

2023/24

# ANNUAL REPORT





## VALUES

- Transparency
- Personal Accountability
- Sportsmanship

## MISSION

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

## VISION

To see someone playing tennis, somewhere, everyday



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**This report covers the period  
from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.**



Donald Ramphadi – 2023 Roland Garros Quads Doubles winner







# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## The President's Annual Report





## Introduction

2023 Davis Cup Africa Group III - Champions



The President's Report for a National Federation is always a challenging process – the sheer volume of information to cover, and the vast number of people one must acknowledge makes it daunting to say the least. I strive to highlight the important points and issues that I feel need to deal with and acknowledge as many of our passionate stakeholder people as possible. If a matter is not mentioned or a person not acknowledged accept my apologies in advance – everything and every person is important.

This year's report has, in the main, been written whilst I have had the privilege of attending the U S Open at Flushing Meadows in the United States. Not the best place to author a report when one witnesses the level of tennis and the resources on display at such an event. However, it is an inspiration to see what can and is achieved – it is a learning experience and importantly a networking opportunity where one engages with like-minded tennis people all of whom are looking to continue to grow the sport of tennis or use sport to improve society.

The theme of this year's U S Open has been the "Power of Tennis" – the importance to level the playing field for all, to help raise awareness, break down barriers, celebrate trailblazers and bring real change – all whilst seeking to elevate diverse voices, celebrate progress and recognising how far we still need to go in sports and society to reach true equality. The Board of Tennis South Africa (TSA) would have heard me say many times during our meetings that at times we do "more harm than good" with the money we do spend – South Africa has huge challenges as we all know. I believe sporting federations mirror the broader country in terms of wealth inequality, access to facilities and the control of resources. What we do try and do is equitably share what we have in enabling and developing the game within the agreements we have with our sponsors and stakeholders – mostly with success, at other times falling short of expectations.

This past twelve months the Board of TSA and I have had to not only strategically lead our Federation but be involved at an operational level due to the absence of a Chief Executive Officer. I accept that this situation may not be seen as ideal for the business by many. The Board's determination to find the right person for the position is the compelling reason why the position remains unfilled to date – we are not going to rush the process, nor will we be bullied into making an appointment. It may well be that we do not appointment a Chief Executive Officer and look to an Operating Officer with certain parts of the business being "outsourced" on a "no gain no



payment" business formula. I will say that the experience of being "hands on" has exposed both me and Board Members to the complexities and operational challenges that a Tennis Federation faces.

If we objectively measure our successes and failures based on facts, I believe that we have performed quite well. Kgothatso Montjane and Donald Ramphadi achieved phenomenal success at Roland Garros, Wimbledon, and the U S Open in 2023 – and post March both have done South Africa proud at Wimbledon and the Para-Olympics (Donald and Lucas Sithole have brought home the bronze medal for doubles). Additionally, our U16 Boys Juniors are the African Junior Champions in their age group and go forward to play in the U16 Davis Cup finals in Turkey in November, and our U14 Junior Team are the 2024 African Zone 5 Champions that proceed to play the U14 African Junior Championships in October this year. Our Davis and BJK Cup teams have both won promotion to the World Group 2 Divisions of the competitions and then Phillip Henning, Kholo Montsi and Zoe Kruger have won weeks of the World Tennis Tour Events (WTT) that were hosted by Curro at Hillcrest in June/July 2024. Furthermore, our Coaching Department continues to retain its "Gold Status" accreditation from the International Tennis Federation (ITF). We are one of nineteenth countries in the world and the only one in Africa to have this status. Several of our technical officials have once again been invited to officiate at various international events worldwide, and many of our administrators serve on local and international committees with distinction.

Sponsorship is one of the foundations that underpin the success of any Federation. On the 1 April 2024 we concluded a three-year sponsorship agreement with American Express. This sponsorship is principally focused on supporting elite tennis player development, a national club championship, wheelchair support and then developing fan engagement experiences at various events. The first of these stakeholder events was over the Wimbledon fortnight where an Amex Tennis Town was set up at Montecasino in Johannesburg. We are also pleased to report that all our other valued sponsors have remained loyal to us over the past year.

It is also important acknowledging the support received from the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture (DSAC) through the various grants they have provided to our Federation. This support has enabled us to sustain certain development programs and contribute to our administrative costs.

Whilst celebrating our successes we are mindful of the areas in which we should be doing better. Registered membership and the annual renewal by players of their membership is once again becoming a challenge. This not only a challenge in South Africa, but also the rest of the world. Part of this challenge comes from the disconnect members, districts and Provinces feel with the National Federations. Later in my report I also raise my concerns around our Provinces and their effectiveness in delivering what tennis needs to sustain itself.

We continue to encounter challenges related to capacity, facilities, and finances when it comes to expanding tennis activities in rural areas. As I have mentioned numerous times before, our efforts to increase visibility and grow participation must begin at the grassroots level, particularly in Provinces, Districts, and Clubs. The success of any sport relies on the involvement of people at all levels, especially at the school level. Of particular concern are the condition of our main tennis stadiums around the country which are reaching stages of disrepair that will result in tennis not being able to be played in them.

As I reflect each year, I always ask myself whether we are living up to and achieving our Vision, Mission, and Values statement, namely: -

Our Vision: "We all see someone playing tennis, somewhere, every day"

Our 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"

Our Values: "Transparency, Personal Accountability, Sportsmanship"



I believe we have maintained our commitment to these ideals – we can do better. In a meeting a couple of weeks ago made the statement that that transparency cultivates and enhances trust. In the treadmill of life and running a Federation we sometimes overlook these basics to our cost.



