

KWAZULU-NATAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – June 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen

It's with great pleasure that I present the annual President's Report for the past 12 months. The year under review has had its ups and downs, more so this year than in the past three. However in our quest to continuously strive for improvement, growth and transformation we have endeavoured to celebrate our victories and write off our failures to experience, which we hope will not reoccur.

You have before you the Annual KZN Tennis Report for your perusal. It is a record of the Associations' and portfolio committees' activities for the year under review and we trust that you will find the contents interesting and hopefully it will give us all encouragement to go out and to do more for the good of tennis, in our province. There has been a good attendance at the monthly meetings for the year. Thanks to the Excom members for their faithful support at and during these meetings. The December meeting was replaced by a Meeting of Council as has become custom and which I believe was well attended and is key to keeping the districts informed of the mid-year progress within the Association.

I am positive that this year will go down as the year of Sporty HQ introduction. For many years our clubs have been required to submit an excel database of their members for registration to their district to be passed on to the province and finally TSA. The problem with this system was that there were members that could register directly with TSA and sometimes would not appear on any of the clubs databases submitted. With the advent of the Sporty registration application, individuals and club administrators register on the app meaning that membership stats will be far more accurate in future and payments made are directly to the districts or province at predetermined intervals.

The process started during the last quarter of 2016 with Gary Comins leading the KZN introduction phase of the project. I am pleased to say that all our clubs are now loaded, training of administrators are all but done and its now left to the individuals clubs to complete their registrations. Our thanks to Gary for all the hard work that he has put into the project and I am sure that he is as proud as we are, that KZN has taken the lead on this one ahead of the more favoured provinces and we should see the fruits of this extra effort in the not too distant future. The app itself also has many other wonderful features which will keep the hi-tech savvy amongst us intrigued for days.

Staying with matters TSA, we all had the pleasure of welcoming the newly appointed CEO Richard Glover and the honour of his two visits to our sunny province and Durban in particular. At the last meeting that some of you were at, we as a province reaffirmed our commitment to the TSA vision "to see someone playing tennis, somewhere, everyday" and our support for the short, medium and long term goals detailed in his strategic plan which has been accepted by the board. The plan addresses all the requirements of the NSDP with particular emphasis on transformation and growth of the sport, high performance and stakeholder needs. Richard has an exemplary record in sports administration, a useful sport network to call upon and most importantly a fresh approach to resolve the ailments of our sport. Examples of the new Davis Cup sponsors Kia and Axnosis and the Lotto Clothing sponsor come to mind to support the statement. The introduction of beach tennis is another, although it begs the question why was it not launched in Durban – how obvious!! From a KZN perspective I do hope and trust that he also starts to heed the voice of the provinces.

This naturally leads on to my growing concern that not enough cognisance and foresight is being taken to care for the wellbeing of all the provinces, when national decisions are taken. Without going into too much detail, may I mention just 2 of the changes of the past year that have not been beneficial to the provinces ...

- The redirection of the burden of the sanction fee from the ball suppliers to the tournaments staged within the provinces.
- The attempt by TSA to impose "fairness" to all ball suppliers which they have since backed out of. This has left agreements that were in place in tatters and a prospect of having to pay for balls, a further significant cost burden to the province.

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The reason for choosing these two in particular is that they both impact negatively on tournament costs. In short, our last Mini Series Tournament in May that attracted ~150 players made R9.8K profit this year. With the calculation as per last year the same tournament would have realised a profit of R16.5K (42% less profit). So in future if we were to have to factor in a R10.5K cost of balls as well, a loss would be the result. This I am positive is being experienced in most of the provinces and is a direct result of the lack of input by provinces through Council. KZN has always supported TSA and I am sure is the only province which has already paid over registration for 75% of its membership 2 months ahead of the deadline, for us to feel aggrieved in this manner is totally unacceptable and needs to be addressed this year.

The Directorship of all the KZN tournaments were shared for 2016 between Rowena Sanders and Natalie Grandin. Thanks to both these ladies for the efficient planning and execution of these events. The results for all the tournaments are in the Tennis Report that you all have before you. Of special mention are the 4 new tournaments held for the first time, three of which were outside the Durban area. The Ugu, Uthungulu and Umgungundlovu Open Tournaments were our first steps to introducing top tennis into the areas. Thanks must also go to our districts and their clubs for their support and to the referees, technical officials and desk organisers who often travelled. We have planned to add the Umzinyathi Open this year in Dundee.

