-Provincial Tournaments had the opportunity of gaining valuable exposure and experience in competitive inter-district tournament play.

In the abovementioned Junior Inter-Provincial Tournaments the NJSA had 13 players placed in the SA Top Ten Rankings in their respective age groups and almost all of these players were selected for the Malaysia Tour. Nell van der Merwe was selected as Captain of the Boys team for the Boys Junior World Championships in Qatar and was also a member of the All Africa team. Megan Page received an individual invite to participate in the event. Top Ten Ranking went to Callan Hall, Nico Ras, Amy Mentz, Marco Fourie, Josh Pretorius, Makgosi Peloakgosi, Boipelo Montwedi, Nell van der Merwe, Charl Fourie, Johan Fourie, Megan Page, Alexa Pienaar and Hannelize Human.

Maryna Fourie continued in her excellent work in building relations with the Eersterust Squash Community which, inter alia, resulted in NJSA sending players to the Development Day hosted in Secunda, where reports on the players were excellent and a great deal of experience was acquired. The NJSA was represented at the Annual Top Schools Tournament by the Menlo Park Boys' team and the Pretoria Girls' High Team with the Boys' team finishing 6th and Pretoria Girls' High losing narrowly 3/2 to Epworth in the final.

The Junior and Senior Schools leagues had large numbers successfully participating and the primary schools league, under the guidance of Maryna Fourie and her team, was very competitively competed for, which all bodes well for the future of squash in Northerns.

The 2012 Junior League Season had 85 teams registered, with 57 boys' teams competing against each other in three different groups, each of which comprised of three sections, with Boys High winning the Under 19A and the Under 14A Leagues and Menlo Park winning Under 16 League and Pretoria Girls High winning the Girls A League and DSG winning the B and C Sections.

Justin Cook is to be thanked for running the above events and the competitive participation of schools such as Uitsig, Zwartkops, DSG, Menlo Park, Pretoria Girls High School, Pretoria Boys' High School, Afrikaans Boys' High School and St Albans has contributed to the growth and success of the schools league as was the welcome initial participation of Lynnwood Laerskool and an invitation team from Eersterus.

All in all, an outstanding season for the NJSA and a great platform for success in 2013, and NJSA Chairman Renier Cronje and his Executive and supporting structures have done extremely well in delivering impressive results.

3. Northerns Masters Squash Association

During the season 2 Satellite Tournaments were held, the first played on 23rd/25th March with Richard Twali winning the A Section and Delana de Jong winning the B Section.

The second Satellite Tournament held on 25/26 August had Magalan Pather winning the men's Section and Karla Hunt the ladies Section.

The Dave Short Tournament – 7 teams from Northerns took part in the Tournament in Pietermaritzburg in early June and achieved 1 First Place, 2 Second Places and 3 Third Places.

The Masters Sponsored League played at the Pretoria Country Club courts and run by Anna Botha was again very popular with 100 players participating in 12 teams The Midway Quantity Surveyors team ran out winners followed by Muelemed Clinic team.

The Northern Masters Closed Tournament was again well supported with 72 men and 15 ladies participating. Craig Ruane won the final of the 35-39 Section with Ashwell Jeneker, John McLachlan, Johnny Orsmond, Gordon Daniel, Mandi Joubert and Sussie Boonzaaier winning the other sections.

The SA Masters Inter-Provincial Tournament held in East London from 7/12 September saw 12 teams from Northerns participating. Three of the men's teams won their respective Sections with 3 teams ending as runners-up in their sections and a further 3 teams finishing 3rd in their sections.

The finances of the NMSA were satisfactory and an overall net profit for the year being R37106.00.

The Chairman, Mr Blaar Coetzee, reported that Northerns will be hosting the 2013 Masters Inter-Provincial Tournament in Pretoria from the 6th-11th September 2013. A website has been set up www.samastersipt.co.za to provide all parties access to information regarding arrangements, accommodation, draws, functions, results etc.

Another good year for Northerns Masters Squash and we wish the NMSA Inter-Provincial Tournament Committee and Chairman, Blaar Coetzee, all the best with their preparations for the 2013 Tournament for 800 Masters players in September next year.

4. Northerns Squash Association

The NSA Awards Function for 2011 took the form of a more casual cocktail function held at the Pretoria Country Club, which proved most successful.

The 2012 Squash Season had commenced with the traditional Blitz League which was keenly contested and was won by Centurion Club's Mens Team and the Harlequins Women's Team.

A 14th League was introduced in the men's league, indicating a steady growth in men's league numbers, which is in direct contrast to the diminishing numbers being experienced in most Provinces nationally. In the first of the NSA's three individual Tournaments, the NSA Satellite in March attracted an entry of 60 players from around Gauteng and beyond. The Men's Section was won by Kelvin Ndhlovu and the women's Section by Milnay Louw, the Men's B Section by Xander Robinson and the Men's C Section by Jeandre van der Merwe, one of many up and coming juniors.

