



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025





### **Vision**

To see someone playing tennis, somewhere, every day.



### **Values**

Transparency  
Personal Accountability  
Sportmanship



### **Mission**

To enhance the quality of life for all South Africans of any age group, by growing the sport of tennis at every level, for everyone who wants to become involved.







# Contents.

**05. The year in review – The President's report**

**26. Financial analysis of the year**

**30. Our governance structures**

**34. Key focus areas**

36. Participation

41. High-Performance

48. Coaching

52. Schools Tennis

61. Junior Tennis

65. Masters Tennis

71. Wheelchair Tennis

74. Gender Equity

78. Communications

**82. Commercial partners**

**This report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to  
31 March 2025.**





Lucas Sithole (left) and Donald Ramphadi (right) celebrating after winning the Paris Paralympics bronze medal.





# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## The President's Annual Report



## Introduction



The preparation of the President's Report for Tennis South Africa comes around ever more quickly each year – no doubt perhaps because one is busier as one gets older. As I have said before the ever-increasing amount of information one needs to remember and the number of people one needs to acknowledge makes the writing of this report challenging.

I wrote this year's report after returning from the US Open at Flushing Meadows in the United States and our Davis Cup tie against Morocco in Tshwane. Two very different types of tennis events both in competition format and size. Although each event has its own distinct qualities, they both aim to highlight exceptional tennis, foster broader participation, promote inclusivity, and inspire more people to start a sport widely regarded as one of the healthiest in every way.

Roger Federer once remarked, "Tennis is a challenging sport - there are no ties." Running the business of tennis is tough in South Africa. Sporting federations reflect the country's issues with wealth disparity, facility and resource access, and the gap between stakeholders' expectations and what federations can provide. This latter challenge is even more an issue in individual sports like tennis. At Tennis South Africa we aspire to share equitably and fairly what we do have in supporting and developing the sport of tennis within the agreements and obligations we have to all our various stakeholders – mostly with success I believe.

The Tennis South Africa Board and senior staff met in Bloemfontein in late March 2025 with the purpose of revisiting our Vision, Mission and Values and setting our Strategic Plan for 2025 to 2028. I will share the important parts of these later in my report.

After a series of interviews and discussions regarding the Chief Executive Officer position, the Board appointed Anthony Moruthane as General Manager, effective 1 January 2025. Anthony had successfully held the position of Head:



Commercial, Communications and Stakeholder Management for five years within Tennis South Africa. This promotion of responsibility has been seamless and the benefits to our organisation are already evident. Day-to-day office management has become more efficient, and the overall perception among stakeholders has improved. Board members have become more involved in strategy, placing an increased emphasis on governance as a result.

If we objectively measure our successes and failures this past year, I believe we have performed quite well. Kgothatso Montjane winning the wheelchair doubles titles at Wimbledon in 2024 and Roland Garros in 2025 and Donald Ramphadi reaching doubles finals of Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2025. In September 2024 Donald and Lucas Sithole brought home the Paralympics bronze medal for the doubles. Our U16 Boys' Junior Team were crowned the 2024 African Junior Team Champions in their age group and proudly represented South Africa at the U16 Davis Cup Finals held in Turkey in November 2024. Meanwhile, our U14 Junior Team emerged as the 2024 African Zonal Champions and will compete in the U14 African Junior Team Championships in October 2024. Both our Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup teams achieved promotion to the World Group II Divisions of their respective competitions - an outstanding milestone for South African tennis. Individually, Phillip Henning, Kholo Montsi, and Zoe Kruger delivered exceptional performances, each securing victories during various weeks of the World Tennis Tour Events hosted by Curro Hillcrest in June/July 2024 and Stellenburg Tennis Club in Stellenbosch in December 2024.

The RCS Rising Star Tennis Schools competition continues to grow from strength to strength with close to eight hundred Primary schools and over three thousand pupils participating country wide – already the 2025 numbers are close to nine hundred schools and four thousand pupils. Furthermore, our Coaching Department continues to retain its "Gold Status" accreditation from the International Tennis Federation (ITF). We are one of nineteen countries in the world and the only one in Africa to have this status. During March 2025 two of our technical officials qualified as ITF White Badge officials, and many of our administrators serve on local and international committees with distinction.

Sponsorship remains the lifeblood of any Sports Federation. Our headline sponsor in American Express is proving mutually beneficial and is contributing significantly to the growth of the sport in South Africa. This sponsorship is principally focus on supporting elite tennis player development, a national club championship, wheelchair support and then developing a fan engagement experience at various events. Participation and spectator numbers at events has grown exponentially. The first of these stakeholder events was over the Wimbledon 2024 two weeks where an Amex Tennis Town, an official Wimbledon fan park was set up at Montecasino in Johannesburg. At the 2025 Amex Tennis Town, improvements to the stakeholder experience contributed to greater success for everyone involved. Post our financial year-end we have concluded sponsorship agreements with Renault and Joma Sport. Renault have become the sponsors of our Davis Cup and are supporting our Masters Tennis programmes. They are also providing logistical support to the Tennis South Africa office for our daily operations and tournament support. Starting from 1 September 2025, Joma Sport - a global sporting apparel and footwear brand - has joined us. Our Davis Cup players, along with the technical officials and ball kids at the match against Morocco, were all outfitted in our new attire. We are also pleased to report that the remainder of our other valued sponsors have remained loyal to us over the past year.



Whilst celebrating our successes we are aware that there are areas in which we should be doing better. Registered membership and the annual renewal by players of their membership remains a frustrating challenge. This not only a challenge in South Africa, but also the rest of the world. Part of this issue comes from the disconnect members, districts and Provinces feel with the National Federations. We continue to address this issue and are actively engaging with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) to find a world-wide solution to this challenge.

The challenges related to capacity, facilities, and finances when it comes to expanding activities in rural areas remains. As I have mentioned many times before, our efforts to increase visibility and grow participation must begin at the grassroots level, in provinces, districts, and clubs. The success of any sport relies on the involvement of people at all levels, especially at the school level. Tennis thrives at schools where there is an educator enthusiastic about tennis.

Our alarm and concerns relating to the condition of tennis facilities around the country continue to grow. The condition of our main tennis stadiums around the country which are at the stages of total disrepair will result in tennis not being able to be played in them. In fact, certain of the stadiums are at the stage of "no-return" and for all intent and purposes will have to be rebuilt. Many municipally owned sports facilities are not renewing leases or receiving maintenance. This is not specific only to tennis but most other sport types in our country.

## Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

It would be remiss not to reflect on our longstanding relationship with the national Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Over the years, this partnership has been constructive and collaborative, with both parties committed to the shared goal of advancing sport across South Africa. Tennis South Africa remains appreciative of this history and continues to engage in good faith.

The recent transition within government has brought new leadership to the Department. We acknowledge and respect the Minister's prerogative to establish his own priorities and strategic direction. As a federation, we remain committed to aligning with national objectives wherever possible.

However, we have faced several challenges in the current financial year that warrant mention:

- The previously approved grant allocation to Tennis South Africa was reduced by approximately R2 million (a 66% cut), without prior consultation. This decision has had a material impact on our operations, particularly given that the allocation had been endorsed by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee.
- Our annual budgeting process is completed well in advance, and programme participants enter into agreements with the expectation that commitments will be honoured. The funding reduction has necessitated temporary scaling back of several initiatives, affecting both beneficiaries and programme facilitators.



- Tennis South Africa has consistently advocated for sustained investment in long-term development pathways. Producing elite athletes is a decade-long journey, not a short-term campaign. The current generation of top global tennis players exemplifies this, having taken 10–12 years to reach the pinnacle of the sport.
- We are aware of public commentary regarding the conduct of sports administrators. While we cannot speak to generalisations, we affirm that Tennis South Africa operates with transparency and fiscal discipline. Board members are not funded for international travel or luxury accommodation.
- Tennis South Africa has participated in two formal engagements with the Minister, during which several commitments were made. We remain hopeful that these undertakings will be honoured and look forward to further dialogue.

As part of our strategic vision, Tennis South Africa is working towards becoming a self-sustaining organisation. Nonetheless, the reduction in funding presents particular challenges in underserved communities, where the impact of programme cuts is most deeply felt. We remain committed to inclusivity and will continue to seek innovative ways to support these areas.

## Strategic Plan

As mentioned earlier in my report, the Board and senior staff met in Bloemfontein over a two-day period to revisit, refresh and develop our Federation's Strategic Plan for the next four years.

Our new Vision Statement is: To be the leading sports federation in South Africa.

Tennis South Africa enhances the lives of South Africans through the growing of the sport, fostering inclusivity, excellence, and accessibility, while uniting communities and nurturing talent to build a sustainable, world class tennis environment.

Our Values:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Sportsmanship
- Integrity

In summary, our focus areas for the next four years are:

- Membership
- Financial sustainability
- Reputation
- Competition pathways
- Employee satisfaction

Greater detail for each will be found on our Tennis South Africa website.

The Board and staff are fully committed to this strategic plan, which is aligned to our mother body's (ITF) strategic plan.





## Tournaments

The sanctioning and running of tennis tournaments continue to be one of the primary functions of the Federation. It is necessary to summarize the past year's tournament calendar in tabular form: -

Junior Tournaments	Number of Tournaments	Number of entries
Rainbow Kidz	99	2 486
Mini	57	6 038
Mini Masters	9	570
Grand Prix	9	1 812
OR Junior	17	2 067
Super 8's	7	2 350
Junior Nationals	1	459
Junior Masters	1	56
Junior Interpro	1	384
Open Tournaments	1	87
Rising Star Tennis	48	3 188

Masters' Tournaments	Number of Tournaments	Number of entries
Masters Nationals	1	237
Masters Super 6	6	828
Other Category B	5	438
Abadala and Ababedi / category C	-	-
Inter Provincial Tournaments	2	314

There are thus some 264 local tournaments, usually lasting three to five days, contribute to the Tennis South Africa Ranking system. All events, to have "ranking status for the players" must be sanctioned by TSA.

In addition, we have hosted international events as follows: -

International Tournaments	Number of Tournaments
Junior Grade 5 (J30)	2
Junior Grade 4 (J60)	6
Junior Grade 3 (J100)	5
Junior Grade 2 (J200)	1
Junior Grade 1 (J300)	1
ITF Women's \$15,000	7
ITF Men's \$15,000	7



In the forthcoming year, we are striving to increase the number of local and international events that are hosted in South Africa. We have resuscitated the Non-Profit Joint Venture Company based out of Stellenbosch that aims to ensure that we host fifteen weeks of World Tennis Tour Events in South Africa every year. The ITF assists us with funding for these events as part of its development funding to us and Africa.

One must always remember that international events are costed in US Dollars. This is never helpful when dealing with our exchange rate. One must record that for the \$15,000 (increasing to \$20,000 in 2026) prize-money entry-level WTT Events, the estimated total cost to host the tournament is now close to R1,200,000 per week. Apart from the entry fees collected from the players, there is minimal income to cover these costs. Sponsorship for these tournaments is non-existent due to the limited or lack of television coverage and the absence of "big-name" players participating. Across Europe, many entry-level tournaments are hosted by well-off clubs or private sponsors who seek to advance the tennis careers of their own players or children. In countries such as Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco, entry level tournaments are hosted at beach resorts as part of their attempts to maximise the utilisation of these resort facilities. Federations in the main are very rarely the hosts for tournaments.

Interestingly the current economic reality worldwide is that there are very few tennis events that are "profitable" in the true business sense – the vast majority survive with private or government support – and this includes Tour Events.

Despite these challenges we continue to engage with several potential sponsors, private and business, to both continue to retain the current number WTT events for men and women in the country. There is no question that the events that have been hosted in South Africa this 2024/5 calendar year have significantly assisted our South African players both with their international rankings and their finances. We would like to appreciate our partners including Curro Holdings and WIPHOLD for their generous sponsorships of these events.

## Board of Directors

The Board met four times during the past year. The current Board size of six elected members (the 2024 Annual General Meeting was a full elective year), and four Special Interest Group members has ensured active participation by all members, not only in Board Meetings but also in sharing out the responsibilities of chairing sub-committees and becoming involved operationally in the absence of a Chief Executive Officer until 1 January 2025.

Accepting the nomination to act a director of any company should never be taken lightly. One's acceptance of the appointment by election comes with many duties and responsibilities. Amongst these duties is the responsibility to one's co-board members to always act in a manner that reflects unity within the board and, most importantly, reflects a unitary vision to do what is best for the organisation.

At times though Board Members' personal circumstances change or perhaps do not fully appreciate their obligations in agreeing to serve on a Board. Traditionally TSA Board Members were not remunerated for their services as directors. As mentioned in my 2024 Annual Report, a resolution was tabled at the 2024 TSA Annual General Meeting to remunerate Board Members a "per diem" for Board Meetings. The decision was left to the Board to decide on what this quantum would be – the amount being decided on at the first Board Meeting post the Annual General Meeting





being R1,000 per meeting. Post the March 2025 Board Meeting this decision was reversed as our Department of Sport & Recreation grant has been reduced by the R2,000,000. This means we have reverted to the position that had been in place since 2013. Board members are refunded any out-of-pocket expenses (most though do not claim any refund) they incur to attend meeting in any form for the organisation. I have the concern that the lack of remuneration for time spent by directors possible precludes people making themselves available to serve on the Board or in the alternative limits their ability to effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities. This is a sensitive matter that will need to be dealt with at the upcoming 2024 Annual General Meeting in a responsible and practical way.

Board meetings are consistently lively, featuring well-considered discussions of proposals and sound, informed decision-making. Governance remains a non-negotiable element of all interaction, interrogation, and decision-making.

In line with good governance practices, primarily guided by King IV, various Board sub-committees exist and hold meetings on a scheduled basis. Virtual and phone meetings are often used, especially for follow-ups, to accommodate members' busy work schedules and help reduce expenses.

Each Committee's Terms of Reference are prepared, and once the Board approves them, they are included in the documents accessible to all stakeholders on our website. Many sub-committees have been effective and achieved positive results.

Without a doubt, it is in these committees that most of the work is done by Board Members and senior staff members. Where possible, the President and/or Vice-President attend these meetings in their ex-officio capacities.

A Code of Ethics (Board Charter) for Board Members exists, and all Board Members, as part of their acceptance to function as such, have signed a document agreeing to adhere to it. This Charter incorporates all the requirements contained in the King IV recommendations plus several additional points specific to Tennis South Africa's needs. This document is available for viewing on the Tennis South Africa website.

The Board is mindful of the growing voices around the areas of evaluating Board Member performance and the current discussions around gender equality. At its 2022 Annual General Meeting in Glasgow, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) updated its constitution. From 2027 onward, the Board will consistently include no fewer than four women among its elected members. The proposed amendments to the South African Sports Act also propose that the Boards of Sports Federations shall, where possible, always consist of forty-percent women representation. Tennis South Africa does not support quotas. The overwhelming consideration should always be that of appointing or electing the best persons in terms of skill set, experience, and knowledge to the Board. Ensuring fair identification and encouragement of qualified candidates to run for election - without anyone being disadvantaged because of their colour, sex, or creed - is a crucial issue that must be addressed thoughtfully.