The special feature of the Umgungundlovu Open was that for the first time we as KZN Tennis were able to register and enter about 30 PDI athletes from Pongola, Esikaweni, Imbali and Durban into this ranked tournament. This was made possible through a R100K mid-year grant by the KZN Academy of Sport. Besides the entry we were able to meet the meals, accommodation and transport needs of the athletes and their managers, who expressed their gratitude in their reports submitted after the tournament. With this allocation of funding KZN visited Esikaweni, Pongola and Dundee to evaluate the facilities available and understand challenges faced. With these funds we were also able to fund 8 PDI candidates for a Level 1 Coaches Course, fund the 7 junior athletes from Durban for 3 additional tournaments and a 2 month coaching clinic for them and finally fund coaching for a Wheelchair Athlete Bongani Dlamini in his preparation for the ACSA SA Open Tournament at Ellis Park. It's actually quite amazing how a grant of this nature gives you the latitude to get things done for and in the districts. The close out report was finalised and sent to the Academy before the due date required. The sad news however, is that there will be no further funding from this source for this year.

The Elite Camp funding received from the DSR on the last day of the 2015 financial year was also most welcomed and a wonderful injection of funding into our sport. It was a post payment for two Elite Camps in 2015 and March 2016 and further Camps in July 2016 and Feb 2017. The balance remaining is R109K and will fund at least 2 more Elite Camps. The first few Camps focused on the U14 and U16 groups but after deliberations between Junior Promotions with the coaching team a longer term approach was adopted and the U12 and U14 ages have become the new focus. This is one high performance initiative that needs to be sustained so it's been included with the 2017/18 TP Business Plan with the addition of District Tennis Clinics to support the districts. Thanks to our Juniors Committee, Coaches Committee and the Coaching team for their continued support of these Camps.

The KZN Schools portfolio has run well again for the year under review under the capable Chairmanship of Sean Topper and his Committees. My congratulations to the Primary and the High Schools IPT's selected in March, the names of which are all recorded in the KZN Annual report. I must commend the schools committee for taking the initiative of selecting a "C" team which will represent the province at the Winter Games due in July in Durban again this year. This gives more of our players an opportunity to compete at this level. Their Schools Interpro Teams were the first in our sport to apply to the KZN Sports Confederation to be granted colours and to use the new KZN Sports logo which incidentally has its official launch at a gala function later this very evening. The Schools IPT results are all in the Tennis Report but what's not seen in the results is the fact that although KZN has PDI athletes in some of the "merit selections" in the teams they also have the strongest players in the PDI selections as well. This is a feather in the caps of those running development programmes in the province. My congratulations to the 10 KZN Junior Athletes (named in the report) selected for the SA Schools Teams to tour abroad later this year and to Petro Norval who will accompany the Primary Schools team for the second year in

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succession. The smooth conclusion of the tennis leg of the Winter Games in July 2016 is also attributable to the efforts of the Schools portfolio. Well done and thanks.

The ETA and we have started making contact with WTSA on discovering that Bongani Dlamini the No 2 quad in SA has moved back to KZN and is coaching scholars from the Mason Lincoln School now at WRP. He will soon be coaching the Open Air School at the Stella TC in Glenwood. We're currently grappling with the roles and responsibilities of WTSA but I am happy to report that Disability Sport KZN does support Wheelchair Tennis at school level in the province. WTSA does seem to be fully involved with the wheelchair hubs in Harding Newcastle and Estcourt. The schools that are involved presently from these areas are the Bumbisizwe Primary, Kwazamokuhle Primary, Harding Primary and Vumani Sabelo Primary. We have met with Archie who is the Regional Development Officer responsible for the KZN Province but who is stationed in Gauteng. We further assisted Bongani in his preparation for the SA Open Tournament through the expertise of Jon Bozas in April. Bongani and his partner were eventual runners up in the men's doubles at the tournament, congratulations.

Two sources of water, a lack of it from the municipality and an overabundance from the heavens, served to mar the SALGA Games in the Ugu District during Dec 2016. Despite this Ethekwini were eventual winners with Ugu entering a team for the first year, who were runners up? Full credit to the District Association for the success of their team and realising that it would be unacceptable to not have a tennis team in your "home" games. Thanks to Maureen Davisworth and Beverley Morgas for running the tennis on behalf of the Association. As a very positive spin off from these games in Ugu, I had the pleasure of visiting the newly formed tennis development hub at the Uvongo TC. It was wonderful to see the interest shown by the club members who usually start the session with the juniors with warm-up routines until the coach arrives. I do wish that we could replicate this in other clubs in the province. Staying with the games, they will take place in King Cetshwayo this year and the LOC have already met, with Bika Ntuli being the tennis rep from the District and Petro Norval the stakeholder rep. We should leverage more off these games to get to tennis organisers and players in the districts there by spreading the sport to our gap districts.

Thanks to Dave Vincent and Maureen Davisworth and their very capable but small KZN Seniors Committee for another great year at their various tournaments in Durban Uvongo and Himeville. However, they also ensured that the KZN seniors were very well represented in most age groups of seniors' tennis. There are some impressive IPT results recorded in KZN Annual Report but notably congratulations to Lindsay North & Neville Wright for their good results at the SA Nationals back in March. KZN Seniors Jacky Zylstra, Jean Hubert and Ian Ackerman were selected for the SA team to play in Turkey during October 2016. My best wishes to our KZN Seniors hopefuls competing for selection to the ITF Super Seniors SA team going to USA in Oct this year.