## 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	82	1 924
Mini	57	6 097
Mini Masters	7	454
Grand Prix	9	1 806
OR Junior	7	873
Super 8's	8	2 560
Junior Nationals	1	496
Junior Masters	1	64
Junior Interpro	2	384
Open Tournaments	1	72





<b>Masters' Tournaments</b>	<b>Number of Tournaments</b>	<b>Number of entries</b>
Masters Nationals	1	264
Masters Super 6	6	810
Other Category B	5	422
Abadala and babedi / category C	2	98
Inter Provincial Tournaments	2	281

There are thus over 100 local tournaments that all contribute towards a TSA Ranking system – most of these events are played over three to five days. All events, to have “ranking status for the players” must be sanctioned by TSA.

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

<b>International Tournaments</b>	<b>Number of Tournaments</b>	<b>Number of entries</b>
Junior Grade 5 (J30)	2	170
Junior Grade 4 (J60)	6	552
Junior Grade 3 (J100)	5	442
Junior Grade 2 (J200)	1	79
Junior Grade 1 (J300)	1	78
ITF Women's \$40,000	2	128

In the forthcoming year, we are striving to increase the number of local and international events that are hosted in South Africa. In this mix of international events are the “upgrading” of some of the World Tennis Tour (WTT) Tournaments from \$15,000 to \$30,000 prize money events with the assistance of funding from the ITF.

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 prize-money entry-level WTT Events, the estimated total cost to host the tournament is R850,000 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. In Europe, most entry-level tournaments are organized by affluent clubs or individuals who aim to support their own players or children in their professional tennis careers.

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 (we have recently undertaken a costing of hosting an ATP250 Event – more than R250 million would be needed).

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 and to hopefully increase this number in 2025. There is no question that the seven events that will have been hosted in South Africa this 2024 calendar year have significantly assisted our South African players both with their international rankings and their finances. Unfortunately, four additional events were unable to be sanctioned owing to the limitations existing for betting sponsors.



## Board of Directors

The Board met three times during the past year. The current Board size of eight elected members, one co-opted member and four Special Interest Group members has generally 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.

Accepting the nomination to act as 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. TSA Board Members are not remunerated for their services as directors. This has been the case 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 always robust, with proposals being rationally debated, and informed decisions are taken. 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. The options of virtual and telephonic meetings are exercised, particularly in follow-up meetings, to assist with the various members' business schedules and to keep costs to a minimum.

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for each of these Committees and, as and when approved by the Board, are added to the documentation available to all stakeholders on our website. That said, most of the sub-committees have functioned well, and a significant amount of positive work and results have emerged.

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 have attended these meetings in the capacity of Acting Chief Executive Officer.

A Code of Ethics (Board Charter) for Board Members exists, and all Board Members, as part of their acceptance to act 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 TSA's needs. This document is available for viewing on the TSA 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 the 2022 International Tennis Federation (ITF) Annual General Meeting in Glasgow, that body's constitution was changed to ensure a minimum of four women will always be elected to the Board with effect from 2027. 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. TSA 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. The





issue that needs to be addressed and carefully managed is that of ensuring the identification and encouragement of suitable candidates to make themselves available for election in an environment where no one is disadvantaged by virtue of their colour, sex, or creed is most important.

## Chief Executive Officer

In my last year's report, I indicated a hope that there would be an appointment of a Chief Executive Officer would be made by, at latest, the end of March 2024. Sadly, this did not materialise. Further interviews were conducted in May 2024, likewise to no avail.

I emphasise that the processes followed to find a Chief Executive Officer have been transparent, detailed and candidates selected for interview have had to present detailed presentations on how they envisaged leading our organisation operationally. I remind everyone that the initial process involved advertising the position, reviewing sixteen applications, and interviewing seven of these candidates by a panel consisting of MANCO and two independent individuals actively involved in the sporting environment. This initial process did not result in the identification of any suitable candidates. Subsequently, we engaged an Executive Search Employment Agency on a "no result, no fee" basis and initiated our own scouting process to explore potential headhunting opportunities. This second process identified fourteen candidates, nine of whom were interviewed by the panel – one three times – to no result. The Board then took the decision to "stand-down" on the process and to let the remainder of the current Board's tenure conclude, whereupon the "newly" elected Board, post the September Annual General Meeting can decide on the appropriate way forward.

This void has necessitated Board members having to step up and provide operational leadership. I would like to express my gratitude to the Board members, particularly those serving on the MANCO, for their selfless and willing contributions in this regard.

The Board has naturally had to manage the optics of not having a Chief Executive Officer. However, I can say that most of our stakeholders have recognised that it is important to "find the right person." The office and MANCO Board members have willingly answered questions, enquiries and engaged in a transparent manner with all stakeholders. In terms of our existing sponsorship arrangements, I am delighted to advise that all these have been renewed (some on more favourable terms) and as you are all aware we announced a new headline sponsor in the form of American Express with effect from 1 April 2024. I can also share that as I draft this report, we are engaging with no fewer than three potential sponsors and have had several other enquiries that hopefully will result in additional support.

## Staffing

Our loyal and hardworking staff continue to strive to satisfy both the seemingly insatiable 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.

MANCO took the decision to employ four additional staff members this past twelve months, filling spaces that had been vacated, but also adding capacity to our administration/finance and stakeholder/media relationship/schools' departments. The office's capacity is being further enhanced with the employment of a further staff member who will become the coaching department's administrative assistant. The redeployment of an existing staff member has been made to assist with both the administration of the officiating department and with the Sporty HQ Tournament processes.



With the ending of the Growthpoint sponsorship in 2023, the four Development Hubs funding ended. This resulted in the contracted coaches operating these Hubs services ending in July 2023. I acknowledge the contribution of these coaches who have assisted with the coaching and running of these Growthpoint Development Hubs around the Country. Their passion, input, and commitment to these Hubs has without doubt contributed significantly to the success of these projects.

MANCO continually assesses the staffing needs of tennis – without doubt, we remain under-capacitated but limited by virtue of funding. The Remuneration Committee is mindful that our staff remuneration has lagged the current inflationary environment. At the beginning of April 2024 all staffs' remuneration was reviewed and adjusted.

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

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

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains one of the most significant challenges in sports today. Safeguarding is a broad subject. It does not only cover 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. TSA 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.