My final point under this heading is to acknowledge the contribution of Japie Klaasens to the board over the past eight years. He did not stand for re-election at the Tennis South Africa Annual General Meeting in September 2024. Japie was chair of two sub-committees, namely the International and Officials Committees. He led these two committees over the year with passion and the skill needed to manage professional players and technical officials. Japie himself is a retired ITF White Badge official. I thank Japie for his leadership and wise counsel.



## General Manager

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Board of Tennis South Africa has appointed Anthony Moruthane as our General Manager with effect from the 1 January 2025. Last year I went to great lengths to explain the extensive and detailed process we went through in our endeavours to find an operational leader for our federation.

Without doubt the absence of an operational leader did not create either the right optics or the required leadership within the office for our federation. Furthermore, the responsibility being placed on Board Members was taking its toll in terms of time commitment.

After careful introspection, the Board concluded that we already had the person in our employ who was both able and competent to serve in this leadership role of the federation.

In the short space of time that Anthony has been at the helm of the federation he has implemented several necessary controls and processes that have made the organisation more stable, focused and efficient. Staff are more settled and stakeholder management more streamlined.

Anthony is also effectively managing our sponsorship stakeholder relationships, particularly that of delivering for American Express and concluding our partnerships with Renault and Joma sport.

I have full confidence in Anthony and his team that they will do Tennis South Africa proud over the coming years.

## Staffing

Our loyal and hardworking staff continue to strive to satisfy the seemingly unsatiable demands of our stakeholders and the delivery needs for our various tournaments and projects. All of them work long hours and way beyond the call of duty.

During the year under review, we employed two addition staff members to assist with administration and stakeholder management. In addition, an intern was appointed to a permanent position, initially to assist with tournament administration and was then redeployed to assist in the coaching department when that staff member took over the administrative duties for the technical officials.

MANCO, with the guidance and assistance of the General Manager, continually assesses the staffing needs of tennis – without a doubt, we remain under-capacitated but limited by virtue of funding. The Remuneration Committee is constantly monitoring remuneration trends with the intent of trying to make sure that staff are properly paid in line with industry norms and trends.

A Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference has been drawn up and adopted by the Board. This document is available for viewing on the Tennis South Africa website.

My sincere thanks to each one of our loyal staff for both their individual and collective contribution to Tennis South Africa this past year. It has been a pleasure working with the team.



## Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be one of the most significant challenges in all sports today. I remind everyone that safeguarding is a broad subject. It is not limited to the scourge of sexual molestation of athletes. There are challenges around “bullying” on social media platforms, conduct of spectators next to courts where matches are being played, conduct of coaches running academies. Tennis South Africa has a Safeguarding Policy in place, along with an independent Safeguarding Officer named Anneline Lewies. The protection of all players, regardless of age or gender, is a non-negotiable priority and is enshrined in the Sports Act.

We broadened our policy to include that every default imposed on a player would be reviewed from a safeguarding perspective. Most of our safeguarding challenges involve unlicensed and non-registered coaches. This poses certain challenges for TSA as we are unable to act against these alleged offenders in accordance with our various policies and Code of Conduct. Nevertheless, if we believe that these offenses are of a criminal nature, we do not hesitate to report such transgression to the justice system. Our membership can and should take a proactive approach to ensure that individuals coaching at facilities are indeed licensed and registered coaches. We are further engaging with the Department of Education through SASCO to encourage schools to ensure that they only employ licensed coaches in “good standing” with TSA.

To become a registered and licensed coach with Tennis South Africa, an individual is required to:

1. Complete a coaching course approved by the International Tennis Federation.
2. Pay the annual registration fee.
3. Complete the minimum number of Continuing Professional Education hours.
4. Provide a Police Clearance Certificate.

These requirements are in line with accepted norms for individuals seeking to maintain their status and membership within their professional body.

It has been pleasing to see the continued “buy-in” from our leading tennis academies around the country in ensuring that all their personnel are accredited with Tennis South Africa.

Safeguarding is a “zero-tolerance” matter. TSA is looking at elevating the level of security and access onto all tournament sites. Tennis South Africa expects members, parents, clubs, and schools to exercise greater diligence in ensuring that players can be assured of being able to enjoy the game of tennis in a safe environment.

## Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup

Both our Davis Cup and BJK Cup teams gained promotion to the World Group II Divisions of the events during the year under review.

Our Davis Cup team played against Lebanon in Lebanon in September 2024, unfortunately losing the tie. This meant we had to play a relegation tie against Nigeria at home in February 2025, which we safely navigated and thus retained our position in the World Group II Division. We then drew Morocco in the recently completed September 2025 tie at home, which we unfortunately lost. This will mean we will have a relegation tie to play in February 2026.

Whilst not taking anything away from the players who represented the country in these ties, there is a worldwide frustration around the availabilities of American University players.

Our BJK Cup team came third in the “round-robin” format of the World Group II division competition held in June 2025. They thus retain their position in this division for 2026.

TSA has always adopted the position that any prizemoney it receives from the ITF is given to the team – any surpluses are likewise shared with the teams. The reality though is that there are little prize money or surpluses at the levels of the event in which we currently participate. Players must accept that their participation is an “investment” with the incentive to gain promotion into the higher divisions where prizemoney becomes meaningful.

I take this opportunity to recognise and thank both captains – Christo van Rensburg and Roxanne Clarke – Davis Cup and BJK Cup, respectively for their leadership over the past four years. The tasks of captaincy are never simple or easy. Determining player availabilities, cajoling American College coaches to release players, managing player expectations are “all in a week’s work.”

During the latter part of 2024 the process of selecting a Davis Cup and BJK Cup captain respectively for the next four-year term commenced. The appointment of Pietie Norval as the new Davis Cup captain and the reappointment of Roxanne Clarke was duly announced after a comprehensive and detailed evaluation process. I wish them well for their four-year tenure.

I would be amiss in not acknowledging the massive contribution Raven Klaasen has made to our Davis Cup team over many years. Raven decided to “hang up his racquet” during 2023/4. Raven played more than twenty ties for South Africa which resulted in him being recognised with the ITF's Commitment Award. This was presented to him at the Tie between South Africa and Morocco this past weekend. An honour well deserved.

## Provincial Tennis



Winners and runners up at the 2025 American Express Free State Super 8



It remains frustrating that several of our provinces continue to face challenges in complying with the Tennis South Africa Constitution and managing tennis affairs in their respective jurisdictions. Currently, four provinces are "not in good standing."

The fact that some Provinces cannot hold Annual General Meetings, produce reliable financial statements and hold elections for office bearers is disappointing. This reflects a total lack of commitment from members to effectively administer tennis. Provinces and Districts should be the "core" of tennis where the development of the game is nurtured.

Several provinces are in the process of updating their own constitutions to align with Tennis South Africa's constitution. Tennis South Africa has provided the provinces and districts with a template of what their constitutions should look like to facilitate this task. The Board has tasked the General Manager to drive the process of assisting Provinces to become compliant. To further support this alignment process and promote stronger collaboration, the General Manager has reintroduced the Presidents' Forum - an initiative aimed at improving communication, strategic alignment, and stakeholder engagement across all levels of the tennis community. This platform provides provincial leaders with regular opportunities to share insights, raise concerns, and collectively address challenges facing the sport. By revitalising this forum, Tennis South Africa seeks to build a more unified governance structure and ensure that provincial efforts are harmonised with national objectives.

That all said, TSA acknowledges that in certain provinces and even more so in districts, tennis administration is a challenge for assorted reasons. As the custodian of tennis in South Africa, Tennis South Africa is here to assist when requested and to the extent of its capacity. Many provinces continue to struggle with finding individuals to take on tennis administration roles, especially in rural districts where human capacity and geographical distances pose issues. Most provinces rely on volunteer administrators who are not remunerated. This places significant pressure on Tennis South Africa, particularly when it comes to fulfilling the various reporting requirements mandated by the government and the Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

Tennis South Africa recognises the sensitivity of this challenge and tries to assist. While Tennis South Africa has the constitutional right to intervene in a dysfunctional or challenged province, it prefers to encourage the membership in such provinces to take ownership of the game, always applying good governance, transparency, and accountability. However, the demands and expectations of sponsors, the Eminent Persons Group, SASCOC, and the government are continually increasing. If tennis is to prosper, everyone needs to be a "giver," not a "taker."

## Club Tennis

The number of registered players appears to have reached a plateau post the Covid-19 lockdown. The truth is a club's success depends heavily on the enthusiasm and effectiveness of its committee. It is important to note that, globally, these committee members are normally volunteers, except in cases where the club is part of a Country Club business or owned by a wealthy individual.

The resolution passed at the Tennis South Africa Council Annual General Meeting in 2020, which required all affiliated clubs to register their membership on the Sporty HQ system, continues to pose challenges for many clubs. As a result, there are discrepancies between actual and reported membership numbers. While there are over seven hundred tennis players in South Africa, only thirty-eight thousand are



registered members of affiliated clubs. This clearly indicates that reporting and accounting are incomplete. Additionally, it must be acknowledged that the Sporty HQ system faces its own challenges, which are proving difficult to rectify or resolve.

The statistics regarding viewership of Grand Slams and Tour Events on television and the actual number of tennis players are well-known. While Tennis South Africa cannot take on the day-to-day management of clubs, we aim to create an enabling environment to support clubs in their operations and hosting events that require team participation.

In terms of assisting clubs with their affairs, we provide an easily accessible "toolbox" on our website. This toolbox includes instructions on how to use the Sporty HQ registration system, which we rely on for membership and tournament registrations and entries. Our software support extends to assisting Club Committees with various administrative functions.

That all said, Tennis South Africa has engaged with the ITF and is part of the steering process to develop a standard world-wide software system that will standardise all the different levels of administration, ranking and tournament operation.

As mentioned earlier, there remains significant concern around the issue of club facilities and tenure. Most clubs occupy facilities on municipal grounds. Unfortunately, many municipalities show little interest in providing clubs with long-term leases, which leads to understandable reluctance among club members to maintain these facilities. Alternatively, in cases where clubs have leases that require the municipality to maintain the facilities, this responsibility is often neglected, with the excuse that funds are needed elsewhere within the municipality. This problem is not unique to tennis; many sporting facilities of all types are deteriorating into derelict buildings and overgrown fields. Despite numerous discussions with authorities and the assistance of SASCO, the situation is becoming increasingly challenging and worrisome. This is one of the areas where assistance has been sought from the Minister of Sport – thus far without any apparent result.

## Beach Tennis

Unfortunately, as I mentioned last year, Beach Tennis was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and has not recovered in South Africa. Additionally, due to our limited office capacity to promote this form of tennis, it has come to a halt and is on the verge of disappearing altogether.

The lack of Beach Tennis tournaments organised under the auspices of the Confederation of African Tennis is also a contributing factor towards this form of tennis on the continent.

## Wheelchair Tennis

Wheelchair Tennis in South Africa is challenged. The National Wheelchair Committee is currently non-operational with little interest from players to take ownership and accountability for their sport. Tennis South Africa continued to provide some financial support for coaching and hosting of tournaments out of the American Express sponsorship to assist the players. However, securing meaningful sponsorships remains a challenge for all disabled sports in the country.

The customary practice in most countries for professional athletes is for them to receive some modicum of assistance up to a certain age, after which





they rely on their own commercial decisions, including prize money and personal sponsorship, to sustain themselves. The reality is that prize money for these athletes is small when compared to the mainstream athletes, and the costs of hosting a wheelchair event are greater than that of an able-bodied event.

SASCOC (South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee) has intervened by providing operational expenditure (OPEX) grants to selected players. SASCOC has renewed these OPEX grants to players who are prospective participants in the 2028 Olympic Games. These support amounts, whilst not insignificant, are appropriate, especially considering that the Olympics does not offer prize money.

That all said, our professional wheelchair athletes are amongst the best in the world with Kgothatso Montjane and partner winning the 2024 Ladies Doubles event at Wimbledon and then Donald Ramphadi and Lucas Sithole being the bronze medallists at the 2024 Para-Olympics, Donald making the semi-finals of the 2025 Roland Garros wheelchair event and Kgothatso Montjane making the semi-finals of the 2025 Wimbledon event.

## Padel Tennis

Padel Tennis continues to thrive in South Africa. Tennis South Africa approved the Padel Tennis South Africa's associate membership in 2019. We are aware of a separate organisation with the name Padel Africa, which, for all intents and purposes, serves as a "professional arm" organising individual competitions around South Africa and Africa as part of a World Tour organisation.

We are also aware that there are several Padel organisations in South Africa seeking accreditation, constructing courts, and engaging with existing tennis clubs. Tennis South Africa's position is clear: our associate member is Padel Tennis South Africa. The Board of Tennis South Africa is favourably disposed towards Padel Tennis South Africa and is available to engage, enable, and assist in any way necessary. Any application for the award of National Colours to represent South Africa at an individual or team event must be submitted to Tennis South Africa, a recognition confirmed by SASCOC.

Tennis South Africa views Padel Tennis, along with other racquet sports, as a positive addition to the tennis industry. Many tennis clubs have been facing financial challenges, and the addition of Padel Courts or conversion of existing tennis courts into Padel Courts is enhancing the facilities' prospects for viability and sustainability. Research indicates that people who come to play Padel Tennis often end up playing tennis at the club while waiting for the availability of a Padel Court.

Tennis South Africa believes that this form of racquet sport will find its space in the sporting environment. With the ongoing construction of Padel Courts in South Africa, one is seeing court hire costs becoming more affordable and accessibility easier.

## Schools Tennis

Schools' tennis should be the prime development area of tennis in our country. Frustratingly though, many schools do not offer tennis as a sport and, more disappointingly many that do, do not have licensed coaches providing coaching to the pupils. It has always been evident that it always needs a passionate tennis player teacher at the school to ensure that tennis is played as a sport.

As I mentioned earlier, the other point of frustration for tennis at school is the ongoing disconnect between the Departments of Education and Sport –



the former claiming that sport at schools falls under their purvey and therefore there is no requirement to engage with the Federation.

That all said, tennis is vibrant at schools, both primary and secondary – the annual Inter-Schools Inter-provincial, despite the difficulties of trying to fit it into a very challenging school calendar – having the event before the school year begins in January is not ideal - is well supported by all the provinces.

The RCS Rising Star Tennis Schools Competition is one of our success stories and continues to grow every year. The number of junior schools continues to grow each year – this 2025 year we should have close to 1,000 schools participating. More pleasing is the entries from disadvantaged and rural areas. Going forward, we are looking forward to re-introducing this competition to high-schools – negotiations with RCS are progressing positively.

## University Tennis

Tennis South Africa continues to engage with the various Universities in South Africa, albeit at a distance with little involvement in their day-to-day tennis activities.

The Universities of Pretoria and North-West Potchefstroom have world class facilities and are actively promoting tennis. This is to be complimented. Tennis South Africa uses these facilities to host local and international events.

Tennis South Africa is aware that there is an initiative to build a tennis centre in the Stellenbosch University precinct. Whilst not in any way involved in this project any development of this nature, providing carefully planned, financed with due cognisance to the ongoing operating costs is to be encouraged.

We need to accept that we will never be able to replicate the American College system as we simply do not have the number of universities (or students) who are willing to participate at a close to professional standard. That said Universities that are situated in precincts where leagues are played, are actively encouraged to, and do participate in these competitions.

