

KWAZULU-NATAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – June 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings to all and it's a distinct pleasure once again to present the annual President's Report for the past year which I believe has been an eventful one. This along with the privilege of working with our executive team through all the activities to grow and transform our sport, is truly humbling.

You have before you the Annual KZN Operations Tennis Report for your edification. It is a record of the Executive & Association's activities for the year under review and I trust that you will find the contents will afford you a better understanding of the functioning of tennis in our province. The content is more detailed and should cover aspects that I may not have included in this report.

As has become custom in this province, we've held regular monthly Executive meetings during the year. I thank the Exco members for their faithful attendance and constructive contributions during these meetings. However, I would like to express a measure of disappointment with the lack of a quorum at the annual Council meeting, held during December 2018. We require the attendance of 3 of 5 districts but unfortunately were one short on the day. We are aware that the meeting may have been placed at an inappropriate time during December and plan to bring it forward by a fortnight, this year. This meeting's fashioned to be an important feedback to the districts, of the activities of 9 months of the year and as a source of guidance for the strategies that they should be considering for their year ahead.

Whilst on the subject of regularity of meetings, I do get the distinct impression that regular monthly meetings are not being held in some of the districts. As the province, we are required to forward a signed copy of the minutes presented at every monthly executive meeting, to TSA for their records. This is indeed good practice and I think that we should adopt the same, with this AGM as "the line in the sand" and would encourage each district to implement this as soon as is possible.

Some feedback from the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Report which was based on submissions from each National Sporting Federation with statistics from 2017. How do we as tennis measure up? The EPG Report puts the spotlight firmly on transformation within sport and the measures used are as follows ...

- % achieved – "One size fits all" Charter Barometer 17%
- % achieved – "self-set & forward projected" Barometer 65%
- Barometer Target Ranking 4th
- Transformation Charter Target Ranking 15th - 19

Tennis was granted a "conditional Barometer pass" – the original 2017 – 2025 Barometer had to be revised and submitted by the 30th June 2019. The Charter Barometer Ranking is the measure that counts so this is by no means a flattering reflection of transformation progress in our sport. Ranked 15th of 19 is poor especially with the added knowledge that positions 18 and 19 were placed there because they submitted the incorrect year's statistics.

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We have a role and a responsibility as provinces to ensure that this picture improves locally to impact positively on the national result. Please remember that transformation is not just about colour and ethnicity, but more about numbers and getting the sport to every district and to the rural areas of the province.

Some strategic and dare I say positive initiatives that will change this landscape here in KZN ...

1. Negotiations with the Schools tennis organisers in Newcastle to formalise themselves to become a district and activate clubs in the district to join in. This will include groups from Danhauser who are keen
2. Tennis players from Harry Gwala have approached us for guidance on how to formalise themselves into a district. They already have a committee, working on their constitution and consulting with groups at tennis facilities in the district.

These are just 2 initiatives, however a lot more can and should be done within the existing districts to activate tennis in their rural areas. Don't be passive, shake the tree and you will be surprised at what falls out!

This turns our attention to numbers participating in the sport at home in our province and of course player registrations within the districts,

	2019	2018	2017	2016
• Registrations KZN	1200	1153	1551	1460
• ETA	925	895	1232	
• Umgungundlovu	68	101	125	
• Zululand	5	11	7	
• Ugu	123	52	122	
• King Cetshwayo	32	114	56	
• Harry Gwala	20			
• Other	27			
• Informal Juniors	181			
• Sporty HQ – database	2858	2222		
• Sporty HQ – Active	2768	2130		

The 2019 Sporty HQ – Active Member stat is very interesting and one that should lead to considerable debate in the districts and within the province. This number is made up of roughly, ETA – 2112, Umgungundlovu – 191, Zululand – 25, King Cetshwayo – 201, Ugu – 184. Simply explained 2768 is the number of players that administrators have added to the app and the mere fact that the players themselves have activated their profiles does mean that they are involved in tennis in some form or other. We as administrators should be working tirelessly towards getting the registered player number closer to that active member stat on the Sporty app.

The KZN Mini Series, the Growthpoint Super 8, the Trafalgar Open all were run extremely well and efficiently completed. Thanks must go to Natalie and her team for building this reputation of excellence within the province. There is always positive feedback after tournaments, so very well-done Natalie. Sadly though the Umgungundlovu Open at Kershaw Park could not attract a sponsor which did put the latter into financial stress. More recently

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the South Coast Tourism withdrew their sponsorship of the 2019 Ugu Open which I think in part was due to a change in CEO of this body. This was indeed unfortunate, despite numerous attempts by Ian Ackerman and the district to meet with tourism to highlight the history of the tournament. Truth be told, it was at their request that the Ugu Open Tournament was initiated. Our thanks also to Ugu TA for generously absorbing the loss that was an unfortunate product of the tournament. KZN launched these tournaments in the district 3 years ago expecting that they would run at a loss for the first 2 years and the province was prepared to take this on the nose. However, equally there was expectation that local participation would increase to at least 30% and that individuals from within the district would have raised their hands to direct the tournaments for the benefit of their district during this time. Alas however none of this has materialised.

Another ground-breaking change made during this year that did affect the Mini Series essentially was the change to Wilson balls in the province. KZN has been a Dunlop province from time immemorial but the relationship built on years of loyalty to the brand, became very one sided in our opinion. The change allowed us for the first time, a golden opportunity to give back to clubs in some small measure. We therefore welcome them as our new ball partner and have already observed advantages from this new partnership going not only to the clubs but also accruing to Seniors Tennis Events and to the ETA Grand Prix. We believe that these benefits will extend into more areas as the year progresses.