I have previously reported on an issue at one of our International Junior Events in 2022 that involved the South African Police and the National Prosecuting Authority. Regrettably, this matter has not been finalized yet. We have finalised five of the seven other safeguarding challenges that were in progress last year. Unfortunately, we are having to deal with two new safeguarding issues, one of which has been widely reported in the national press and is being dealt with by our attorneys. 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 TSA, an individual is required to:

1. Complete a coaching course approved by the ITF.
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 “buy-in” from our leading tennis academies around the country in ensuring that all their personnel are accredited with TSA.



Safeguarding is a “zero-tolerance” matter. TSA is currently looking at elevating the level of security and access onto all tournament sites. TSA 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 and Billie Jean King Cup

This past year we have languished in the Africa Group 3 Division of both events. There are many challenges around both these competitions – the balancing of participating for “national pride” against the “financial reward expectations” of the players. Professional players have a window during which to maximise their earnings on the one hand, whilst on the other the Federation must try and balance its books and manage the costs in participating. The ITF has had several challenges around its sponsorship agreements for Davis Cup which has limited its ability to cover hosting, participation, and prize-money costs.

TSA has always adopted the position that any prizemoney it receives from the ITF is given to the team – any surpluses are likewise shared. The reality though is that there is no prize money or surpluses at the Group 3 levels of the event. Players must accept that their participation is an “investment” with the incentive to gain promotion into the higher divisions where prizemoney becomes meaningful.

Both our Davis and BJK Cup teams have gained promotion to the Group 2 Divisions of the events. Our Davis Cup team is playing against Lebanon the week starting 9 September, and our BJK Cup team will play a tie in February 2025. Our congratulations to both teams.

I take this opportunity to recognize and thank both teams' captains – Christo van Rensburg and Roxanne Clark. Their tasks 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.” Both captains' tenure ends this 2024-year – TSA and South Africa's appreciations to them both.

## Provincial Tennis

Inauguration of Limpopo Tennis Federation





It is extremely disappointing that several of our Provinces are facing challenges in complying with the TSA Constitution and managing tennis affairs in their respective jurisdictions. Currently, five 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 astounding. 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 seem to believe that TSA should take over the running of tennis in their Province – TSA does not have the means or capacity to do this. Players in the Provinces and Districts need to take responsibility and accountability for the game. TSA at best is the regulator and enabler – the human capacity is at ground level and starts at the clubs.

Several Provinces are in the process of updating their constitutions to align with TSA's constitution. TSA has provided the Provinces and Districts with a template of what their constitutions should look like to facilitate this task.

Similarly, the various Codes of Conduct that have been under development for the past few years are in the final stages (unfortunately delayed because of ill health) and will soon be circulated for comments, input, and ultimate adoption at a General Council Meeting.

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, TSA is here to assist when requested. 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 TSA, particularly when it comes to fulfilling the various reporting requirements mandated by the Government and the Eminent Persons Group.

TSA recognizes the sensitivity of this challenge and tries to assist. While TSA 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, SASCOG, 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 following 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 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 TSA Council AGM in 2020, which required all affiliated Clubs to register their membership on the Sporty HQ system, continues to pose challenges for many. As a result, there are discrepancies between actual and reported membership numbers. While there are over seven hundred thousand tennis players in South Africa, only thirty-three 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 TSA 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.

Another significant concern is 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 SASCOC, the situation is becoming increasingly challenging and worrisome.

## Beach Tennis

Unfortunately, as I mentioned last year, Beach Tennis was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. 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 (CAT) 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. TSA provides some financial support for coaching out of the American Express sponsorship to assist the players. However, securing meaningful sponsorships remains a challenge for all disabled sports in the Country. What is concerning is the negative attitude displayed by certain professional wheelchair players who expect TSA to cover most, if not all, of their playing and living expenses.

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 a normal event.

SASCOC has intervened by providing Operational Expenditure (OPEX) grants to players who are representing South Africa at the Paralympics in Paris currently. 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 K G Montjane and partner winning the 2024 Ladies Doubles event at Wimbledon and then Donald Ramphadi and Lucas Sithole being the bronze medallists at the Para-Olympics.

## Padel Tennis

Padel Tennis continues to thrive in South Africa. TSA approved the Padel Tennis South Africa's associate membership in 2019. We are aware of a separate organization with the name Padel





Africa, which, for all intents and purposes, serves as a "professional arm" organizing individual competitions around South Africa and Africa as part of a World Tour organization.

We are also aware that there are several Padel organizations in South Africa seeking accreditation, constructing courts, and engaging with existing tennis Clubs. TSA's position is clear: our associate member is Padel Tennis South Africa. The Board of TSA 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 TSA, a recognition confirmed by SASCO.

TSA 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.

TSA 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 Basic Education and the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture – 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 opportunity afforded players from this event to tour the United Kingdom in July needs to be revisited though as many parents simply cannot afford the cost. The ideal would be to select a National Schools Team that plays official matches overseas or alternatively we host national teams from overseas. There are processes in progress to try and make this happen – hopefully for 2026.

The RCS Rising Star Schools Competition is one of our success stories and the number of junior schools continues to grow every year – this 2024 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

TSA 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. TSA uses these facilities to host local and international events.

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

TSA's coaching programs 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.

TSA has also elevated the regulation 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 more than six 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 are the Regional Coaches Conference for Africa in Cape Town the latter part of September this year.

## Officiating

Last year I reported that a National Officiated Committee had been elected and that hopefully the challenges around the operational conduct of this important facet of our tennis business was on a sound footing going forward.

Unfortunately, this has not materialised – once again the issues of administrative capacity and lack of transparency have come to the fore. Thus, the decision, as stated earlier, to appoint a staff member and bring the administrative function back into the TSA Office with effect from the 1 October.

Provinces will be required to have an officiating representative serve on their Executive Committees and these persons in turn will elect a National Committee – hopefully by the end of October 2024.