## Coaches

Tennis South Africa's coaching programmes and structure continue to retain the ITF's Gold Status Accreditation – making it the only country in Africa to have this and one of only nineteen countries in the world to hold this prestigious status.

The benefits for our coaches are numerous. These include gaining world-recognized coaching qualifications and being up to date with the latest coaching techniques and developments. The ongoing Professional Education Programs required for coaches to maintain their licenses are informative, relevant, and practical. As a result, the tennis public can rest assured of professionalism that encompasses integrity, excellent coaching, and up-to-date knowledge and techniques.

Tennis South Africa continues to regulate of coaches by not allowing any unlicensed coach (or any coach not in good standing) onto a tournament site. This has significantly increased the number of fully compliant coaches (currently close to eight hundred) being licensed and “in good standing.”

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the excellent leadership and work the National Coaches Committee and our in-house coaching





department do for this critical part of our tennis business. An indication of the esteem our coaching department is held in by the ITF is the fact that we hosted the Regional Coaches Conference for Africa in Cape Town the latter part of September 2024.

## Officiating

The challenges in the officiating environment were unfortunately not solved by the appointment of the National Officiating Committee. It was unfair of Tennis South Africa to expect this Committee made up of part-time people to manage this important part of the federation's business effectively administratively.

Starting 1 October 2024, Tennis South Africa resumed management of officiating administration, with a dedicated staff member now maintaining the officials' database at their office.

Vanessa Jooste has consistently reviewed records, established systems for registering officials and managing assignment availability, and helped organise Provincial and District Committees nationwide.

Significant strides have been taken to establish the required structures nationwide, with plans to hold an Annual General Meeting for officials by September 2025. During this meeting, members will vote to choose a new National Committee.

I take this opportunity of thanking the retiring chairperson, Mr Hendrik Madupe for his leadership of the National Committee over the past two year.

Finally, the following officials attained their white badge ITF qualifications in March 2025:

### **White Badge Referee:**

- Samira Woodman

### **White Badge Chair Umpires:**

- Khanyisile Mahlaela
- Muriel Mogale
- Kyle Minnies

My congratulations to them on this achievement.

## Finances

The Board and the financial committees continue to dedicate themselves to producing financial reports that are accurate, timely, and fairly presented. Each report undergoes thorough examination and review.

This 2025-year's financial statements reflect a surplus of R2,114,555 (2024: Deficit of R299,829), and we have improved our solvency calculation. We continue to adopt a very conservative accounting policy in the preparation of these Annual Financial Statements, which the Board considers both prudent and appropriate for our Federation.

The post-financial year-end position remains solid and sound despite the reduction in our Department of Sport, Arts and Culture grant. Like all sporting federations, we face the current situation we find ourselves operating within is unpredictable and dynamic. The Board continues to be careful with all expenditure and is cautiously managing our finances in conjunction with the General Manager.

Because of prudent planning and responsible management, we will have funds available at both the end of this financial year and, according to our forecasts, throughout the next 12 months - even though we expect a loss in the 2026 financial year.

That said, one must not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Sponsors anticipate that their funds will be used as agreed, and it remains essential for us to invest in human capital to support the long-term sustainability and success of our business.

One of Tennis South Africa key strategies is to find a revenue source that makes the Federation “self-sustainable” and not dependent on sponsorship and grants. The current world tennis eco-system shows that only those countries that have a “grand slam” tennis event are in the fortunate financial position of being “self-funding.” The World Tennis Global Report indicates that there are in the region one hundred and six million tennis players in the world – only six percent of these players register with their federation. Tennis needs to encourage all these players to become part of the formal structures – this would be a “game changer” for our sport financially.

A more detailed presentation of our finances is incorporated later in this report.

Finally, I would like to thank our independent chairman, Mr Henico Schalekamp, of our Audit Committee for his contribution and guidance. Tennis South Africa once again has received an unqualified audit report which is testament to our good governance, financial controls and management.

## Confederation of African Tennis (CAT)

Tennis South Africa is a member of the African mother tennis body. A distinctive feature of African tennis is that most matches take place in the northern and southern regions, with little activity occurring in the central areas. Facilities are likewise overall situated in the north (clay) and in the south (hard court).

Although Tennis South Africa has a good relationship with other African tennis countries, further cooperation is necessary to promote the growth of tennis throughout the continent. Tennis is slowly recovering in much of Africa, with South Africa poised to aid its resurgence.

Our hopes that 2023 elected Board of Directors of the Confederation would inject new energy into the continent's tennis activities at this stage remain “stillborn”. Sadly, the leadership believes that the ITF should be solely responsible for funding the development of the sport in the continent – a view not shared by Tennis South Africa.





We remain passionately committed to and active members of the world's governing body for tennis, of which we are founding members. This organization continually evaluates its position in the world of tennis, as the challenges of leading, guiding, assisting, and managing tennis worldwide are immense. Countries around the world continue to receive considerable support in both funding and personnel. We extend our appreciation to David Haggerty, the President, the Board, and Kelly Fairweather, the Chief Executive Officer, for their leadership of our governing body.

Riad Davids and I are both committed to strengthening the partnership between Tennis South Africa and the ITF. We believe that as South Africa strives to establish itself as a "world-class tennis nation," we must actively engage with and be part of the ITF's processes, engagements, and structures. David Haggerty, Kelly Fairweather, and their executive and operational staff have provided substantial support, not only to Riad and me in our offices but also to our office team. They have also supported the progress we are continually making at home. TSA has received more than R5,9 million in grants from the ITF this past fiscal year. This relationship is not "one-way" – Tennis South Africa in turn looks to assist the ITF in ways that it can and able, in the form of human operational capacity.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work and contribution that Kelly Fairweather has made to the ITF over the past number of years. Kelly retired as the ITF CEO at the end of August 2025. Tennis South Africa wishes him well in his retirement.

## South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC)

The current board, under the extremely able and committed leadership of Barry Hendricks, continues to make huge strides in re-establishing the credibility and confidence of all stakeholders in and for the organization. Rebuilding this credibility is an imperative.

I serve on the Finance Committee. SASCOC's finances are in a significantly better place than they have been over the last eleven years. Significant sponsorship has been raised and there is now significant support being given to identified prospective Olympic athletes. The important challenge is to support the athletes consistently over the years – this will grow the number of medals our athletes bring home.

Riad serves on two SASCOC Committees, the Policy Development and Stakeholder & Membership Committees.

Finally, I am happy to share that Tennis South Africa once again scored full marks in the 2025 SASCOC governance review of our organization – one of the few Federations that continues to achieve this standard.

### Prospects for 2025/2026

Tennis South Africa's prospects for the next year are positive, but not without some challenges.

Having addressed our operational leadership with the appointment of a General Manager, focus will be on providing an environment in the office which results in staff being motivated. This in turn will mean that our service to our various stakeholders will improve. We also aspire to broaden our offerings to our stakeholders by looking to add value to being a member of Tennis South Africa.

One of our main strategic objectives is to build a self-sustainable business. Our Innovations Committee is regularly considering opportunities and ways to benefit from the Tennis ecosystem. Opportunities in this area exist within merchandising, offerings via phone applications, and the like. These possibilities continued to be explored.

Earlier in my report I provided the statistic of the number of tennis players as a percentage of the whole who belong to their national federation – on average six (6) percent. I have a view that there is an “expectation gap” between what most stakeholders want – and I go through stages of not knowing what most stakeholders want – and what the Federation can deliver. Hopefully, we can refine these expectations into our four-year strategy and thus incentivise more tennis players to register with the federation.

I earlier reported that we had concluded sponsorship agreements with Renault South Africa and Joma Sport. In addition, we have engaged with SuperSport through our partnership with Discover Sport which resulted in our Davis Cup tie against Morocco being televised on that broadcaster's tennis channel. Our sponsorship relationship with American Express remains strong, as do our partnerships with all other sponsors. We continue to engage with several other sponsors in diverse fields of business. Negotiations always take time. That said, when the economy is tough, sponsorship is one of the easy “cuts”.



Inherent in any strategy is the need to develop top-level tennis players. Whether this means hosting more International Junior events and bringing entry-level professional tournaments to South Africa is a matter for debate. We continued to host Junior ITF Events during this past year (see table under tournaments), and these have all been hosted again post the financial year-end. We have also, in partnership with Curro Schools Hillcrest and the ITF hosted three weeks of WTT Events in June/July 2025. Sadly, as at the time of writing my report the two weeks of WTT Events that were played in December 2024 in Stellenbosch will not be played this year owing to budget constraints. However, as mentioned elsewhere in my report, the Non-Profit Company being supported by some leading businesspeople has been resuscitated and has as its objective the desire to bring fifteen weeks of WWT Tennis to South Africa on an annual basis.

I have mentioned that our BJK Cup team retained their position in the World Group II Division of the competition in June 2025 and that our Davis Cup team lost to Morocco which results in us playing a relegation tie in February 2026.

Transformation and development in our game are non-negotiable. The Tennis South Africa Transformation Charter is available on our website. Our Transformation and Development Committee continues to do sterling work with limited resources. Our thanks for the support received from the ITF and the Lacoste Foundation in this regard. The challenge remains, once again, to find sustainable funding models for our development projects. We managed to meet our EPG Report requirements once again, but it must be said that the commitment from Provinces remains weak. I would appeal to all our stakeholders to support the collection of the data that our office needs to compile these reports. The support we need from SRSA and SASCO depends on this.

To summarise, our prospects are sound, if not a little mixed. Our focus is on doing the basics right and providing a quality driven environment that will make the Tennis South Africa the leading sport federation in the country.

## Conclusion

In concluding my report this year, I would like to remind everyone that tennis:

- Is a sport you can play over your full lifetime.
- Research suggests tennis is the healthiest sport a person can play.
- Tennis players live on average nine point seven (9,7) years longer than non-tennis players.
- The world's two biggest sports events are the Aussie and US Open
- Tennis is one of the sports that both men and women can play.
- Tennis is a sport that allows men and women to play together as a team in mixed doubles.

I can continue adding – bottom line for me is that tennis is a fantastic sport. I repeat what Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying:

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sports can create hope, where there was once only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all discrimination. Sports is the game of lovers.”

Tennis is uniquely positioned to exemplify Nelson's quote. It is our responsibility as the national federation to make sure we use tennis to make a better South Africa.

As I reflect on this last year and as to whether TSA has successfully measured up to our Vision, Mission, and Values Statement, I would like to believe we have, taking all our challenges into consideration. Certainly, we continue to see a growing participation in our game. We are also continuing to improve the lives of many people through our various enabling and empowering initiatives. Finally, we are adhering to our Values Statement of "Transparency, Personal Accountability, and Sportsmanship."

An overwhelming part of our success is attributable to teamwork. I can state without reservation that the office team deserves most, if not all, of the recognition in this regard. Thank you and well done from all of us.

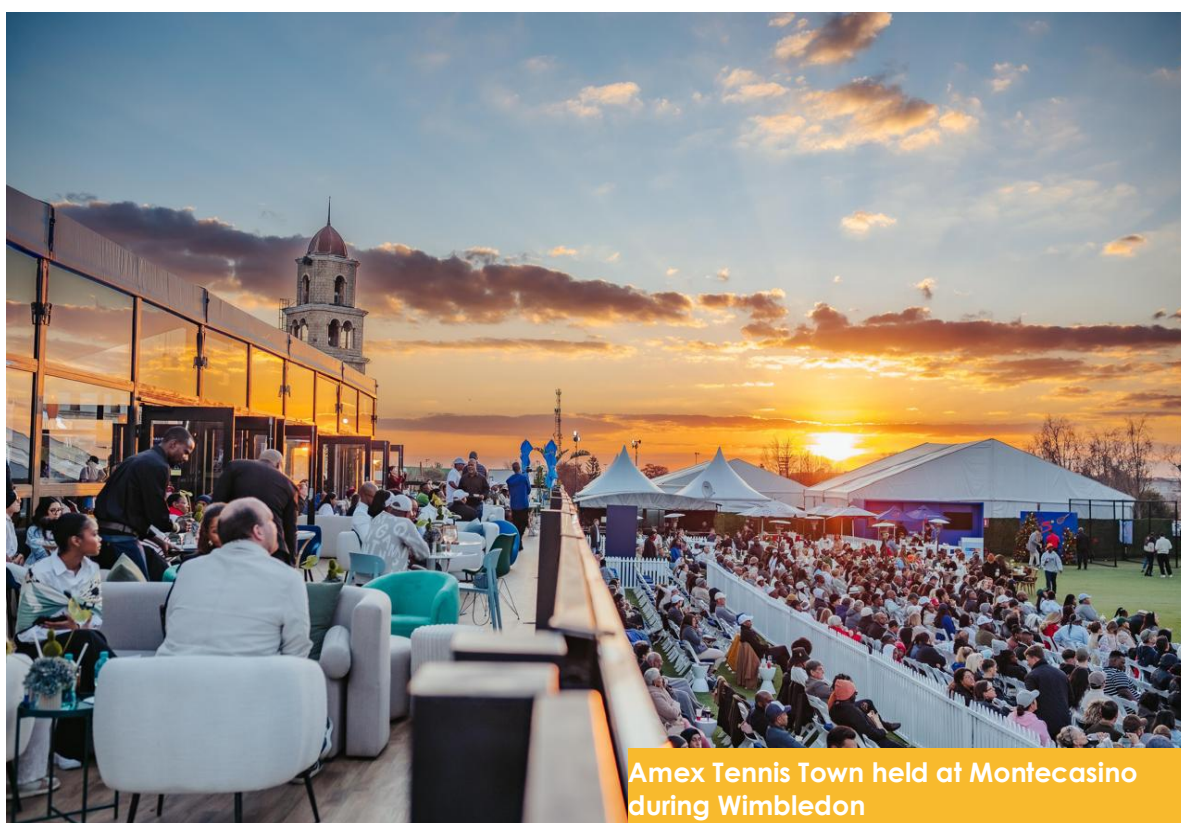
To the Board of Tennis South Africa, I thank each one of you for your passionate service and leadership – each one of you is an unremunerated volunteer who gives of your time selflessly.

To the many volunteers who give of the time freely and selflessly, thank you for what you do for the game of tennis. Without you, tennis would become extinct.

Thank you.