The NSA Closed event held in May once again saw Kelvin Ndhlovu winning the Men's Section and Milnay Louw defeating Senade Haupt in the final.

The NSA Open, this year registered with the PSA and WISPA, was won by world No. 26 Stephen Copping and the Women's Open by former world top 30 Lauren Siddall.

The 53rd Jarvis / Kaplan Cups Inter-Provincial was this year held in Pretoria and was a resounding success, with matches being played at Harlequins, CSIR and Pretoria Country Club.

Northerns fielded 2 Men's and 2 Women's teams with the Women's B side narrowly losing 3/2 in the final against Central Gauteng.

Charl Fourie and Alexa Pienaar received the awards for the most Promising Player for 2012.

Milnay Louw and Cheyna Tucker have been selected to represent South Africa in Nimes France at the Women's World Team Championships during November 2012.

Amendments to the Rules:

As far as the Rules are concerned, an Amendment was affected in regard to the participation of Outside / External players in the NSA League.

A clear rule was agreed upon regarding the definitions of EXTERNAL / INTERNAL players and their respective participation in NSA League.

The rule regarding the nature of the ball to be used for NSA League purposes was clarified for the 2013 NSA League Season and it was decided that the Green dot ball would be used in all leagues unless both captains agreed to the use of any other ball.

The NSA League results and awards will be announced at the Annual Awards Function on Wednesday 7th November at Pretoria Country Club.

A very sound performance by the NSA and credit goes to NSA Chairman, Steve Doeg and his Executive Committee for their considerable efforts to ensure the success of the 2012 Season.

5. The Trusts

The funds held by the Three Trusts were obviously impacted upon by the economic recessionary conditions and the lowering of interest rates, which have negatively affected investment returns world wide. It has, however, been possible for the Trusts to make payments of monies earned by the Trusts to each of the three Associations.

It is confirmed that the respective Financial Accounts relating to the three Trusts have been audited and filed with the NSF for approval.

At present, steps are in progress to consolidate the 3 Trusts into one Trust, reflecting the individual , separate assets of each individual Association's Trust. This action will serve to reduce the number of audits required to one and will consequently result in a significant cost saving.

The audited Accounts of two of the Associations were tabled for consideration and approval at the AGMs of the respective Associations, ie the NJSA and the NMSA, and accepted by the members of these Associations as well as by the Financial Controlling Body of the NSF, thanks to the considerable efforts of Saartjie Cromhout and the Finance Team at the NJSA.

The Financial Statements of the NSA, although completed, had not been audited at the time of the NSA AGM. The aforementioned Financial Statements are being awaited for approval and acceptance by the NSF Board.

6. Development Programme

The Development programme has primarily been focussed on encouraging the involvement of the Eersterust Club in the main stream of Northerns squash activity – 3 teams participating in the NSA League - and the development of young players from Eersterust, both of which initiatives have been successful. The Development Programme will again be vigorously pursued in 2013.

7. Governance and Compliance

The provision of Public Liability Insurance Cover for all the Associations is being put in place, as is the provision of Directors and Officers insurance cover for all members of the various Executive and designated managers of all divisions of the NSF, in order to ensure cover against any claims for liability jointly and severally against any of the aforesaid officials of Executive entities within the NSF who make decisions and carry responsibility and consequently may be accountable for damages occurring.

In 2013 all bodies within the NSF structures will also be required to include an item on all the respective agendas of the various committees under the heading "Declaration of Interest – Conflict of Interest", as has become common practice and good governance amongst most legal entities.

Whilst the NSF website has served a very valuable function in the administration of squash in Northerns, it was felt by the Board that its efficacy and method of operation should be reviewed in order

to raise its operational capacity to a higher level. This process is currently being undertaken under the capable management of Blaar Coetzee, Chairman of Northerns Masters Squash, in collaboration with the present service provider and a formal report with recommendations for the future, will be filed for consideration by the Board by the 15th November 2012. The Board wishes to record its appreciation to Blaar Coetzee for his efforts in regard to this important matter.

To all the players and coaches at all levels, as well as to the many dedicated and hard working administrators who contributed to the success of Northerns Squash in 2012, congratulations and thank you very much for your participation, co-operation and courtesy both on and off the court.

To the many sponsors who contributed generously in 2012 to ensure the continued financial viability of Northerns Squash, our very sincere thanks and appreciation and to all those Clubs who made their squash facilities available to our Associations' players, we are extremely grateful.

In conclusion I wish to report that Northerns Squash is well positioned, adequately financed and clearly focussed. The structures are sound, are continually being tested and have been shown to function successfully and effectively. Skilled, experienced and dedicated people are in place to implement strategies and policy and to ensure operational efficiency.

Whilst there remain many challenges for the future, members of the Associations constituting the Northerns Squash Federation can, I believe, look forward to continued efficient and effective administration and competitive excellence in the year ahead.

Thank you

Michael Pierce

President N.S.F – On behalf of the Board

Pretoria – November 2012