## Finances

The Board and the Committees responsible for our finances remain fully committed to ensuring that all financial reports produced are fairly presented, timely, and accurate. These reports are carefully interrogated and reviewed.





This 2024-year's financial statements reflect a small deficit of R299,829 (2023: Surplus of R5,076,550), and we have retained our solvency. For the 2025 Financial year, we are projecting a surplus of approximately R350 000. 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. Like all sporting Federations, we face the current situation we find ourselves operating within is unpredictable and dynamic. Your Board continues to be careful with all expenditure and is cautiously managing our finances.

This cautiousness and prudent management have resulted in us having "money in the bank" both at the financial year-end and the predicted forecast for the next 12 months.

That said, one must not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Sponsors expect their money to be spent in the agreed ways, and we continue to need to invest in the human capital that should result in the long-term sustainability and viability of our business.

One of TSA 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 ninety-three 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.

## Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC)

Our relationship with the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture remains strong.

We congratulate the new Minister, Mr Gayton McKenzie on his appointment and look forward to working with him and his team.

The ongoing financial grant that TSA receives on an annual basis significantly enhances our ability to administer the game of tennis and assist developing young tennis players.

## Confederation of African Tennis (CAT)

TSA is a member of the African mother tennis body. African tennis is notable for the fact that most tennis is played in the north and in the south with a large void in-between. Facilities are likewise overall situated in the north (clay) and in the south (hard court).

The reinstatement of events across the continent post pandemic has been slow to say the least – at times seemly planned at the last moment meaning that we were at times left being challenged with coordination and available players. We resultantly continue to participate in events on a "tournament by tournament" basis by assessment and financial reality.

That said, whilst TSA has good relationships with most African tennis nations it is our view that the level of activity and co-operation between countries needs to be increased significantly for tennis to be a meaningful sport type on the continent. Tennis in many countries in Africa has not recovered post the Pandemic, and South Africa is ideally positioned and willing to assist.

Our hopes that last year's newly elected Board of Directors of the Confederation would inject new energy into the continent's tennis activities at this stage are "stillborn." At both the upcoming CAT and ITF Annual General Meetings we will be engaging with the leadership to address the appropriate ways forward.



## International Tennis Federation (ITF)

We remain passionately committed 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. Substantial support, both financial and human, continues to be provided to nations on all continents. 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 serves on the Junior Committee, and I chair the newly formed Independent Audit and Risk Committee of the ITF. The relationships and networking opportunities that these positions afford TSA are immeasurable.

Both Riad Davids and I are dedicated to nurturing TSA's relationship with 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 I 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 R3,4 million in grants from the ITF this past fiscal year – this 2025 year these grants have increased by close to twenty-five percent with the assistance given to upgrade WWT Events from \$15,000 to \$25,000 level tournaments. This relationship is not "one-way" – TSA in turn looks to assist the ITF in ways that it can and able, in the form of human operational capacity.

## 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 ten years. Significant sponsorship has been raised and there is now significant support being given to 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 TSA once again scored full marks in the 2024 SASCOC governance review of our organization – one of the few Federations that continues to achieve this standard.

## Prospects for 2024/2025

I have earlier raised the challenge of how TSA should deal with the matter of operational leadership going forward. This year, 2024, is an election year for the full Board of TSA. It is my view that the new Board needs to gather post the Annual General Meeting and put together our organisations next four-year strategy. Once this is done, the Board will need to engage with the provinces and thereafter a decision on the position will follow. It remains my view that the "right person" needs to be appointed, if that is what is decided upon – this is non-negotiable. People having the right attributes for the position are scarce, not only in South Africa, but in the world. This means that there will be a cost, and this adds to the pressure of finding the right person whose



skills and network will be such that the expense to our organisation of this person will need to be covered within a brief time of the appointment.

Notwithstanding the above, TSA, remains committed to both building and being a self-sustaining 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.

Sadly, we have realised that the possibility of hosting a Tour Event (either an ATP or WTA 250) is remote in the near future. The current estimated cost to host an event of this level now exceeds R250,000,000. As I have mentioned before, we also face the reality of a crumbling infrastructure which will mean that we either must build, temporarily construct or hire a venue (in this final option are extremely limited). Most countries who host ATP250 and ATP500's have significant government support to make these events happen – to expect government to fund at least half of this is unrealistic. We thus need to accept that the core of a self-sustainable business will come from other avenues.

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 post September and thus incentivise more tennis players to register with the federation.

The concluding of the American Express sponsorship is a huge boost for our federation. This sponsorship has created interest from further sponsors – in the motor vehicle, media, and security industries of our South African economy. Closing these sponsorships are an imperative and much focus is being applied to achieve and settle these.

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 will have to be assessed carefully. We continue 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 2024 – as mentioned our South African players took full advantage of these. We have also sanctioned two weeks of WTT Events in Stellenbosch in December 2024 – this will raise the number of ITF WTT events hosted this year to seven. As reported earlier, we have been engaging with the ITF around a further number of events – the challenge with these is that the potential sponsor does not meet the sanctioning requirements approval of the ITF.

I have mentioned that our BJK Cup Team won the Africa Group 3 Event in Kenya in June resulting in their promotion to the World Group 2 and then our Davis Cup Team won its promotion tie in February against Vietnam – we play Lebanon in Egypt the week starting 9 September.

Transformation and development in our game are non-negotiable. The TSA 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 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 DSAC and SASCO depends on this.





I have mentioned that we are hosting the Regional Coaches Workshop in Cape Town the weekend of the 20 – 22 September – an estimated seventy coaches from all over Southern Africa will be attending this conference.

I cannot conclude this section without once again acknowledging the successes of Kgothatso Montjane, Donald Ramphadi's and Lucas Sithole. Their successes underscore the necessity of having role models in our sport to which people aspire. Their achievements have unquestionably helped to raise the profile of tennis in South Africa, and it is for us as a Federation to build on this interest they have helped elevate.