### **Gavin Crookes**

**President of Tennis South Africa**







SA Billie Jean King Cup Team in Kenya

# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

## Of the 2024/2025 Financial Year



## Introduction



Summary for the year ended 31 March 2025 (all figures in rands):

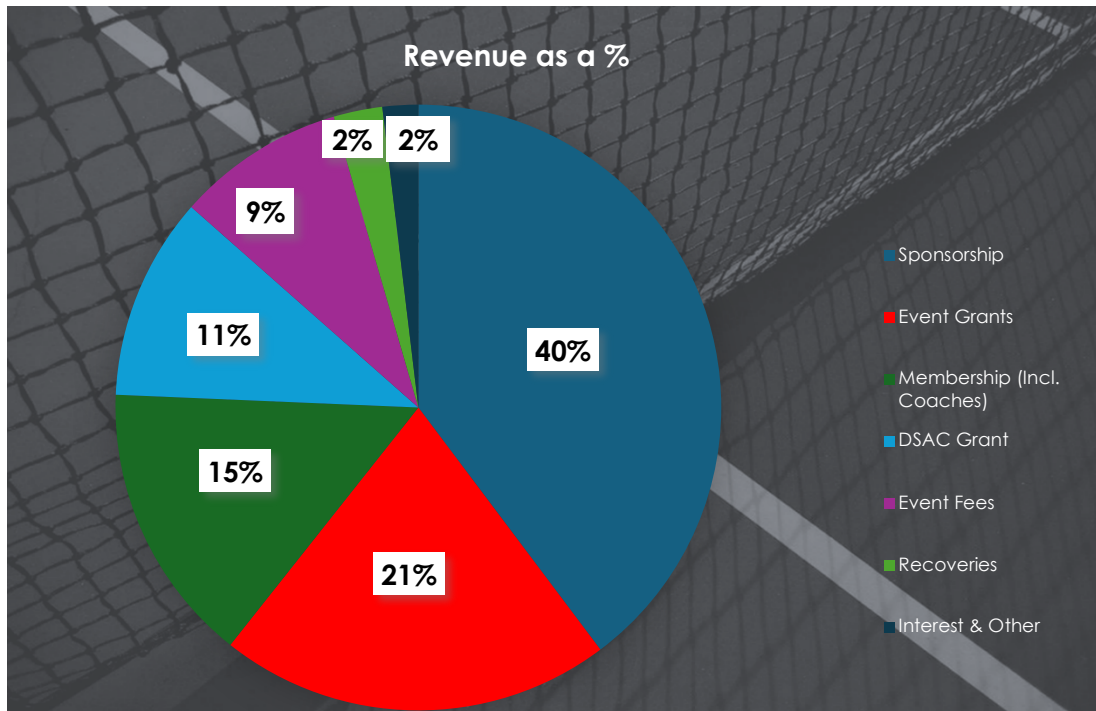
	2025	2024
<b>Revenue</b>	28,267,137	22,960,827
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	(26,488,114)	(23,279,529)
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss)</b>	1,779,023	(318,702)
<b>Investment Revenue</b>	335,532	18,875
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) For The Year</b>	2,114,555	(299,827)

Please note that 2024/25 Audited Financial Statements are due to be reviewed and approved by the TSA Council of Members at the forthcoming AGM. The full financial statements will be added to the TSA website once they are approved at the AGM.

Tennis South Africa recorded a notable financial turnaround in the 2024/25 fiscal year, reflecting both increased revenue and strategic investment in the sport. The federation's conservative accounting approach, recognizing income and expenditure on a cash basis, continues to influence year-on-year comparisons, particularly where timing mismatches occur between income received and expenses incurred.

Despite these timing variances, the federation closed the year with a healthy surplus, underscoring its commitment to sustainable growth and operational efficiency.

## ANALYSIS OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

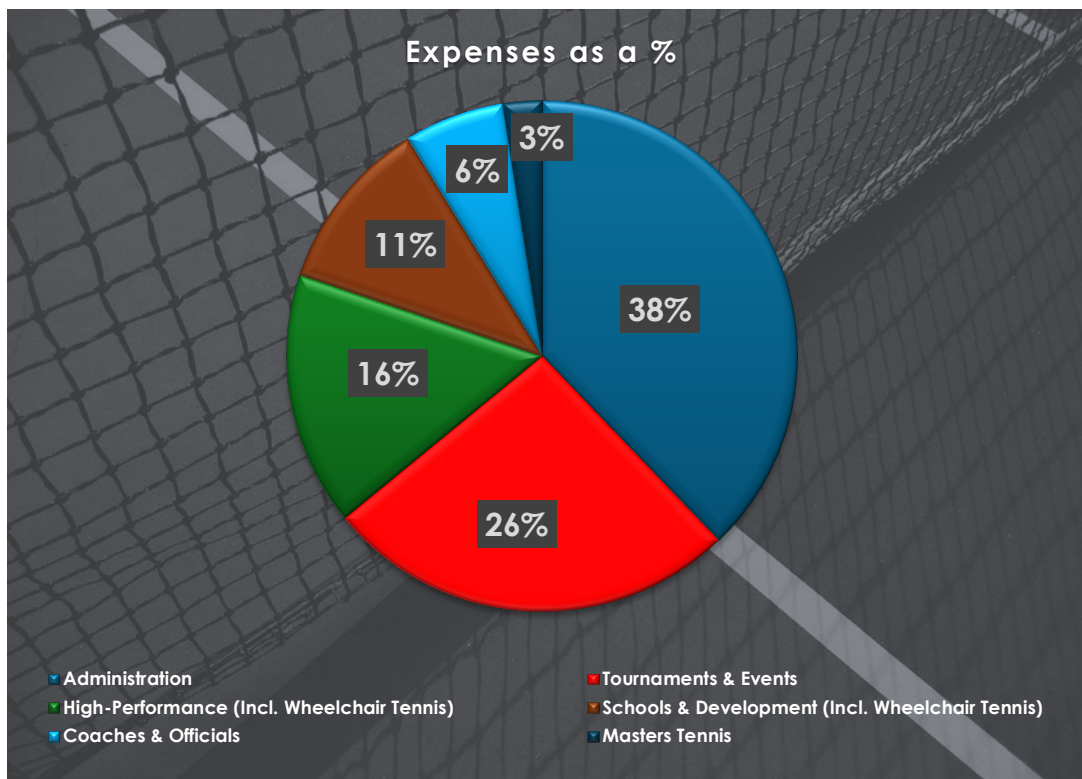


### Revenue analysis:

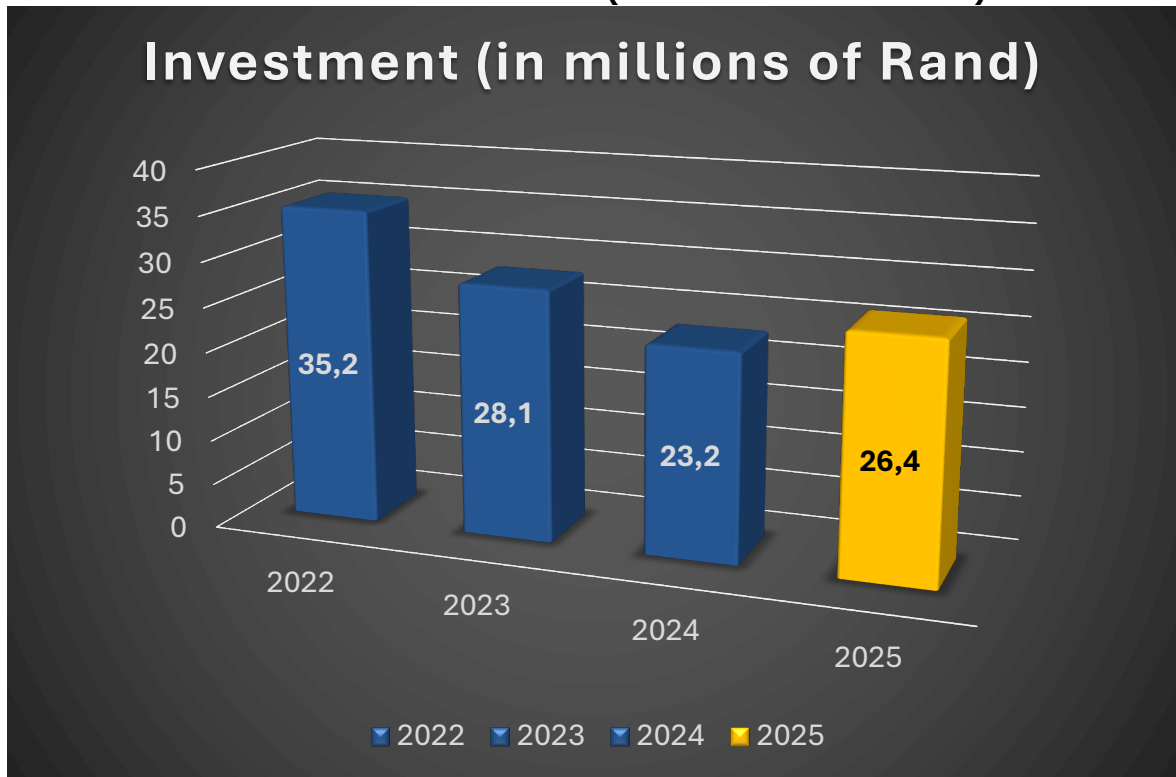
Sponsorship remains the single largest revenue source for TSA, followed by event grants (funding secured from the likes of the ITF & CAT) and membership fees.

### Expense analysis (see graphic on the next page):

Administration expenses covers: ITF and CAT affiliation fees, staff salaries, audit fees, board and committee expenses, social media and marketing, IT costs, insurance, legal fees, rent and utilities.



## INVESTMENT IN TENNIS (ANNUAL COMPARISON)







## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The composition of our board & sub-committees

## Overview

During the past year, the TSA Board convened on three occasions. As a unitary body, the Board comprises both elected and co-opted members, ensuring a balanced representation of leadership and stakeholder interests. In addition to the President and Vice-President, four elected members served on the Board. Three co-opted members were appointed to represent Special Interest Groups, namely Masters, Coaches, and Schools Tennis.

Governance remains a cornerstone of all TSA operations. Guided by the principles of King IV, the Board upholds rigorous standards of accountability, transparency, and ethical leadership. To support this, a range of Board sub-committees operate under clearly defined Terms of Reference. These committees meet regularly, primarily through virtual platforms this past year and convene telephonically when urgent matters arise.

Once approved by the Board, all committee Terms of Reference are made available to stakeholders via the TSA website. Most sub-committees have functioned effectively, contributing meaningfully to TSA's strategic objectives and operational success.

It is noteworthy that several Board members voluntarily forgo remuneration and reimbursement for travel and related expenses incurred while attending Board and Committee meetings or fulfilling other Federation duties. This reflects a commendable spirit of service and commitment to the sport.

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is entrusted with steering the strategic direction and sustainable growth of Tennis South Africa, while safeguarding the interests of its stakeholders. The current Board comprises the following members:

Name	Designation
<b>Gavin Crookes</b>	President & elected board member
<b>Riad Davids</b>	Vice-President & elected board member
<b>Geoff Whyte</b>	Elected board member
<b>Karel Jacobs</b>	Elected board member
<b>Allan Karam</b>	Elected board member
<b>Zaida Beukes</b>	Elected board member
<b>Jacob Klaasen</b>	Resigned 28 September 2024
<b>Angella Makowe</b>	Resigned 28 September 2024
<b>Liza-Mari Olivier</b>	Coaches Representative
<b>David Jaquire</b>	Schools Tennis Representative
<b>Debra Hyde</b>	Masters Tennis Representative

## Sub-Committees

The TSA sub-committees (and chairperson for each) are as follows:

1. **MANCO:** Gavin Crookes.
2. **Audit:** Henico Schalekamp.
3. **Risk, Social & Ethics:** Angella Makowe.
4. **Remuneration:** Gavin Crookes.
5. **Innovation:** Geoff Whyte.
6. **Juniors:** Riad Davids.
7. **Masters:** Debra Hyde.
8. **Coaches:** Liza-Mari Olivier.
9. **Schools:** David Jaquire.
10. **Technical and Officiating:** Jacob Klaasen.
11. **Disciplinary:** Karel Jacobs.
12. **Tournaments:** Allan Karam & Liza-Mari Olivier.
13. **International:** Riad Davids.
14. **Gender Equity / Women's Tennis:** Zaida Beukes.

## Commissions

Tournaments Commission:

- Allan Karam & Liza-Mari Olivier (Chairperson/s)
- Mr. Pietie Norval (Davis Cup Captain)
- Ms Roxanne Clarke (Billie Jean King Cup Captain)
- Mr. Teddy Nkosinathi Ndlazi (Mpumalanga)
- Ms. Handri Westman (Eastern Cape)
- Mr. Trevor Tshepiso Magonyane (Limpopo)
- Ms. Annette du Plooy (Gauteng)
- Mr. David Crouch (KwaZulu-Natal)

International Commission:

- Riad Davids (Chairperson)
- Mr. Allan Karam (TSA Board Member)
- Ms. Allison Hernandez-Maldonado (Limpopo)
- Mr. Pietie Norval (Davis Cup Captain)
- Mr. Neville Godwin (Gauteng)
- Ms. Roxanne Clarke (Billie Jean King Cup Captain)



## Gender Equity / Women's Tennis Commission:

- Zaida Beukes (Chairperson)
- Ms. Roxanne Clarke (Billie Jean King Cup Captain)
- Ms. Andile Mokhotlo (KwaZulu-Natal)
- Ms. Nenguda Rendani Jennifer (Limpopo)
- Ms. Gugu Ntuli (Western Cape)

## About Tennis South Africa

Tennis South Africa (TSA) is the official national governing body for tennis in South Africa. TSA is affiliated with:

- The International Tennis Federation (ITF) – the global governing body for tennis
- The Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) – overseeing tennis across the continent
- The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) – responsible for high-performance sport in South Africa

## Physical Address

269 Von Willich Avenue  
Corporate Park 66, Block D  
Centurion, Gauteng,  
South Africa

## Contact

Tel: +27 (0) 11 442-0500

Email: [info@tennissa.co.za](mailto:info@tennissa.co.za)

Website: [www.tennissa.co.za](http://www.tennissa.co.za)



## KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Reports from all key TSA Departments





Player from Hammanskraal during Lacoste Learn & Play Programme activation



## Participation

### Development Programmes

The Tennis South Africa's Development division is built on two cornerstone initiatives, the Olympic Solidarity (OS) Project and the Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI), supplemented by a Lacoste Programme. These interventions combine targeted talent identification, high-performance coaching, competitive exposure and resource grants to fast-track juniors up the national ranking ladder. Over 2024 and early 2025, our integrated approach has generated measurable gains in player performance, coach accreditation and tournament success.

#### Olympic Solidarity (OS) Project

##### Selection Process and Squad Refinement

In January 2024, trials across Gauteng produced an initial squad of 24 players. Following a comprehensive performance review by Olympic Solidarity coordinator Tapiwa Muzenda in April, the group was pared to the top 16 based on ranking trajectories and tournament commitment. A subsequent review ahead of the 2025 season further refined the cohort to the top eight performers, ensuring only those demonstrating consistent merit remain in the programme.

**Coach Development Workshop** - In May 2024, all OS coaches convened at the University of Pretoria for a full-day workshop. The agenda synchronized training-week schedules, assessed hub progress reports, recalibrated performance benchmarks for the top 16 players, outlined coach reporting expectations and finalized tournament entry plans for the season ahead.

**Tournament Performance and Milestones** - At the March 2024 Junior Nationals, 14 OS athletes qualified and achieved six top-10 finishes in singles and doubles. In October, eight players reached the top eight at the Gauteng Junior Masters, and one qualifier represented TSA at the national Junior Masters finals. Our under-12 regional representative helped South Africa capture gold in both Mozambique and Botswana. During the TSA Schools Week, eight OS players featured prominently, culminating in a team gold for the under-15 girls. Two players were selected for TSA Primary Schools, with one named to the national squad and another as travelling reserve (attendance restricted by funding).

