

19 November 2023

NSA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

2023 brought about change to the guard with Blaar Coetzee stepping down after several years at the helm. Moving up from the Junior ranks brought about new learnings and experiences and I wish to thank the committee for their immense support in what can be deemed a year of firsts; to name a few:

1. First Club run PSA
2. First fully fledged Doubles League
3. First Men's A IPT final this century
4. Sending 7 teams to the IPT's

With the tail end of the COVID pandemic leaving us, 2023 can be considered the first fully fledged season back on court, evident by the number of events supported this year including the hosting of what has been deemed the most successful Growthpoint IPT to date.

One of the ideals this year was to spread the game to the smaller clubs and was successfully done so with the Double League and Growthpoint Regionals hosted outside the usual main venues.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

With a lean team this year, they provided the necessary support on and off the court and I thank them for volunteering their time, especially over the IPT period.

The committee representing NSA for 2023 was Brett Cousins (Chairperson), Cornelia Read (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administrator), Blaar Coetzee, Jacques Kruger, Bronwen Martin and Angelo Shaik.

LEAGUE:

Blitz League: CBC Men and PCC took the 2023 honours with Harlequins winning the Men's reserve league section.

Winter League: 14 Men and 3 Ladies Leagues took part in the 2023 season comprising of 150 teams. The season commenced mid-April which was a late start with only 6 rounds completed before the July IPTs. 2024 will target to start a lot earlier.

Doubles League: 99 sides entered the 2023 doubles league, comprising of 8 Men, 2 Ladies and 6 Mixed Sections. Played over several Saturdays, scheduling proved a challenge and will be re-assessed for 2024 however the various clubs that hosted the players must be commended for the effort they put in to make the day enjoyable.

TOURNAMENTS

PSA: Harlequins celebrating their 50th anniversary, by hosting a successful PSA event in April. Northerns followed this with a PSA in May that included a doubles section.

Northerns Closed: Played in May with Damian Groenewald and Helena Coetzee emerging as our 2023 Champions.

Growthpoint Regional Playoffs: Successfully hosted by the smaller clubs, with Damian Groenewald and Helena Coetzee winning the event in their respective groups.

GROWTHPOINT IPT'S

Arguably the highlight of the year is the annual Growthpoint National IPT. Northerns was privileged to host the event this year and the months of preparation paid off with many provinces claiming it to be one of the best runs IPT's.

A crew of 10 worked tirelessly to ensure the home and visiting teams had an enjoyable experience on and off the court

Features included an incredible website, which was live with streaming links and daily updates. Results posted on SportyHQ after every round allowed anybody around the country to stay up to date with logs and scores. 10 courts were live streamed thanks, to the generous sponsor from Vodacom. 28 Countries, 9 000 website hits, 30 000 streaming views are some of the amazing stats for the week.

7 Teams represented Northerns this year with their final positions as follows:

- Men A Section: 2nd
- Ladies A Section: 3rd
- Men B Section: 5th
- Ladies B Section: Winners and 4th
- Men C Section: 2nd
- Men D Section: Winners

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Juniors:

SA Top 10 - 15 Northerns Juniors ranked into the Top 10 across the u14 / 16 / 19 age groups.

National Junior Champions - Judah Philips, Awande Malinga and Luhann Groenewald

Junior World Championships – Jordin Phillips and Luhann Groenewald

Students:

USSA Representatives - Helena Coetzee and Lara Patrick

Seniors:

National Singles – 3rd: Ruan Olivier / 4th: Milnay Louw

National Doubles – Champion: Damian Groenewald

SA Four Nations to Namibia: Helena Coetzee and Damian Groenewald



SA World Team to New
Zealand: Damian Groenewald

Email: admin@northerns.co.za

Website: www.northerns.co.za

Administration: Blaar Coetzee, Saartjie Cromhout, Gerda Dreyer and Brett Cousins were all awarded long service awards for their contribution to squash in an administrative capacity.

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS

Liz Mackenzie and Maryna Fourie continue to assist with squash development at primary and secondary schools in the province.

We thank them for their tireless work as they begin to hand over the reins to the younger generation and enjoy a well-deserved break with their family and loved ones

COACHING AND REFEREEING

The process to accredit coaches commenced again with a Level 1 programme at the beginning of the year followed by a First Aid course and 3 Marking & Referee Courses.

2024 will see a bigger drive towards uplifting the coaching and refereeing status within the province.

As required in the by-laws that require more players to be qualified, Northerns will see the resurgence of Level 2 marking & refereeing courses in 2024 with the target of 400 players achieving a Level 2 qualification.

FINANCES

The Province reflected a positive outlook for the season primarily due to the hosting of the Growthpoint IPT's. The attached financials will highlight the key inputs and outputs for the year.

STRATEGY

Key to success will be the close relationship between the 3 Associations which began during the 2023 season. This will continue into 2024 as the NSA works towards growing and sustaining the sport.

CONCLUSION

A busy 2023 calendar will lead to an earlier start in 2024. With the news of the inclusion of squash in the 2028 Olympics participation and hosting of key events within the Province will aid in ensuring we contribute to the success of SA Squash.

Brett Cousins
NSA Chairperson



2023 Management Committee

Brett Cousins (Chairperson), Cornelia Read (Treasurer), Gerda Dreyer (Administrator),
Blaar Coetzee, Jacques Kruger, Bronwen Martin, Angelo Shaik



A non-profit organization to promote the game of squash in North Gauteng