## Conclusion

In the introduction I quoted the theme of this year's U S Open Tennis Event – “the Power of Tennis.” There are many reasons offered to support this statement:

- It 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 worlds two biggest sports events are the Aussie and U S 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. Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying:

“Sports have 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 interest in our game, supported by the ever-increasing number of tournaments and players participating in them. 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.

This coming year's Annual General Meeting brings to conclusion the entire current Board's tenure. A special mention to Riad Davids who has been the federation's Vice-President. His wise council, encouragement, support, and guidance has been invaluable and appreciated by me. Every other Board Member has never hesitated to “step up to the plate” when needed. Special mention is made of Japie Klaasen's, who has headed the Officiating and International Committees, and Angella Makowe who has headed the Risk & Ethics Committee – neither are standing for re-election. In Japie's case it is the end of an era. Enjoy your well-earned retirement with your grandchildren.

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.



In the words of Arthur Ashe: "Do what you can. Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome. One important key to success is self-confidence."

Yes, it has been another challenging year, but I am both confident and optimistic that the future looks promising.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of Tennis South Africa the past three years.

Thank you.

**Gavin Crookes**

**President of Tennis South Africa**





# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Of the 2023/2024 Financial Year







Summary for the year ended 31 March 2024 (all figures in rands):

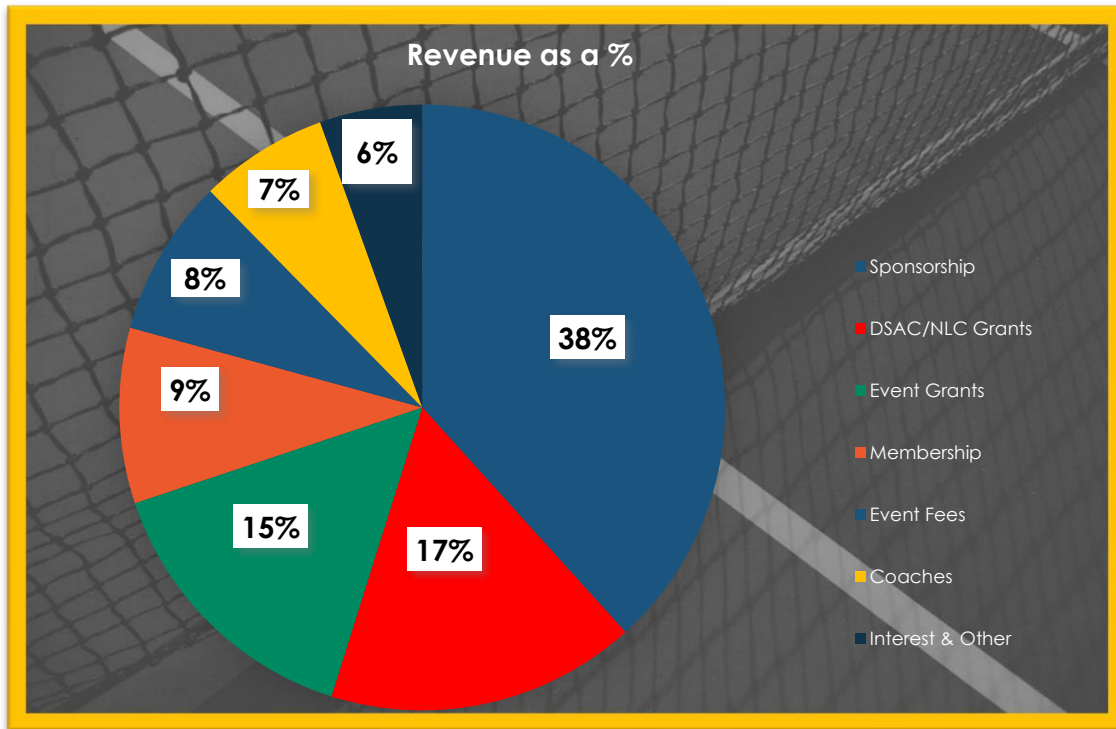
	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>	22,960,827	33,239,309
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	(23,279,531)	(28,173,544)
<b>Operating (Loss)/Profit</b>	(318,704)	5 065 765
<b>Investment Revenue</b>	18,875	10,785
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus For The Year</b>	(299,829)	5,076,550

The full financial statements will be added to the TSA website once they are approved at the AGM. TSA adopts a conservative accounting policy of recognizing income and expenses as and when received or incurred. This can and does result in a mismatch of income being received in advance of or in arrear of expenditure being incurred.

As a result, the 2023/2024 financial year saw a significant change in both income and expenses in comparison to the previous year. The federation has incurred a deficit for the 2023/24 financial year.