In early 2025, all eight remaining OS players qualified for Junior Nationals and Super 8 events. The under-14 girls' champion secured both singles and doubles titles, while an under-12 boys' doubles pair finished runner-up. Four athletes reached Super 8 top-eight placements, and another under-12 representative helped SA reclaim gold in Mozambique. Four additional players are slated for CAT circuit and ITF J30/J60 event entries, underscoring the project's deepening international footprint.



## Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI)

### Programme Objectives

Since its launch, JTI has aimed to expand grassroots access by establishing five new hubs, strengthening school-level competition through RCS Rising Star Tennis partnerships and supporting coaches to complete Play-n-Stay certification. The strategic focus areas for expansion include Mpumalanga (Kanyamazane, Mbombela), Free State (Kgutsong, Bothaville), Venda (Vhembe District) and North West (Mahikeng).

**Hub Network and School-Level Engagement** - Currently operating in Vosloorus, Hammanskraal, Seshego, Lebowakgomo and Mankweng, JTI collaborates with local schools and RCS Rising Star leagues to ensure players compete regularly against provincial peers. This sustained exposure has accelerated skill acquisition and identified talent for further development under the OS Project pipeline.

**Coach Certification** - To maintain quality standards across all hubs, JTI provides funding and logistical support for coaches pursuing Play-n-Stay level certification. This ensures consistent, age-appropriate training methodologies for beginner and intermediate players, laying a solid technical foundation.

## Lacoste Learn & Play Programme

### 2024 Hammanskraal Centre

Partnering with Lacoste Foundation in 2024, the Hammanskraal hub received equipment grants, training apparel and increased tournament access. The hub captured titles in the Tshwane Men's and Ladies' League as well as in Gauteng junior and senior school leagues. Both boys' and girls' teams advanced to district finals in the RCS Rising Star competition, reaching provincial finals with podium finishes.

Buoyed by the programme's success, the 2025 Lacoste Programme expanded to Tshwane, selecting 50 players, five boys and five girls per age group from under 10 to under 18, via open trials. All Lacoste athletes were equipped with rackets, apparel and training kits at a dedicated launch event.

Beyond apparel, every Lacoste participant gained personal rackets and basic training gear, removing a key barrier to skill development. In RCS Rising Star competition, two boys' teams finished first and second, while the girls' squads placed second and third, affirming the positive impact of structured resource support.



Beneficiaries of the Lacoste Learn & Play Programme pictured at the programme activation in Hammanskraal.

Over the past two seasons, TSA's Development programmes have delivered landmark achievements: an under-12 OS athlete won national gold and triumphed at two regional championships; both boys' and girls' teams reached RCS Rising Star finals for the first time; a second under-12 player earned SA team selection in 2025; SASCOC funding increased the OS roster to 12 players; Development athletes captured multiple Super 8 and Grand Prix titles; two players advanced to the Junior Masters; two TSA Primary School representatives played for SA; and Lacoste beneficiaries received their first personal rackets and professional training equipment. These collective milestones demonstrate the effectiveness of our integrated development structure, positioning South Africa's next generation of tennis talent for sustained national and international success.

### **American Express National Club Championships**

TSA is excited to announce the return and relaunch of the country's premier club grassroots tournament, now titled the 2025 American Express National Club Championships. Formerly known as the Top Guns Club Championships, this revitalised event is made possible through the generous sponsorship of American Express and marks a significant step in TSA's ongoing commitment to strengthening club-level tennis across South Africa.



The tournament features a dynamic doubles team format, with each team comprising two men and two women. Matches includes men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles, offering a competitive and inclusive structure that reflects the spirit of club tennis. With a prize pool exceeding R200,000, the Championships are expected to draw widespread interest and participation from clubs nationwide.

District events will be held in bigger tennis regions such as Gauteng, Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal, followed by provincial playoffs across all nine provinces between January and July 2025. Each province will crown champions in both the A Division and B Division, with the A Division winners earning a coveted spot in the national finals. These finals are scheduled to take place at the iconic Sun City Resorts in the North West Province from 29 August to 1 September 2025.

The relaunch of this tournament is more than a return to competition, it is a celebration of community, and the enduring passion for tennis at the club level. TSA is confident that the 2025 American Express National Club Championships will reignite enthusiasm across the tennis landscape and looks forward to Council's continued support in making this event a resounding success.



The banner features a dark background with glowing tennis balls and stadium lights. At the top left is the TSA logo. In the center, the text reads 'NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPS' above 'TENNIS SOUTH AFRICA' and 'CLUB TENNIS'. To the right, it says 'Sponsored by AMEX'. The main title is 'AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS' in large white letters. Below it, 'A Nationwide Club Tennis Championships 2024/25'. A blue box contains 'District & Provincial Events : January – July 2025' and 'National Finals : 29 August – 1 September 2025, Sun City, North West'. At the bottom, a blue bar says 'OVER R200,000 IN PRIZE MONEY UP FOR GRABS!' and 'TO ENTER, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.TENNISSA.CO.ZA > GO TO PLAY > SELECT AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS'.

**AMERICAN EXPRESS**  
**NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
A Nationwide Club Tennis Championships  
2024/25

District & Provincial Events :  
January – July 2025

National Finals :  
29 August – 1 September 2025, Sun City, North West

**OVER R200,000 IN PRIZE MONEY UP FOR GRABS!**

TO ENTER, PLEASE VISIT: [WWW.TENNISSA.CO.ZA](http://WWW.TENNISSA.CO.ZA) > GO TO PLAY > SELECT AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS





Philip Henning celebrates victory in South Africa's Davis Cup World Group II tie against Nigeria, Pretoria, February 2025.

### Overview:

The 2024–2025 period marked a dynamic and successful year for TSA's High Performance (HP) programme, driven by a strategic focus on junior development, international exposure, and competitive excellence. South African teams proudly represented the nation in various international tournaments, including the Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, and various ITF/CAT African Junior Team Championships. Domestically, TSA hosted ten (10) ITF Futures events and multiple junior circuits across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Bloemfontein, offering vital match experience to emerging talent.

Junior squads delivered impressive podium finishes across all age groups, with standout performances such as the U/16 girls securing silver at the AJTC Final and the U/12 teams clinching gold in Mozambique. Several players made significant strides in global rankings - Connor Doig reached ITF #67 and qualified for the Australian Open Juniors, while Jahnie van Zyl and Isabella Kruger earned ITF GSPDP grants for 2025.

Among the year's key achievements, South Africa triumphed over Nigeria in the Davis Cup, earning promotion to the World Group II, and the national women's team (BJK Cup) won Africa Group III in Kenya, advancing to Group II. Junior players also gained valuable exposure through qualifying draws at the French Open and Australian Open, and TSA expanded its coaching structure with the appointment of new junior national team coaches for the 2025–2026 cycle. Together, these milestones reflect a year of growth, resilience, and rising promise for South African tennis on the global stage.

### Summary of TSA High Performance key projects for this period:

Date	Event
May 2024	ITF/CAT AJTC U/14 Final team competition – Tunisia
June 2024	BJK Cup Africa Group III – Kenya (10–16 June)
June–July 2024	Hosting six ITF Men and Women Futures events – Durban
July 2024	ITF/CAT AJTC U/16 Final team competition – Egypt
July–August 2024	Hosting of ITF J200 & J300 – 30+ juniors exposed
August 2024	ITF/CAT U/12 Zonal team competition – Mozambique
August 2024	ITF/CAT GSPDP U/16 and U/17 teams to Junior ITFs – Zimbabwe & SA
August–September 2024	Junior ITF Circuit – Gauteng and KZN
September 2024	Davis Cup: SA vs. Lebanon – Group II tie in Egypt



October 2024	ITF/CAT U/12 African Final team competition – Botswana
December 2024	Hosting 4 ITF Men and Women World Tennis Tour events - Stellenbosch
9–18 January 2025	ITF/CAT U/14 & U/16 Zonal team championships – Namibia
27 Jan – 1 Feb 2025	ITF AJC U/18 African Junior Championship – Egypt
1–2 February 2025	Davis Cup World Group II play-offs: SA vs Nigeria – South Africa
April 2025	BJK Cup Europe/Africa Group II – Cyprus
April 2025	Amex Junior Nationals – Bloemfontein
April 2025	AJC U/16 Championships – Egypt
3–11 May 2025	AJTC U/14 Final Africa Team event – Egypt
July 2025	AJTC U/16 Final Africa Team event – Egypt
2025–2026	Junior National team coaches appointed for new cycle

## Key Highlights and Milestones

South Africa's U/16 boys qualified for the Junior Davis Cup in Turkey (November 2024), while the women's team won the BJK Cup Africa Group III in Kenya, earning promotion to Group II. The Davis Cup team defeated Vietnam in February 2024 and later overcame Nigeria in February 2025 to advance to the World Group I playoffs. Several juniors were selected for GSPDP teams, including Jahn timer van Zyl, John Bothma, Morgan Jordaan, Donna Le Roux, and Reuben de Klerk. SA's U/14 and U/16 teams qualified for AJTC finals, with the U/16 girls earning silver in Egypt and the U/14 boys and girls placing third and fourth respectively in Tunisia. The U/12 teams won gold in Mozambique and later secured silver (boys) and gold (girls) at the African finals in Botswana.

Notable individual achievements included Connor Doig qualifying for the Australian Open Juniors and reaching ITF #67, while Jahn timer van Zyl and Isabella Kruger received ITF GSPDP grants. At the African Junior Championships in Egypt, Doig and van Zyl were singles finalists, and Bothma/de Klerk won doubles gold. SA earned the team silver trophy. All four teams at the Zonal Championships in Namibia won gold, with SA topping the rankings among 10 nations. SA also competed in the BJK Cup Europe/Africa Group II play-offs in Cyprus, finishing 9th. The World Tennis Tour in Stellenbosch saw Henning win the men's title and van Zyl reach the women's final. Touring opportunities expanded with GSPDP teams traveling to Europe and Mozambique, and top juniors Connor Doig and Jahn timer van Zyl entered the French Open qualifying draw.

Connor Doig



Jahnie van Zyl



## Key HP categories of players identified and priorities for each for 2025/2026:

Juniors	College Players	HP Women's Tennis	Pro's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing SA ITFs</li> <li>• Amex squad grants</li> <li>• ITF GSPDP Teams</li> <li>• Player Periodization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITF Futures in SA</li> <li>• Website exposure</li> <li>• Mentoring juniors</li> <li>• Camps in SA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJK Cup squads</li> <li>• WIPHOLD squads</li> <li>• Role models</li> <li>• Mental health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTT events in SA</li> <li>• Mentoring juniors</li> <li>• Touring groups</li> <li>• Competition preparations</li> </ul>

## Learnings and recommendations for the next 12 months:

1. Establish Junior High-Performance squads going forward.
  - Junior Elite squad: age group 13,14,15 years, 6 to 8 players to be selected.
  - Junior Super squad: age group 16,17,18 years - 6 to 8 players to be selected.
  - Goal: building and achieving ranking goals in their quest to play professional.
2. Top U/18 players reaching top 100 ITF ranking to play junior Grand Slams.
3. Possible tours to Southern African Futures and ITFs for our top juniors.
4. Securing number and type of high-level tournaments for our HP juniors.
5. Federation support to top juniors and their coaching teams - financial grants.
6. To have at least three top juniors playing Junior Grand Slams in 2025.
7. Exposing top junior players to BJK and Davis Cup teams, gaining experience.



Simphiwe Ngwenya



### **Challenges encountered during this period:**

1. Balancing School and tennis: Many players struggle to balance academic responsibilities with rigorous training schedules causing stress and burnout.
2. Pressure and expectations: Players often face pressure from parents, coaches, and themselves to perform well.
3. Costing: High-performance tennis can be expensive, with costs for coaching, equipment, travel, and tournament fees. To offer incentives to players.
4. Dealing with parental and player conflicts: professional mediator for neutral and safe environment for both families to work towards a harmonious resolution.
5. Dealing with parents who challenge TSA selectors' decisions. Despite objections about team selections, the players proved that correct decisions were made.
6. Team selections – Selection Criteria Framework:  
Misconception amongst parents that players are only selected on TSA ranking. TSA rankings is a guideline - National Selectors work on PPM and SCF framework.

### **Areas of concern for this period:**

1. More SA U/14 players exposed to CAT events in the Southern African region. This could assist with seedings for Zonal and AJTC team events.
2. Periodisation and tournament planning by private coaches leading to player burnout and injuries, hindering constant all round improvement.
3. With Masters being such an important tournament and with the transitioning of age groups, TSA needs to bring in our top 1<sup>st</sup> years into the year above. This is a key tournament to get those crucial Head 2 Heads playing each other.
4. Physical literacy and conditioning to take priority within private academies.
5. Assist more players to build their junior ITF ranking by assisting with wild cards.
6. Educate and assist to top u/14 players to focus on ITF's and building rankings.
7. Exposing our top u/16's and u/18's to more WTT Futures events in SA.

### **High Performance Juniors – Priorities and focus areas going forward:**

1. Prioritizing ITF junior events in SA and in the region: pathway for HP juniors.
2. To have a national coach travelling with top juniors to ITFs in the region.
3. Focus on ITF/CAT AJTC team events going forward.
4. ITFs: Gauteng & KZN, May - September: Improve top junior's ITF rankings goals.
5. Possible junior squad tours for boys and girls to ITFs in the region.
6. Re-introducing the Amex squad system for our top developing players.

### **Recommendations for improvement and growth - Key areas to improve:**

1. Structured training programs/camps pre AJTC's on required surface.
2. To focus on doubles in our tournaments – crucially important at team events.
3. Private academies to develop mental toughness: develop mental resilience through techniques such as visualization and goal setting.
4. Physical fitness is key: Regular fitness training programmes / testing key to success.

5. Supportive Environment: Creating a positive, supportive environment from and between TSA, their parents and coaches to help players thrive.
6. Match analytics and tournament pathway: Coaches and their players to push for more match exposure competing in high level tournaments.
7. Balanced lifestyle and player well-being: Ensure players have a balanced lifestyle with adequate rest, nutrition, off-court activities to prevent burnout.









## Coaching

National Instructure Course



This report covers TSA Coaching Department overview of the activities, progress, and challenges within the period between April 2024 and March 2025. There was a strong collaboration with the ITF, continued growth in coach education, and important steps toward strengthening transformation, safeguarding, and compliance structures across South Africa.

Tennis South Africa prides itself on holding ITF GOLD Status, a recognition of excellence that reflects both our commitment and our achievements to professionalise tennis coaching and opportunities to coaches to receive worldclass education. We will continue to work hard to maintain this standard as well as requirements to further strengthen our coach education system to the benefit of all coaches and players.

Our department highlights the resilience and dedication of the coaching community, who, despite challenges, have ensured continuous professional development and participation opportunities remain accessible nationwide. TSA would like to extend sincere thanks to the National Coaches Committee Chairperson, Ms. Liza-Mari Olivier, and all committee members for their invaluable input and hard work throughout 2024, which greatly contributed to the department's success and progress.

TSA strengthened its international and national coaching initiatives. One highlight of this period was the hosting of the ITF Regional Coaches Conference in Cape Town (Kelvin Grove) - the first Regional Conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference featured international and local speakers and focused on coach education, though attendance from Western Cape coaches was lower than expected. One female coach, Ms Ilze Hattingh, was awarded an ITF scholarship to attend ITF Coaching High Performance Players course in Spain and completed the training successfully. While the ITF Academy continued to grow, with South Africa maintaining a place in the global Top 10 for registered users.