The KZN Lollipop ROG series of tournaments designed as the fun U10 entry level to competitive tennis, is gathering traction with entries in the region of 40% up on last year. Kim Hayes and Karen Blaunfeldt are co TD's of these events so it's with this in mind that we express our thanks to them and entrust them with this strategic asset. The stronger we are in numbers of very young players entering tennis at this level, the earlier the talent identification process can start and in a fun atmosphere.

At the other end of the spectrum, I congratulate KZN Seniors on their staging of the 65 and Super Seniors Interpro during the latter half of May. The presence of Gavin Crookes from TSA and Craig Davis from the sponsor Growthpoint added a special flavour to the presentation evening event at the Blue Waters Hotel. The entire week was a complete success so it's appropriate that we extend our thanks to Dave Vincent, Maureen Davisworth and their committee, for a job well done.

KZN Schools tennis continues to flourish under the capable guidance of Sean Topper and the Primary and High Schools Committees. KZN was very well represented at the 2 Interprovincials in Bloemfontein and Pretoria during March / April with our U19 team coming 3rd, U15 coming 2nd and U13 5th. I'm sure there is more detail regarding this in the Operations Report but just to mention that there were 10 KZN Juniors selected for the SA High Schools team and 4 including 2 reserves for the Primary Schools team. A huge congratulations to them on this achievement. The eThekweni Primary and High Schools leagues were revived during the year, under the care of ETA and this has created a renewed competitive interest from the schools in the area.

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On the development / transformation front here in KZN the year's highlights were as follows

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- The launch of the Growthpoint TSA Development Hub in eThekweni
- The participation of emerging coaches on the Mentorship programme
- Scholarships granted to 2 x U12's to attend Durban Prep. For academic reasons one had to be withdrawn and placed at Charles Hugo School.
- Siyabonga Jaca selected to represent SA in Zimbabwe
- Schools bursaries through the DSR for Kaitlyn Ramduth & Amahle Fikhle
- Thobeka Hlongwane and Amahle Fikhle selected for SA High Schools
- Contact made with a tennis project in Danhauser
- 5 x development projects supported by NLC funds in the province. The most recent being the addition of the project at the Gcilima School created by the Southbroom TC

The KZN Sports Academy approaches 8 sports codes annually with a project that they have conjured up or where they have seen an activation need. Tennis is fortunate enough to be one of those sports, so they asked us to put together a programme for Black Women in Sport – High Performance. My thanks to Debashan Reddy our Development Officer who put a programme together (at short notice) which benefited the top 4 girls from our the KZN Development Squads. Programme included an assessment at the Prime Gym, weekly tennis coaching, weekly fitness training, entry into all the KZN Tournaments and finally entry into the Junior Nationals 2019. Due to qualification requirements the Nationals had to be replaced with entry into the Growthpoint Super 8 in the Freestate. These girls showed significant progress during this short programme and its indeed sad that the Academy did not opt to sustain the programme for a further period.

As has become custom, a Business Plan supported by Projects was submitted to the KZN DSR again this year. The application included the following ..

- Administrative Assistance for KZN
- Primary & High Schools Interprovincial
- District Tournaments Support

A letter of fund allocation has been received, however the procedure's changed radically this year. Subsequent to audit findings within the DSR, beneficiaries of transfer payments need to be registered NPO's and the DSR have been obliged to implement this prerequisite with immediate effect. This therefore has halted the allocation of funding to us. Hopefully, further on today's agenda you will allow some additions to our constitution which are necessary inclusions and without which a successful application to the Dept of Social Development will not be possible. I would therefore encourage support for these additions. Your province continues to support the DSR and KZN Sports Confederation initiatives, the KZN Sports Awards as an example, with nominations for 2018 in the following categories ...

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Junior Sports Woman | Kaitlyn Ramduth |
| 2. Junior Sportsman | Kade Mindry |
| 3. Sports School | Durban Prep |
| 4. Coach | Emmanuel Ngema |

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We can't boast with any winners for this year, but it should be known that the competition in all these individual categories was intense, with candidates having numerous international credits within their CV's.

Finally, the NLC funding underpinned the financing of the outer district and rural tennis development projects in the province. There were 2 monitoring and evaluation visits by their official with a state of tennis within KZN presentation given during the first and a NLC financial spend report during the second. Both visits went very well, and I do hope and trust that we are favourably considered for our future application.

In closing, a big thank you to Lynda Oosthuizen our Secretary/Treasurer and Debashan Reddy our Development Officer for their fortitude and plain old hard work during the past year. When one looks back over the year one gets an appreciation of the challenges and new initiatives encountered during this period. My heartfelt thanks to you both.

Thanks, and appreciation to Lennie Peters the Vice President for his support. To Executive Committee and Associates in their various port folios thanks for another great year – Dave Vincent, (Seniors Committee), Maureen Davisworth, Lindsay North (Competitions), Neil Khuzwayo (Development), Tubby Govender (Officials), Kim Hayes (Marketing), Jared Temlett (Coaches Committee), Sean Topper (Schools Committee), Natalie Grandin (our Tournament Director) your efforts are all truly appreciated. Thanks also to the ETA staff, Kershaw Staff and all the individuals at the tennis venues where the KZN Tournaments were staged during 2018/19.

Sadly, Gary Comins (Juniors) and Rudi Kimmie (Strategy) are no longer available for the Executive in the new year, so my thanks go out to them for their valuable contribution and council during the years that they have served tennis in KZN.

Thanks also to the District Presidents and your committees for your efforts of the past year. To the outlying districts may I end by encouraging you to seek out a willing sole from within your number to serve on the KZN Executive which I believe will be of great future benefit to you.

Thank you

Leonard Morgas