## ANALYSIS OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

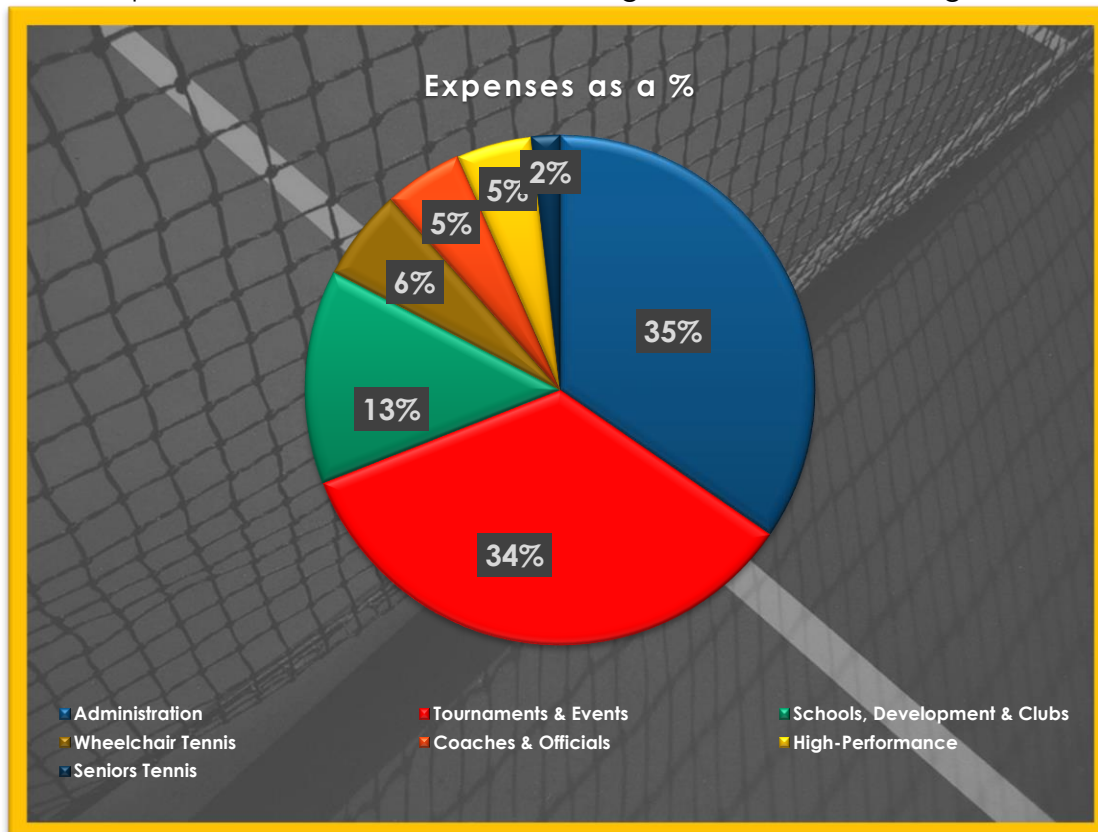


### Revenue analysis:

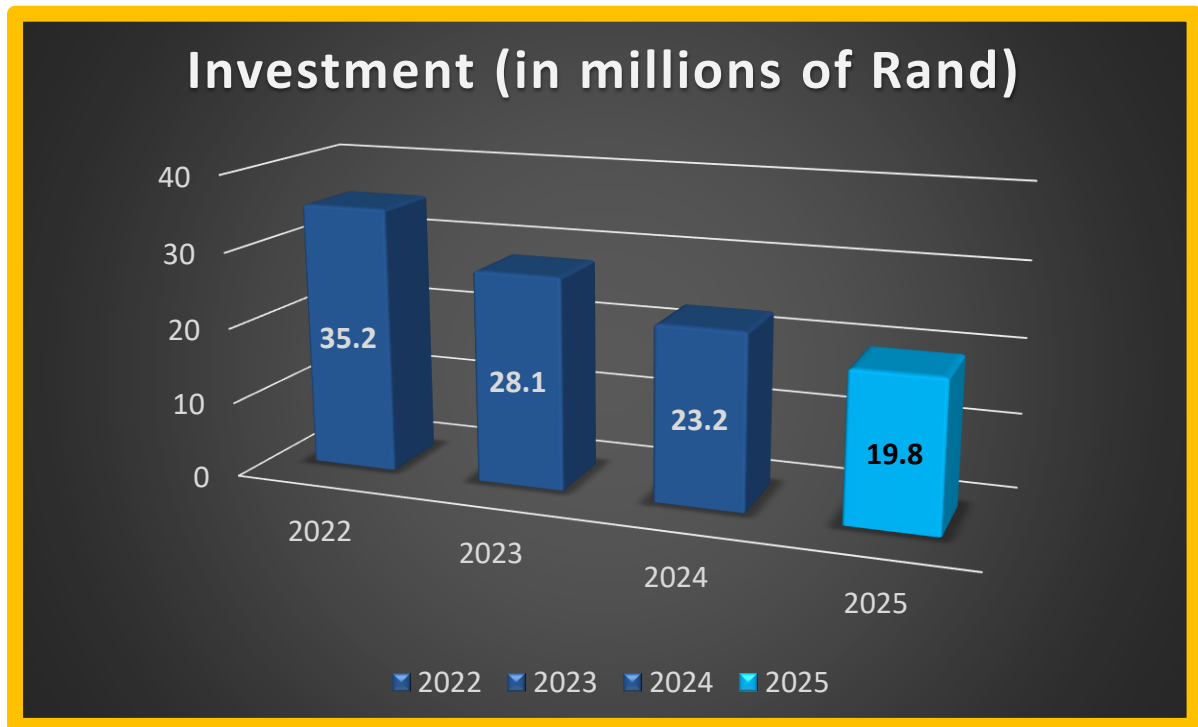
Sponsorship remains the single largest revenue source for TSA, followed by combined grants from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC)/National Lotteries Commission (NLC), and Event grants (funding secured from the likes of the ITF & CAT).

### 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)



\*2025 is based on the budget forecast for the 2024/2025 financial year, that ends in March 2025.





# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The composition of our Board and sub-committees

Donald Ramphadi

# CHASE



## Overview

The TSA Board met three times during the past year. The Board is a unitary body consisting of both elected and co-opted members. Apart from the President and Vice-President there were ten members. Four of the co-opted members are Special Interest Group appointments representing – Seniors, Coaches, Wheelchair and Schools.

Governance remains a non-negotiable element of all interaction, interrogation and decision making. In line with good governance practices, principally guided by King IV, various Board sub-committees exist and hold meetings, both in person on a scheduled basis (mostly virtual this past year) and telephonically as the need arises.

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for each of these Committees and, as and when approved by the Board, are added to the documentation available to all stakeholders on our website. That said, most of the sub-committees have functioned well, and a significant amount of positive work and results has emanated.

No Board Member is remunerated for his or her services as a director of the company. Several Board Members also do not accept reimbursement for their costs incurred in travelling to Board, Committee Meetings and other Federation commitments. On both counts I thank members most sincerely.