### ITF Regional Coaches Conference in Cape Town



On the domestic front, TSA and the National Coaches Committee (NCC) worked to expand transformation and development opportunities, with 90 coaches targeted for support. Progress was made in establishing Provincial and District Coaching Committees, although challenges remained in obtaining police clearance certificates due to associated costs. TSA offered voucher support to address this barrier. Unfortunately, not all the sponsorship opportunities were utilised.

Registrations for 2024 reached over 600, with the late registration penalty proving effective. All academies that had been flagged met compliance requirements following safeguarding training. The coaching calendar was active with courses across several provinces, while the safeguarding policy came under review after some coaches were refused entry at sanctioned events. TSA also introduced the Play Tennis Instructor (Specialisation Course), designed to expand coach capacity at the grassroots level. Looking forward, the focus was placed on updating TSA's Coaches and Safeguarding Policies, hosted CPD workshop opportunities to all 9 Provinces, and strengthening provincial safeguarding structures.

TSA also piloted a new ITF/TSA Physical Conditioning Course, funded with ITF support and resources, to enhance coaches' skills in player fitness and programme planning.

At provincial level, the NCC met in October 2024 to finalise CPD workshop structures and approve plans for the 2025 registration cycle. Feedback was also gathered on the draft TSA Coaches Policy. At the end of the year registrations rose to 677, with 547 coaches fully compliant and was listed on the TSA website. SportyHQ introduced improvements, including a dedicated coaches' database.

Education and development continued to expand. TSA launched a Play Tennis Instructor Course, allowing coaches to operate independently, and hosted several courses with government support. Nine further coaching events were planned for the year-end period. Safeguarding enforcement was strengthened - unlicensed coaches were turned away from events, and tournament directors were instructed to uphold compliance. Meanwhile, Rainbow Kidz activities were consolidated, with TSA preparing new under-10 competition rules for 2025. Key priorities going into 2025 included finalising updated policies, enhancing calendar planning, and appointing provincial safeguarding officers.



The 2025 year began with the NCC AGM in January, which set the agenda for 2025. Discussions covered governance, CPD, strategy, and tutor development. TSA expressed appreciation for the commitment of provincial committees despite ongoing challenges. ITF Development Officer Tapiwa Masunga visited South Africa in April and confirmed TSA's compliance with international standards, reinforcing TSA's GOLD status. The ITF Academy subscription was renewed, and grant applications secured funding for two female representatives to attend the 2025 World Coaches Conference in Lithuania, with Ghizela Enslin invited to present.

In 2025 registrations opened smoothly, as there will be a transition to registrations due 31 January in 2026. Registration benefits included ITF Academy access, Mahala rewards, TSA.mobi services, and multiple CPD opportunities. CPD participation also reached record attendance numbers, highlighted by the National Coaches Conference in March 2025, which attracted over 600 registrants and 550 virtual participants. Several Play Tennis and Instructor courses were hosted across the country, alongside regional CPD workshops.



Transformation and development remained central, with initiatives to strengthen women's participation under the ITF Advantage All strategy. TSA announced a series of webinars and the establishment of regional women's committees to promote empowerment and networking. Positive steps were noted in reviving structures in the Eastern Cape, while Limpopo and parts of Gauteng/Western Tennis remained areas of concern. Larger academies, however, showed strong compliance and support for TSA structures.

Looking ahead, TSA planned further courses, national workshops for coaches and tutors, and the launch of a Women in Tennis webinar series in May 2025.

Across the reporting periods, TSA Coaching structures has demonstrated growth and innovation despite various challenges. The department



successfully strengthened its international ties through ITF collaborations, expanded education and development opportunities for coaches nationwide, and improved compliance with safeguarding and registration standards. While issues such as uneven provincial



leadership, police clearance barriers, and low participation in some regions remain, the overall trend reflects progress in building stronger coaching structures, empowering women, and fostering continuous professional development. The foundations laid during this period position TSA to further consolidate its coaching structures and ensure sustainable growth for the sport.

### **Rainbow Kidz & Rainbow Kidz Matchplay Mania**

The Rainbow Kidz initiative continued to provide opportunities for young players in the 10-and-under category through competitions using RED, ORANGE, and GREEN transition balls. The Matchplay Mania events attracted almost 3,000 entries in this financial year. While this does not reflect a significant increase from previous years, participation has remained stable, showing the programme's consistent reach. Going forward, a key priority will be to find ways to better align school league tennis with long-term player development guidelines, particularly to strengthen pathways for RED and ORANGE stage player.







Player in action at the Rising Star Tennis National School Championships.



## Schools

### Rising Star Tennis

The RCS Rising Star Tennis programme returned for its fifth season in 2024, promising even more growth and opportunities for Primary and Special Schools across South Africa.

Last year's fourth season saw a 12% increase in participation in both the Primary school and Wheelchair tennis categories combined. This year's campaign has continued to grow, providing even more opportunities for youth players across the nation. Year five of the grassroots series, which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the RCS Group, consisted of three important phases.

Phase one saw Tennis South Africa (TSA) partnering with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and its Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) to support players in rural and township communities. This initiative provided coaching, training, and tennis development for children, teachers, and schools.

Following activations in selected parts of South Africa during the initial phase, the Rising Star Tennis series moved on to the second phase, which featured district and provincial competitions in all nine provinces.

The third and final phase saw the top-performing schools from each of the nine provinces compete in an all-expenses-paid national final at the Gauteng East Tennis Complex in Benoni from 25-27 October 2025. Following the conclusion of the 2024 campaign, TSA successfully renewed the RCS Sponsorship for a 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The programme was launched in Kanyamazane, Mpumalanga in early 2025.



## 2024 RCS Rising Star Tennis Programme Summary

Category	Details
Final Entries	
Primary School Teams	718 teams (280 teams or 39% from underprivileged schools)
Wheelchair Tennis Teams	79 teams (100% from underprivileged schools)
Schools from Disadvantaged Areas	359 schools (45% of total entries)
<b>District Overview</b>	
Total Districts	39 districts across 9 provinces
New Districts in 2024	Ugu (KwaZulu-Natal); Sekhukhune, Vhembe, Waterberg (Limpopo)
<b>Highlights &amp; Achievements</b>	
Rural Districts Hosting First Events	4 new rural districts
Mpumalanga Participation Growth	92% increase (62 teams in 2023 → 119 teams in 2024)
Limpopo Participation Growth	18% increase (56 teams in 2023 → 71 teams in 2024)
Eastern Cape Participation Growth	21% increase (48 teams in 2023 → 59 teams in 2024)
Kanyamazane Team	Won Ehlanzeni district; runners-up in Mpumalanga provincial play-offs
Hammanskraal Boys Team	Won Tshwane district; won Gauteng provincial play-offs
Advantage Team	Won Nelson Mandela Bay district; runners-up in Eastern Cape provincial play-offs
Letlotlo Girls & Eureka Boys	Won Capricorn district; won Limpopo provincial play-offs
Okiep Primary (Boys & Girls)	Won Namakwa district play-offs (Northern Cape)
Connie Minchin Boys & Sol Plaatjie Girls	Won Dr Ngaka Modiri Molema district event (Northwest)



### Limpopo District Event – Marble Hall



### Vhembe District Event



This year has been particularly encouraging as eight quintile 1-3 schools won their district rounds. Notably, three of these schools also won their provincial play-offs in Gauteng and Limpopo. These schools have outperformed some of the top institutions in their districts and provinces, with three qualifying for the national finals on merit. This achievement underscores the transformative impact of the programme, providing opportunities to children who might otherwise be overlooked. Most notable historically disadvantaged schools / teams winning district and provincial titles include:



Ehlanzeni District winners – Kanyamazane Team



Tshwane District winners - Hammanskraal



Nelson Mandela Bay winners – Advantage Tennis Academy



The 2024 National Championship Finals was played on the weekend of the 25-27 October 2024 at Gauteng East Tennis Complex in Benoni. The championships comprised of the 18 provincial boys and girls team qualifiers from all 9 provinces, 6 wildcards from historically disadvantaged areas, and 8 Special school teams.

For the first time since the inception of the programme, an official players' dinner was hosted on Friday, 24th October 2024, at the Garden Court OR Tambo. Some of the top-performing schools since the inauguration of the RCS Rising Star Tennis programme were recognised and awarded recognition awards.



On the final day of the 2024 RCS Rising Star Tennis National Championships, held at the Gauteng East Tennis Complex in Benoni, four schools claimed top honours in their respective categories, bringing the series to a thrilling and celebratory close.

In the Primary School Girls' Division, Oranje Meisieskool continued their dominance by securing first place for the fourth consecutive year. Hammanskraal earned a commendable second place, while Laerskool Courtraai rounded out the podium in third. The Boys' Division saw a new champion emerge, with Umhlali Preparatory School capturing their first-ever title. Hammanskraal once again featured strongly, finishing second, and Clarendon Park claimed third place.

The Wheelchair Tennis Category showcased inspiring performances. In the Girls' Division, Meerhof School celebrated their inaugural championship win, followed by Ithembelihle School in second place. The Boys' Division was led by Open Air School, also earning their first title, with Adelaide Tambo School taking second and Helen Franz School securing third.

These results reflect the growing depth and diversity of talent across South African school tennis, highlighting both competitive excellence and inclusive participation.

Winners and runners-up at the 2025 RCS Rising Star Tennis national finals



## Schools Week and Leagues

### Tournament Overview

The 2024 tournament calendar for SA Schools Tennis was shaped by the constraints of a compressed academic year, prompting significant adjustments to traditional scheduling. High Schools Week was held in January 2024 - an unusual shift necessitated by the revised school calendar. Trials for this event had to be conducted in 2023, which introduced communication challenges, particularly in reaching Grade 7 learners transitioning to high

school. Despite these logistical hurdles, all provinces ensured representation, with the exception of Eden Province, which withdrew at short notice for the second consecutive year. Engagement with Eden's structure remains ongoing to secure future participation.

Inclement weather further complicated the High Schools Week, with rain disrupting play and requiring flexible rescheduling by the organizing committee. Nonetheless, the event culminated in the selection of the SA Schools Team, which later participated in a tie aligned with an ITF event. A dedicated training camp preceded this engagement, reinforcing the competitive standard of the national school-level squad.

Primary Schools Week was rescheduled to the long weekend in August 2024, marking the first time it was held separately from the high school event. The venue was shifted from Bloemfontein to Pretoria to improve flight access and affordability for participating teams. The tournament was compressed into a three-day format, delivering high-intensity competition. Free State emerged victorious in the final against Gauteng North, while KwaZulu-Natal secured the bronze medal. The SA Schools Team was selected following the event, with the names published on the official homepage.

### Domestic Participation and Development

The league season, running from April to June, remains the cornerstone of domestic tennis participation. Gauteng Central led with approximately 1,500 players, followed by Gauteng North with around 950. KwaZulu-Natal, Northwest, and Free State collectively contributed roughly 450 players. To extend the competitive season, festivals have gained traction, although many currently cater only to top-tier teams. There is a growing recognition of the need for inclusive festivals that accommodate smaller schools and B-teams, ensuring broader access to competitive play.

A notable developmental concern has emerged with the rising popularity of Padel, which is attracting young coaches and players away from traditional tennis. In response, SA Schools Tennis has emphasized the importance of value-driven experiences to retain engagement. These include overseas tours, festival invitations, and robust local league and inter-provincial match structures.

### International Engagement

The 2024 UK Tour stood out as a major highlight, featuring 14 selected players - seven boys and seven girls - who represented South Africa with distinction. The tour was supported by parents and family members, several of whom attended Wimbledon, adding a layer of cultural enrichment to the experience. SA players performed commendably on both clay and indoor courts at Bisham Abbey and Sutton, showcasing their adaptability and skill. The combination of sightseeing and competitive play reinforced tennis as a valuable and aspirational school sport.

### Governance and Structure

A significant milestone was achieved with the formal recognition of the Schools Committee as a Special Interest Group on the TSA Board. This development enabled the



awarding of National Federation Colours, now widely regarded as the highest achievement in school sport. These accolades have opened pathways to scholarships and university placements for deserving players.

However, structural challenges persist. Historically, provincial schools' committees have operated with limited guidance. Most committee members are educators registered with SACE, which provides legal cover, but the lack of formal governance has posed risks. The TSA Board has requested a Terms of Reference (ToR) to define committee roles and responsibilities. Two drafts have been circulated, though feedback indicates a misalignment between ideal governance models and the practical realities of school-level administration.

Educator workload and liability concerns have discouraged many from organizing tours, underscoring the need for clear protocols around international travel. The Schools Committee has formally requested guidance from TSA on both the Terms of Reference and international touring protocols to ensure safety, compliance, and sustainability.

### Key Outcomes from Teams Meeting

Planning for the 2026 Interprovincial Tournament (IPT) was confirmed, with arrival scheduled for 7 January, tournament play from 8–11 January, and departure on the afternoon of the 11th. Bids were received from Free State to host Primary Schools Week and Gauteng North for the U/15 and U/19 categories.

Committee appointments will be limited to chairpersons for the High School and Primary School committees, with nominations due by 17 June 2025. A budget has been submitted to TSA, and discussions are underway to implement a subsidy system to support travelling teams.

Provinces have been encouraged to train adult officials, as the legal implications of employing minors in officiating roles are under review. SA Schools matches for U/17 and U/19 have been relocated from KwaZulu-Natal to Gauteng (Groenkloof), while U/13 matches are set to be hosted in the Western Cape, with Stellenbosch under consideration.

The Rising Star Tennis programme has called for earlier communication of dates to improve participation. It was clarified that home-schoolers are not eligible, and only Quintile 1–3 schools may combine teams. A debate on provincial voting rights raised the question of whether only provinces in good standing should vote. While general consensus supports inclusive contribution, a final decision is pending TSA Board feedback.

The committee also resolved to explore improved collaboration with Summer Games stakeholders, noting ongoing organizational challenges in athletics events.