The KZN Tennis affiliation to and support of the KZN Sports Confederation continued during the past year. The organisation has made significant progress and forged a good relationship with the DSR and the federations which is evident from the confidence shown in the new committee and from the growing membership and attendance at their meetings. Progress made includes being granted a TP by the DSR which means their governance issues are something of the past. The passing of their revised Constitution, introduction of the new KZN emblem which has been in limbo for a while and setting up of the Provincial Colours Policy – all sign of progress. More recently the KZNSC now have permanent offices in the Sahara Cricket Stadium and there will be designated workstations which are available for use by federations that don't have offices of their own. They are also in the process of selecting young sports interns to service the offices. "Member liaisons" from the executive have been appointed to each federation – ours is Francois Louis. As protocol requires both he and the President were cordially invited to this AGM and at the time of penning this report, attendance confirmation had not been received.

The KZN Coaches have started registering and communicating with the SA Coaches Commission formed by SASCOC to oversee sporting coaches and their qualifications in the country. The Committee represents 69 coaches and has met regularly with Jared Temlett being elected Chairman once again. There has been a Level 1 and a Play Tennis Course during year with Rowena Sanders and more recently, Emanuel Ngema being certified by

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TSA as Play Tennis Apprenticeship Centres to support the 30 hrs of practical in-service required of each candidate to complete the Play Tennis Instructors qualification.

I had the opportunity to do a presentation to Ms Rohini Naidoo the HOD of the DSR in Dec 2016 through some good PR work done by Prem Vayapuri. I covered what we found, were doing and planned for hubs in Pongola, Esikhaweni, Shakaskraal, Dundee, PMB and Imbali and in Uvongo. Gave the details of the ETA development initiative. I also shared the proliferation of the new tournaments into the districts and our 2015 to 18 membership profile and transformation plans for the province in the presentation. By the end, I do think that this changed the impression that the HOD had of tennis. Sadly though Prem Vayapuri retired in April but I am sure that Mr Mfundo Mncina who replaced him, will pick up and continue the good relationship that we had with Prem. The KZN Business Plan and TP Project applications are due now that the supporting audited Financial Statements have become available. The application will be similar to the one in previous years and will include ...

- Administrative Assistance for KZN and the Districts
- Capacity Building including P&S / Officiating and Level 1 Courses
- Development Hubs in 3 districts
- District Tournaments
- Elite Camps and District Tennis Clinics

Other submissions made to the DSR during the year was the nomination of Thembo Makhanya for Junior Sportsman of the Year and the EADP nominations of Thembo Makhanya, Kade Mindry, Katelyn Ramduth. Although we all met in March the final selections are not yet known.

The Association is required to adopt a changed election term for its officials. This is a stipulation (for a while now) by SASCOC and the Govt. for Sport Federations. Presently officials are elected or re-elected annually. The conversion is to have a Quadrennial QGM every 4 years meaning that officials take office for 4 years. TSA have adopted this already and have been promising their constitution for some time, to allow provinces a way to introduce a changes like this that have been tried and tested by the national body. They have built in precautions to ensure that all officials do not have to “retire” simultaneously. To the districts specifically, these are bold moves that need to be made if we are to contend with the rate of change in sport governance. At this point I would like to congratulate Petro Norval and her Executive for making their bold move by changing to Uthungulu and now King Cetshwayo Tennis Association. I would like to make this an official requirement from KZN Tennis to the other districts for this year, along with a call for each district to affiliate to their District Sports Confederations. Very recently the KZN Sports Confed asked each federation had to give details of the districts they had structures in – and I had to do ours for tennis. I do give you the guarantee that in a month, I am going to get a reply from the KZN Sport Confederation that we don't have structures in the districts and this will be because our district are not known by or are not members of the district confederations. Districts please be aware of YOUR SPACE, occupy your space and own your space.

In closing, my heartfelt thanks to Lynda Oosthuizen our Secretary/Treasurer for all her hard work during the past year. Thanks and appreciation to Lennie Peters the Vice President for his support. To Executive Committee in their various portfolios thanks for another great year – Dave Vincent (our very active Life Vice President), Maureen Davisworth, Lindsay North, Tubby Govender, Kim Hayes, Rudi Kimmie, Neal Khuzwayo, Gary Comins (Sporty HQ), Debashan Reddy & Rowena Sanders (Coaches Committee), Sean Topper (Schools Committee) and Natalie Grandin (our Tournament Director) your efforts are truly appreciated. Special thanks to Kim Hayes & Rudi Kimmie, the Marketing Committee who work on sponsorships and have secured Trafalgar as one very recently. A big welcome to Bongani Dlamini who as the new kid on the block has just been co-opted onto the Executive for Wheelchair Tennis. Thanks also to the District Presidents for your attendance here today and to you & your committees, for your efforts of the past year.

Thank you