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors' key purpose is to ensure the company's development and growth, by collectively directing the company's affairs, whilst meeting the appropriate interests of its stakeholders. The current Board of directors at TSA is as follows:

Name	Designation
<b>Gavin Crookes</b>	President & Elected Board Member
<b>Riad Davids</b>	Vice-President & Elected Board Member
<b>Zaida Beukes</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Geoff Whyte</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Jacob Klaasen</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Karel Jacobs</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Angella Makowe</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Allan Karam</b>	Elected Board Member
<b>Robin Baloyi</b>	Co-opted Board Member
<b>Liza-Mari Olivier</b>	Coaches Representative
<b>David Jaquire</b>	Schools Representative
<b>Debra Hyde</b>	Masters Representative
<b>Nolufefe Mgandele</b>	Wheelchair Tennis Representative



## Sub-Committees

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

1. **MANCO:** Gavin Crookes.
2. **Audit:** Henico Schalekamp (independent).
3. **Risk, Social & Ethics:** Angella Makowe.
4. **Transformation & Development:** Robin Baloyi.
5. **Gender Equality:** Zaida Beukes
6. **Remuneration:** Gavin Crookes.
7. **Innovation:** Geoff Whyte.
8. **International Tennis:** Jacob Klaasen.
9. **Juniors:** Riad Davids.
10. **Masters:** Debra Hyde.
11. **Coaches:** Liza-Mari Olivier.
12. **Wheelchair Tennis:** Nolufefe Mgandele.
13. **Schools:** David Jaquire.
14. **Technical and Officiating:** Jacob Klaasen.
15. **Disciplinary:** Karel Jacobs.

## Tennis South Africa (TSA)

TSA is the national sports federation responsible for managing tennis in South Africa. TSA is affiliates to the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the body governing world tennis; the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT), the continental sports organisation responsible for tennis; and the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) controlling high-performance sport in South Africa.

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## KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Reports from all key TSA Departments



## Transformation and Development

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Transformation and Development projects / activities carried out by the Transformation and Development sub-committee between April 2023 and March 2024.

REPORT	
<b>NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<p>Committee members includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elliot Skosana (Mpumalanga)</li> <li>• Owen Kumalo (Free State)</li> <li>• Clifford Swart (Western Cape)</li> <li>• Anil Mooljee (KwaZulu-Natal)</li> <li>• Wergelé McKenzie (Gauteng)</li> <li>• Clive de Jongh (Northern Cape)</li> <li>• Luyanda Senti (Eastern Cape)</li> <li>• Allison Hernandez-Maldonado (Limpopo)</li> <li>• Nikeel Morar (North West)</li> </ul> <p>This committee is led by Tennis South Africa (TSA) Board Member and Chairperson of Transformation and Development, Mr Robin Baloyi, with assistance from TSA Stakeholder Manager, Anthony Moruthane.</p>
<b>MEETINGS</b>	<p>The committee had 2 virtual meetings between April 2023 and March 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thursday, 25 August 2023</li> <li>▪ Friday, 10 February 2023</li> </ul> <p>The meeting minutes are available upon request.</p>
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<p><b>Rising Star Tennis</b> - The nationwide school development programme continues to see a significant increase in participation from historically disadvantaged schools (quintile 1-3), which has attracted the interest of the sponsor, RCS Group, and both the departments of Basic Education and Sport, Arts and Culture. This reflects TSA's commitment to transformation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2023, entries for the Primary School and wheelchair categories increased to 730, resulting in a 12% increase in participation, with 79 new schools participating in its fourth year.</li> <li>▪ This includes 675 Primary School teams, with 289 teams (42.7%) from underprivileged schools.</li> <li>▪ Wheelchair tennis teams, with 100% of the teams from underprivileged schools.</li> <li>▪ A total of 328 schools from disadvantaged areas, making up 44.9% of the total entries.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The national finals were hosted at Polokwane Tennis Club in Limpopo as recognition of the province's improved participation in number of quintile 1-3 schools.</li> <li>▪ Inspirational story: A Hammanskraal boys team from a disadvantaged community finished as finalists at the national final, marking the first time a historically disadvantaged school reached this milestone.</li> </ul> <p>Exciting news: Support for the programme has been extended for a fifth year in 2024, providing access to hundreds of schools across the country, especially more underprivileged schools.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY GRASSROOTS PROGRAMMES</b></p>	<p><b>Lacoste Foundation Programme</b> - Addressing the budget challenge for community grassroots development programmes within townships and rural communities, a sponsorship was raised through the Lacoste Foundation global. The Lacoste Foundation Learn to Play Initiative provides a holistic educational platform for young tennis players in disadvantaged communities. Tennis development hubs in and around Soweto were the first beneficiaries of the programme, combining educational life skills lessons with tennis matches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The programme supported 40 selected players in 7 areas of greater Johannesburg and upskilled 11 coaches.</li> <li>▪ Areas or hubs included Arthur Ashe Centre, Moletsane, Dube, Dobsonville, Yeoville, Kagiso, and Turfontein.</li> </ul> <p>After a successful programme in Soweto, the Federation has successfully negotiated a renewal of support with Lacoste Foundation for 2024. Hammanskraal Tennis Club has been identified as beneficiaries of the programme for a period of 12 months from January to December 2024. Fifty (50) kids aged under-10, 12, 14, 16, and 18 have been identified as beneficiaries, receiving support for daily training, coaches stipend, tennis equipment, entry fees, transport to tournaments, and access to life skills coaching sessions.</p>





Wheelchair Tennis player at the Rising Star Tennis National Final



Players at the Rising Star Tennis National final



Lacoste Foundation Programme - Soweto





## Participation

At the heart of South African tennis lies development—the bedrock of our sport. Thanks to the ITF, we have two vital projects: the OS project and the JTI Programme. Here's the uplifting scoop:

### 1. OS Project:

- Funded by the ITF, this initiative provides players across different regions with opportunities to play tennis and participate in tournaments.
- It's about levelling the playing field and ensuring access for all.

### 2. JTI Programme:

- Our focus here? Juniors aged 14 and under.
- We're creating pathways for increased participation in tennis.
- Beyond players, we're also empowering coaches from selected areas, helping them gain the right qualifications.