## Recommendations and Way Forward

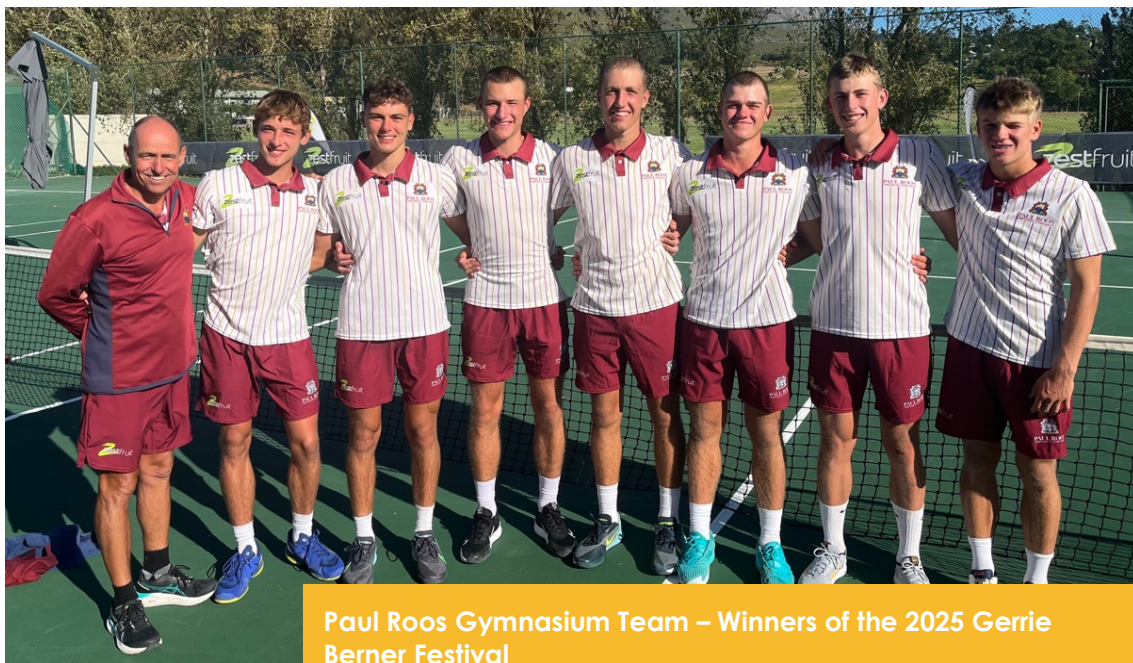
To ensure clarity and operational efficiency, it is imperative to finalize the Terms of Reference and Touring Protocols. Expanding inclusive participation, particularly among underrepresented schools and provinces, remains a strategic priority. Building alliances with both private and public schools will be essential to counter the talent drain toward Padel and other emerging sports.

The international tour offering must be maintained and expanded to preserve tennis' competitive edge within the school sports landscape. Additionally, sustainable coaching pipelines should be developed through officiating training and educator support.

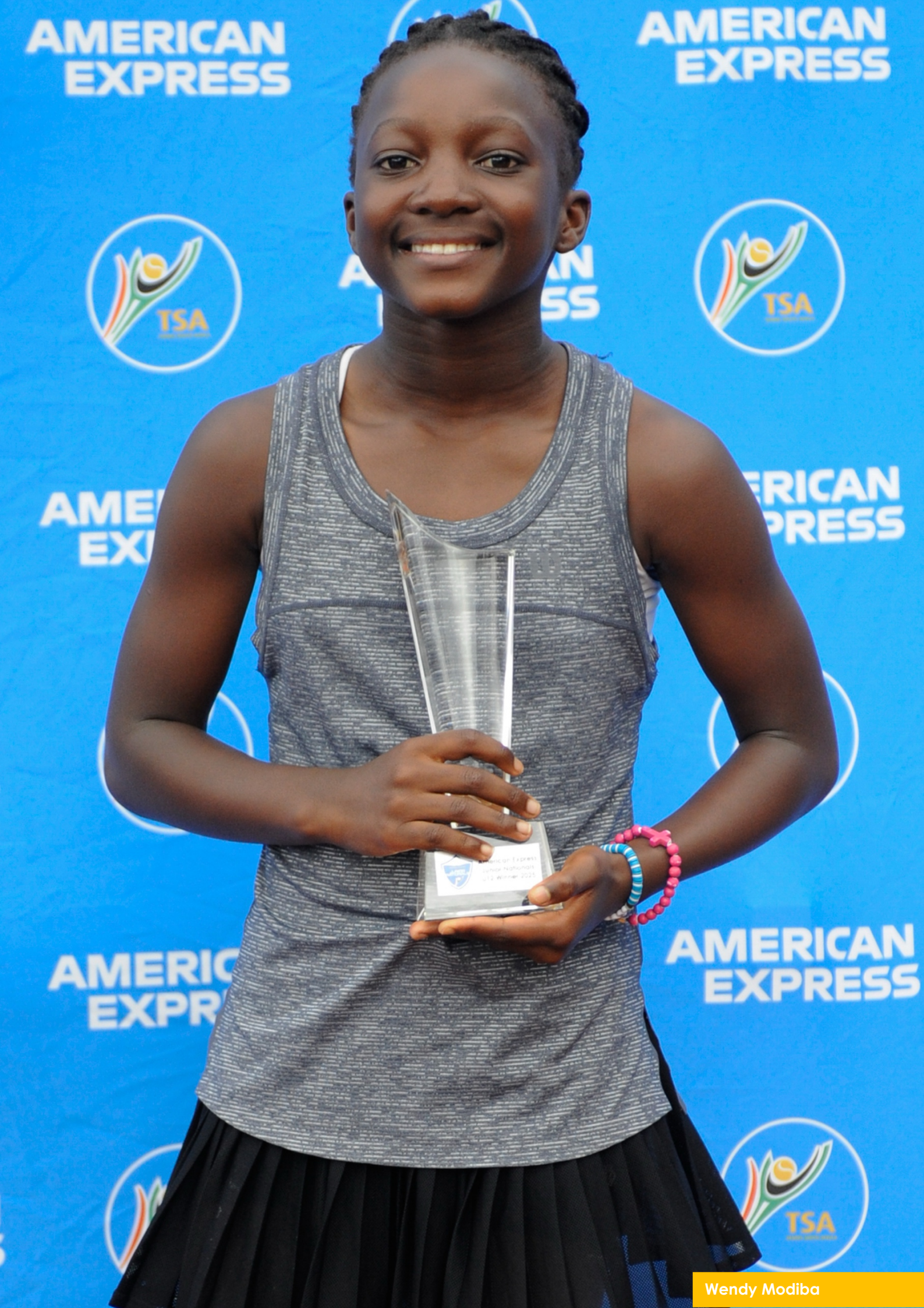
## Conclusion

The past year has been defined by adaptive resilience, marked by structural evolution and a renewed commitment to inclusivity and opportunity. With SA Schools Tennis now more deeply integrated into the national sporting framework, the foundation is stronger than ever. Nonetheless, governance refinement, affordability, and competitive relevance remain critical areas for continued focus.

The Schools Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all provinces, coaches, educators, parents, and players whose dedication continues to drive the growth and success of tennis in South African schools.







Wendy Modiba



## Junior Tennis

During May and June 2024, TSA in partnership with Gauteng North Juniors hosted three Junior ITF J60 events. The tournaments attracted a total of 264 players across three weeks, with South African players performing exceptionally well and keeping the titles at home.

Following the international junior circuit, players travelled to KwaZulu-Natal to compete in the Amex KZN Super 8 Series. This event drew 213 participants from across the country and was staged across four venues in the province. It was followed by the Amex Ekurhuleni Super 8 Series, which saw 320 competitors and was played at five different venues within the district. The final event in this sequence was the Amex Jozi Super 8 Series, attracting 293 players and staged across four venues.



In August, TSA in collaboration with the ITF hosted a four-week junior international circuit that featured two J100s, one J200, and one J300 event. The entries showed an increase compared to the 2023 circuit. In the J200 held in Hillcrest, Connor Doig claimed the Boys U18 title, while the J300 event was unfortunately rained out and no champions were declared.

Immediately after the ITF circuit, the Tshwane Amex Super 8 Series was held, attracting approximately 328 players, with the finals played at Groenkloof Tennis Stadium.

October saw the staging of the TSA Junior Masters at the Tuks Tennis Courts. This event was particularly significant as it was the first time that all matches were umpired from the round-robin stage through to the finals. The tournament also featured live scoring throughout, and both the semi-finals and finals were live streamed on the SuperSport Schools Channel. Champions were crowned in various categories, with standout performances below are the results from the tournament.

GS 12 [1] Lily Haley (WP) def. [2] Gabriella Coetzee 4-6 6-0 6-1

BS 12 [1] Tristan Summers (GN) def. [3] Alec Koch (WP) 6-0 6-0

BS 14 Ethan Pieber (Winelands) def. [1] Jamie Roux WP 1-6 6-1 6-2

GS 14 Magan van Vuuren (WP) def. Jesse de Villiers (GN) 6-2-6-4



BS 16 [1] Bogdan Mandic (FS) def. [3] Pavlos Christoforakis 6-4 2-6 6 – 2  
 GS 16 Allegra van der Walt (NW) def. Morgan JORDAAN 5-4 ret (injured)  
 GS 18 [2] Donna Le roux (FS) def. [3] Luise Janse van Rensburg (FS) 6-2 6-0  
 BS 18 [1] Reuben DE KLERK (NW) def. Willem DE WAAL (WC) 6-3 1-6 7-6 (4)

Winners & runners-up at the 2024 Junior Masters



In November, TSA once again partnered with the ITF to host two Junior ITF events at the Van der Stel Tennis Club in Stellenbosch. The first week drew 80 participants, with Willem de Waal winning the Boys' Singles and Abigayel Vosloo taking the Girls' Singles title. The second week saw 86 players compete, with Willem de Waal continuing his impressive form by winning his second consecutive title, while the Girls' Singles was won by Hanmare McAslin.

Korona Rugara



The Amex Super 8 Series also saw significant participation in 2024. The Winelands Super 8 Series attracted 405 entries and was spread across six venues. Despite two days of rain interruptions, which forced the cancellation of some back-draw matches, the tournament successfully completed the singles and doubles main draws. Some matches were played under lights, and all singles semi-finals and finals were umpired. The Cape Town Super 8 Series followed, drawing 307 entries and utilizing seven venues with a total of 47 courts. Here too, the singles semi-finals were officiated by umpires.

The Eastern Cape Super 8 returned after a two-year break, attracting 195 participants. The tournament was hosted across four venues with 24 courts and was condensed into four days to allow players to participate in the Inter-Pro events in Bloemfontein and Pretoria. A key recommendation from this event was for provinces to explore school facilities as potential additional venues.

Several learnings emerged from the 2024 circuit. A lack of officials continues to impact the smooth running of tournaments, particularly in the later rounds, and some clubs provide limited access to courts, creating scheduling challenges. The Eastern Cape also faces a shortage of umpire chairs. To address these challenges, it is recommended that provinces host officiating courses and investigate the availability of school courts to expand capacity for tournaments.

Despite these challenges, the year also delivered several positives. The use of a WhatsApp group during the Eastern Cape Super 8 significantly improved communication between players, parents, and coaches.

TSA also received two certificates from the ITF Junior Department in recognition of the Bloemfontein J100 and Pretoria J60 events, which were highlighted for their excellent organization and management. Across tournaments, communication improved through better use of tournament websites, while semi-finals and finals were consistently officiated.

Finally, on 25 November 2024, TSA and the ITF officially launched the World Tennis Number for local players, marking an important milestone in aligning South African tennis with international standards.





Seniors playing in Cape Town

### Masters Nationals

Masters Nationals was hosted in the Strand from 1 to 5 March 2025. A player's function was hosted on the Monday night at which the annual winners of the Super 6 trophy were awarded. The Super 6 trophy is awarded to the Man and the Lady who win the most titles at the 6 Super 6 tournaments. This year the Ladies trophy was finally wrestled away from Christine van Coller after a 3-year winning streak. It was instead jointly awarded to Yolande Faver and Rene Plant, with 5 titles each. The men's trophy was awarded to Adam Myburgh with 6 titles.

### Super 6 Series

The Super 6 Series is the 6 biggest tournaments in terms of entries through the year. In order to lose your Super 6 status another tournament needs to outperform a current Super 6 for 2 consecutive years.

- Eden Super 6 – the numbers for the Eden tournament were 10% down from 2023, It was once again a well-run tournament.
- Cape Town Super 6 – the 2025 year started with a bang with the Cape Town Super 6. Cape Town weather came to the party with beautiful summer days allowing the tournament to be completed.
- Winelands Super 6 – The Winelands Super 6 was hosted by the Winelands committee over the long weekend in September. The entries for the 2024 edition were 1% up on the last year. It may have been helped by the fact that the North-West tournament was cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and some inland players travelled down to play.
- Growthpoint Super 6 – Gauteng North: The Gauteng North Super 6 was hosted by the GN committee over the long weekend in June. The weather played its part with slightly warmer winter days and beautiful blue skies. Entries for 2024 were down compared to those for 2023, the decrease was almost 20%. This is disappointing as many of the local players did not participate this year. Where the public holiday fell during the tournament could partly have been the reason for this.
- Gauteng East Super 6 – The entries for GE were down this year. The tournament was slightly affected by rain over the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend but due to efficient tournament staff and Referee Johann the draws were completed. Always a highlight of the tournament are the daily emails received from Tournament Director Karin Steenkamp.
- Jozi Super 6 – The use of venues Rivonia and the German club again once again created additional interest in the tournament.



## Other Category B Tournaments

- Ugu Masters: The South Coast tournament was once again successfully hosted. The numbers were slightly down with 3 players less than the prior year. We are hopeful that this can be rectified in 2025.
- North-West Masters: Once again, this tournament was cancelled. As a result, the venue will be moved for 2025. Free State will be taking over the timing of this tournament in 2025.
- Mpumalanga Masters – This was hosted by the MPM committee at the beginning of July. The players that play this tournament every year speak of the wonderful hospitality of the locals and the laid-back feel of the tournament. This tournament also saw an increase of 24% in the numbers for 2024. This is a positive outcome for the tournament.
- KZN Masters – The numbers for the KZN tournament were unfortunately slightly down in 2024. The fact that the 30-40+ age groups were in Portugal for the World Champs could have been a factor in this.
- Eastern Cape Masters: Once again, this tournament was rain affected. The format of the tournament was adjusted to ensure that the matches could be completed. On the bright side was the fact that the number of entries had increased when compared to 2023 with some first-time players being introduced to Masters tournaments.
- Cape Town Masters – this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the tournament was run as a 4-day tournament and not over 2 weekends. This again proved to be the correct decision for the tournament as the numbers were flat on the prior year.

## Interprovincial 60+ Winelands – October 2024

The format for the IPT was once again slightly amended to try to encourage participation from districts and provinces. This year the teams will be selected based on 10-year gap. In addition, the tournament will start on a Wednesday morning with the Captains meeting and photos, followed by the first tie in the afternoon. The final tie will be played on the Sunday morning allowing the players the opportunity to then travel home in the afternoon. Numbers were up from the prior year when the IPT was held in Mpumalanga this is an encouraging sign.

The overall trophy went to Western Province.

## IPT – 30-55+ Pretoria

The format for the IPT was once again slightly amended to try to encourage participation from districts and provinces. This year the teams will be selected based on 10-year gaps for the 30-55+ age groups. In addition, the tournament will start on a Wednesday morning with the captains meeting and photos, followed by the first tie in the afternoon. The final tie will be played on the Sunday morning allowing the players the opportunity to then travel home in the afternoon.



Despite these changes the entries were still mainly from Gauteng teams. The NMC committee have noted the continued decrease in the participation in IPT's. This will be a topic of discussion for the National Workshop on the way forward.

Gauteng was awarded the Herman Putter Trophy as the overall winner of the IPT.

## **World Champs 2024/2025**

### **World Champs 50-60+ Mexico – April 2024**

A group of brave South Africans travelled to Mexico City to take part in the world champs.

The M55 finished 12 out of 18 teams, M60 finished 6 out of 16 teams. W60 finished 11 out of 16 teams, W55 finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams and W50 finished 17 out of 19 teams.

**Team SA at the World Champs in Mexico**



- World Champs 30-40+ Portugal – August 2024**

In August we had 6 ladies and 12 men travelling to Portugal to represent SA in the 30-40+ World Champs. The ladies participated in the 30+ and 35+ age groups. The 30+ ladies finished 9 out of 10 and the 35+ ladies finished 13 out of 16. The men participated in all 3 age groups. The 30+ men finished 15 out of 15 teams. The 35+ men finished 13 out of 22 teams. The 40+ men finished 16 out of 21 teams.





- **World Champs 45+ Toyko Japan – November 2024**

8 South African players travelled to Japan to play in the first ever World Champs hosted there. It was an exciting prospect for the players. The men finished 23 out of 23 teams and the ladies finished 23 out of 24 teams.



- **World Champs 30-45+ Turkiye – March 2025**

24, 9 ladies and 15 men, excited 30-45+ players departed from OR Tambo bound for Turkiye to take part in the World Champs. Club Ali Bey was once again the host. This venue is perfect for hosting World Champs, 56 clay courts on the resort grounds, there is no need for the players to leave until after the tournament is over.

- W30 finished 8 out of 10
- W40 finished 12 out of 14
- W45 finished 9 out of 18
- M30 finished 12 out of 12
- M35 finished 16 out of 18
- M40 finished 16 out of 19
- M45 finished 21 out of 21

Two of the Gauteng ladies, Danielle Moffat and Yolande Faver won a silver medal in the W45 DOUBLES at the Individual Championships in Turkiye. This is an amazing result from the unseeded pair who beat the #2 seeds in the semi finals

Team SA at the Masters World Champs in Turkiye



## MASTERS ANNUAL WORKSHOP 2024

The Annual Masters Workshop took place on sunny Saturday at Bryanston Sports Club. Provincial and district chairpersons from around the country gathered to discuss issues relating to Masters tennis for the 2025 year. It was a fruitful morning with robust conversation and discussions where important decisions for 2025 were taken. Debra Hyde was re-elected as the Chairperson of the NMC.





KG Montjane at Wimbledon



## Wheelchair Tennis

### Overview

This year marked a significant chapter for South African wheelchair tennis, with notable international representation, historic achievements, and developmental strides across junior and senior levels.

South Africa fielded four teams at the prestigious World Team Cup, held in Antalya, Turkey from 7–12 May 2024. The men's and women's teams qualified through the regional event in Abuja, Nigeria, and were joined by the quads and juniors. It was a milestone moment as our juniors competed at the World Team Cup for the first time, delivering commendable performances. Unfortunately, the quad team finished in last place - largely due to equipment issues, as Donald Ramphadi's new wheelchair was not optimally configured. The women's team placed fourth, unable to contest for third due to an injury sustained by Kgothatso Montjane.

On the Grand Slam circuit, South Africa maintained strong visibility. Kgothatso Montjane and Donald Ramphadi participated in all four Grand Slam events. A historic highlight came when Montjane, alongside Japanese partner Yui Kamiji, won the Wimbledon wheelchair women's doubles title, becoming the first Black South African woman to win at Wimbledon. All Grand Slam participants received recognition grants from TSA starting in 2025.



Kgothatso Montjane (left) & Yui Kamiji pose with their trophies after winning Wimbledon doubles title.

In June, TSA hosted the ITF Junior Tournament at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Centre in Soweto (10–15 June), attracting international entries including a female player from



Australia. This provided local juniors with a valuable opportunity to earn ITF ranking points on home soil. As many juniors aged out of the category, the need to host Futures tournaments has become critical to ensure continued competitive pathways.

## Development & Participation

The Rising Star Tennis programme saw a decline in girls' team entries, primarily due to a lack of coaching support in schools and inactivity in four provinces. Nevertheless, five provinces - Gauteng, North West, Limpopo, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal - participated in the provincial finals, fielding five boys' teams and three girls' teams.

After four years of consistent participation at the World Team Cup, South African players qualified for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris (30 September – 7 August). The team included five athletes: quads Lucas Sithole (wild card) and Donald Ramphadi, women's players Mariska Venter and Kgothatso Montjane, and men's player Alwande Skhosana. Coaches Patrick Selepe and Jeneveive Barnes accompanied the squad. Despite Montjane's withdrawal due to illness, the quads team made history - Ramphadi and Sithole won bronze in the doubles, becoming the first African players to medal at the Paralympics in wheelchair tennis.

Lucas Sithole (left) & Donald Ramphadi (right) celebrates after winning the Paralympics wheelchair bronze medal



## International Camps & Tournaments

The Johan Cruyff Africa Junior Camp, held in September, broke records with five countries participating for the first time in over a decade. The camp was followed by the Ithembelihle ITF Junior Tournament (20–22 and 23–25 September), where South African players dominated both boys' and girls' events, earning valuable ranking points.

In November, two top-ranked juniors - Bongumenzi Biyela and Khopolo Motebang - were invited to the inaugural Cruyff World Junior Camp in the

Netherlands, representing Africa. Accompanied by coach Moleboheng Molatudi, the players received positive feedback from ITF officials. A heartwarming gesture came from a British player who donated an RGK wheelchair to Biyela.

**Schools Championships**

The Schools Championships, part of the Summer Games hosted by Gauteng, were held at Groenkloof and Tuks tennis courts. All six active provinces participated, with Gauteng winning gold, Limpopo silver, and North West bronze in a tightly contested event.

**Rankings & Performance**

While some high-performance players faced challenges in improving their rankings, there were notable gains among the women and in the men’s division. The quad category saw a decline, particularly for Lucas Sithole, who did not compete post-Paralympics.

**Senior Rankings**

Player Name	2024 Rank	Current Rank
<b>Kgothatso Montjane</b>	07	05
<b>Mariska Venter</b>	30	20
<b>Donald Ramphadi</b>	06	09
<b>Alwande Skhosana</b>	26	23

*Junior Rankings*

The performance of our top juniors underscores the importance of hosting more tournaments. Rankings below reflect results from two June and one September event. With six junior tournaments annually, qualifying for Junior Grand Slams becomes a realistic goal.

Player Name	2024 Rank	Current Rank
<b>Machaka Pheeha (Boys)</b>	49	26
<b>Orenetse Podile (Boys)</b>	62	33
<b>Inam Madiloyi (Girls)</b>	18	12
<b>Lesedi Malepe (Girls)</b>	27	13

**Key Highlights**

- Five South African players qualified for the Paralympics, with the quad team winning bronze - a historic first for Africa.
- The Johan Cruyff Africa Junior Camp welcomed five countries for the first time in over a decade.
- Two juniors represented Africa at the Cruyff World Junior Camp in the Netherlands, accompanied by a TSA development coach.





### Introduction

In early years, sports was played by men only, and the women sat on the side line and watched. Things have changed over the years and more women now participate in sport. Despite the progress made in women's sport, there are still challenges.

Gender equality is important in sport in that it provides a platform for social interaction, teamwork and the development of important life skills, such as communication, leadership and discipline.

### We need to develop a strategy to get more women on board in terms of:

- Participation
- Leadership roles
- Coaching
- Mentors/Role models

The above are the focus areas, the other areas are:

- Portrayal
- Media coverage of female sports
- The difference in prize monies between males and females
- Having more female commentators at sporting events

### How do we get more women on board in terms of the 4 focus areas?

Participation	Leadership Roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have fun events that would attract women of all ages to the game (Mother/daughter events).</li> <li>• Have different levels and starting times of league – Saturday &amp; Wednesday leagues that would allow for more females to attend.</li> <li>• Offer free coaching sessions – introduction to the game sessions.</li> <li>• Have sessions that include yoga/aerobics – make it attractive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a drive to get more females to serve on Executive committees.</li> <li>• Have a workshop for both males and females where the topic of why females do not want to serve on Exco's can be debated. This is where the stereotype could be broken and women would feel more confident/comfortable to serve.</li> <li>• Have capacity building, leadership and empowerment workshops.</li> </ul>

Coaching	Mentors/Role Models
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women should be encouraged to reach their highest level of coaching.</li> <li>• Women coaches must be given more opportunities to accompany teams participating in tournaments/inter-pros.</li> <li>• We should increase the visibility of elite female coaches as they should be seen as role models for more women to follow their lead.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our top female coaches should give motivational talks to juniors in order to encourage and motivate them.</li> <li>• A female network should be established in order to arrange networks/talks/seminars.</li> <li>• We should have mentorship programmes.</li> <li>• We must engage with other sporting federations in order to share ideas, challenges and successes.</li> </ul>

### **Establishment of Woman's Forums:**

Woman's Forums were set up in respective provinces via zoom meetings. Women who serve on Exco's, league players, inter-pro players, coaches and social players were participants of the 40 minute zoom meetings. A what's app group was started in each province, which is the platform for females to engage/ share ideas/ network/ communicate. Females readily engage with each other on these platforms. Females are encouraged to engage with other females who are not part of the forums to inform them of the forums.

### **The challenges encountered by women in the respective provinces:**

Through the respective engagements, the following challenges were encountered by females who play tennis or serve on committees.

- Female players quitting after high school.
- Cultural barriers.
- Historical exclusion from leadership roles.
- Sport is seen as an environment for men.
- Some female participants noted that they are not respected by their male counterparts.
- Absence of female role models.
- Family responsibilities serves as a hindrance for taking up leadership roles.
- Lack of self-confidence.
- People who have serve on committees for years feel that they are irreplaceable.
- Young female players (25yrs and older) are not seen as being competent enough to serve.

### **The way forward:**

- Each province will establish their own committee.
- The intention is to have an official launch of each forum in the respective province.
- Workshops will be held.
- Each province to host Women events and share on the groups.



- A data-base will be collated and used as a measure to increase representativity.
- Timelines will be set to achieve targets.
- Each province must form a Women/ Girls commission.
- Gender equity policies, programmes and initiatives must be implemented to ensure equal opportunities.
- Leadership development programmes must be initiated.
- Ensure continuous mentorship programmes, professional development and assistance.

### Event held:

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a Woman's event was held at Plumstead Tennis Club in Cape Town. The guest speakers were Leanne Samaai and Louise Chiat who covered the topics "Standing Tall" and "The highest needs of humans, according to the Enneagram." Many ladies gave positive feedback and left the session feeling empowered and eager to engage in more workshops.

Thirty eight ladies attended the session. A sanitary towel drive was part of the initiative with the idea of handing out the sanitary towels to the development hubs in Cape Town. The president of TSA, the vice-president and two board members attended the event. The president addressed the ladies at the session. This was a huge positive as it made the ladies realise that as females, we are being recognised and that TSA is in full support of our initiatives, the advancement and empowerment of females.

Pictured at the Women's event in Cape Town in December 2024





WORLD CUP  
TENNIS®

RENAULT

DUNLOP  
LOVE THE GAME



Spectators at a Davis Cup event in Pretoria.



## Communications

The following Communications report aims to provide a summary work carried out during the period from March 2024 to April 2025. This period primarily centered on activities related to digital media, website management, and public relations.

REPORT	
<b>TOP COVERED FEATURES IN THIS PERIOD</b>	<p><b>April 2024</b> – Curro to host international tournament</p> <p><b>April 2024</b> – Rising Star Tennis returns for fifth season</p> <p><b>May 2024</b> – Wheelchair tennis development revival</p> <p><b>July 2024</b> – Tennis SA launches Wimbledon Fan Park with American Express</p> <p><b>July 2024</b> – Kgothatso Montjane Wins Wimbledon Wheelchair Doubles Title!</p> <p><b>August 2024</b> – Kruger sisters carve out their own sporting legacy</p> <p><b>September 2024</b> – SA wheelchair tennis stars bring home Paralympic bronze</p> <p><b>November 2024</b> – Tennis SA announces American Express National Club Championships</p> <p><b>January 2025</b> – Anthony Moruthane appointed as TSA General Manager</p> <p><b>January 2025</b> – Renault South Africa announced as Official Vehicle Partner of TSA</p> <p><b>February 2025</b> – South Africa beats Nigeria in Davis Cup playoff</p> <p><b>March 2025</b> – Unique opportunity offered to elite SA players at Renault Clay Courts Challenge in conjunction with NWU</p> <p><b>March 2025</b> – Rising Star Tennis development series kicks off</p> <p><b>April 2025</b> – Bigger, better and richer Mbombela Open tennis tournament all set for 2025</p>

<b>COVERAGE REPORT</b>	<p><b>Press releases issued:</b> 78</p> <p><b>Total AVE:</b> R29 702 929</p> <p><b>Total PR Value:</b> R89 108 787</p> <p><b>Number of Coverage pieces:</b> 742</p> <p><b>Circulation:</b> 36 834 432</p>
<b>DIGITAL MEDIA</b>	<p><b>Followers: As of 31 March 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook – 34,900 (9.13% growth)</li> <li>• X – 11,230 (3.80% growth)</li> <li>• Instagram – 9,410 (19.56% growth)</li> <li>• LinkedIn – 749 (62.47% growth)</li> </ul>
<b>SABC LIVE BROADCASTS</b>	<p><b>Live Broadcasts on Discover Sport, SABC 3, SABC 2, SABC Sport channel and SABC+:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 x live broadcasts delivered to SABC during this period. Average viewership of live tennis matches ~ 498 677.</li> </ul>
<b>TENNIS SA MAGAZINE SHOW</b>	<p><b>Half-hour format monthly magazine show aired on SABC 2 and Discover Sport every last Saturday of the month:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 x shows delivered to SABC during this period. Average viewership ~ 431 000</li> </ul>
<b>COMMENTS</b>	<p>The 2024/25 period marked a pivotal shift in TSA's broadcast strategy. Our long-standing partnership with SABC concluded in April 2024 and unfortunately due to the broadcaster's financial constraints, we were not able to renew the partnership immediately. However, through the sponsorship of Discover Sport, TSA's official technical and streaming partner, we successfully renewed our partnership with the SABC.</p> <p>This new partnership with Discover Sport is a game changer. It has enabled us to reach millions of South Africans through high-quality live streaming productions and monthly magazine shows. The synergy between Discover Sport and SABC has</p>



amplified our visibility and ensured consistent national coverage of tennis events.

Concerns and recommendations - Despite significant progress in media visibility, our communications capacity remains constrained. Currently, the department is staffed by a single individual managing all communications, digital media, and PR functions. This limits our ability to scale campaigns, engage audiences, and maintain stakeholder relations. To complement the existing Communications and Digital Media functions, it is strongly recommended to consider appointing a Marketing Manager. This role would be instrumental in driving strategic brand growth, enhancing sponsor value, and deepening audience engagement across all platforms.

Spectators at the Davis Cup tie against Nigeria









## COMMERCIAL PARTNERS:

TSA would like to express its gratitude to our partners for their support and making so many important initiatives possible.

Partner	Partnership focus
	Our Headline Sponsor – covering: Junior tennis, travelling squads, transformation and development and the National Club Championships (signed in March 2024).
	Rising Star Schools Tennis Programme, a nationwide Primary Schools tournament.
	Streaming and Technical partner of TSA (commenced in October 2024).
	Official broadcast partner of TSA (renewed in December 2024).
	Official Vehicle partner of TSA (signed in January 2025).
	Women's Tennis in South Africa.
	Official hotel partner of TSA.
	Official tennis ball for selected events and the TSA development centres.
	Official apparel partner for all of our national teams – partnership ended August 2025.
	Federation Support Partner across all programmes and departments.
	Federation funded by Lotto.