### OS Programme Highlights

Our OS Programme has been a dynamic journey, focusing on nurturing top-tier players and elevating their rankings. Here's a glimpse of our recent achievements:

#### 1. Player Selection:

- We strategically reduced the number of players from 24 to 16.





- Our goal? To concentrate on top talents and provide them exposure through multiple tournaments.

## 2. **Tournament Triumphs:**

- Across five tournaments (April to June), 14 players represented us.
- The results speak volumes:
  - **Amex FS Super 8:** 7 top 10 finishes in both singles and doubles.
  - **Gauteng East Mini 1:** 6 top 10 finishes.
  - **GC Wilson Marks Park GP:** 9 top 10 finishes.
  - **GC Mini:** 6 top 10 finishes.
  - **GE Ekhuruleni Grand Prix:** 9 top 10 finishes.

## **Empowering Young Tennis Stars: The JTI Programme**

The Junior Tennis Initiative (JTI) is our beacon of tennis enthusiasm, reaching out to diverse communities and schools. Here's the uplifting story:

### 1. **Creating Awareness:**

- JTI introduces tennis to young players aged under 10 to under 14.
- Our mission? To ignite passion and curiosity for the game across different areas.

### 2. **Community Rollout:**

- JTI has already made waves in several areas:
  - Vosloorus
  - Hammanskraal
  - Seshego
  - Toronto Primary
  - Lebowakgomo

### 3. **Expanding Horizons:**

- Our goal for the future? To increase the number of hubs and, most importantly, schools.
- Every new hub or school added to the programme will have a chance to participate in the BNP Rising Star tournament in their provinces.
- JTI provides playing equipment, coach updates, and Rising Star tournaments offer valuable competitive opportunities.



#### 4. Looking Ahead:

- Let's increase the number of festivals—our target is a minimum of 4 for 2024.
- JTI collaborates seamlessly with Rising Star, ensuring a smooth transition for kids from JTI to competitive play.
- Our focus areas for 2024 include:
  - Mpumalanga (Ka-Nyamazane area and Mbombela)
  - Free State (Kgotsong and Bothaville)
  - Venda (Vhembe District)
  - North West (Mahikeng)



### Empowering Coaches: JTI's Impact

#### 1. Qualifications Matter:

- JTI ensures our coaches attend relevant courses and acquire the right qualifications.
- Armed with knowledge, they're better equipped to guide players at various clubs.

#### 2. Success Story:

- We're thrilled that one coach completed the Level 2 coaching course and is excelling.
- Their progress inspires us to continue supporting coaches on their learning journey.



### 3. Next Steps:

- Our plan? To have the remaining coaches attend a Play Tennis course.
- We're also assisting those who haven't completed their qualifications yet.
- Rest assured, we're on track with our JTI KPIs.

Together, we're shaping both players and coaches for a brighter tennis future!







ITF/CAT U12 Team Competition winners - qualified for Africa finals 2023







Phillip Henning – Davis Cup Africa Group III

### 1) **Summary of TSA High Performance key projects:**

- Davis Cup: Africa Group III: Tuks, Pretoria - August 2023.  
Team: Philip Henning, Devin Badenhorst, Leo Matthysen, Christiaan Worst.
- Securing ITF J200, J300 in KZN for August/September 2024.
- Prioritizing AJTC Team events: U/12 – U/18 for 2024.
- ITF/CAT AJTC U/14 & U/16 Teams Competition, July 2023 Egypt.
- ITF/CAT U/12 Final team event – Morocco, October 2023.
- AJTC U/14 & U/16 Final Team Competition – Egypt, May 2023.
- AJC U/14 Individual Championships: Togo, March 2023.
- AJTC U/16 Team Competition, June 2023 – Egypt, qualifying event for WJT finals.
- ITF/CAT Southern Region 12&U team event: Mozambique, 15 – 23 July 2023.
- Billie Jean King Cup Euro/Africa Group II, Lisbon: 10 – 15 April 2023.  
Team: Isabella Kruger, Mari-Louise van Zyl, Naledi Manyube, Suzanie Pretorius.
- ITF/CAT Southern African Zonal U/14 & U/16 team event: Namibia, Jan 2024.
- Davis Cup Group II: Vietnam - February 2024.
- All Africa Games: Accra, Ghana - March 2024.
- BRICS Games: China, South Africa, Russia, India – Durban, October 2023.
- ITF/CAT U/18 African Junior Championships: Cairo, Egypt - February 2024.

### 2) **Key achievements:**

- Davis Cup Group III, Tuks: Winners - promoted to World Group II play-offs.
- Boys U/16 and girls' U/14 - qualified for AJTC's in North Africa – June/July 2023.
- SAJC U/14 & U/16 Zonal Championships winners: Windhoek, Namibia - Jan 2024.
- Davis Cup group II: SA beat Vietnam 3-2: February 2024.
- Jahn timer van Zyl: no. 1 in Africa for U/14 girls on CAT ranking for 2023.
- Philip Henning and Isabella Kruger: GSPDP team – Tunisia, November 2023.
- U/14 Boys & Girls and U/16 Boys and Girls qualified for AJTC's 2024 final events.
- ITF/CAT U/12 Team Competition winners, July '23 - qualified for Africa finals 2023.



- Jahn timer van Zyl: GSPDP ITF/CAT U/14 young stars team to Europe - July/Aug 2023.

**Women’s Tennis: BJK Cup - The way forward:**

- Assisting more top ranked players to improve their Junior ITF and WTA rankings.  
Main objectives to raise the standard of women’s tennis in SA:
- Touring opportunities to high grade ITF’s and \$15k events for 15–18-year-old girls.
- Assist top ranked junior players to reach benchmarks: assist with wild cards.
- Develop basic competitive skills through learning to cope with basic competitive environments by participating in other sports at age 12 & U.

**3) Men’s tennis - Davis Cup & US college tennis: the way forward:**

- Establishing a group of next gen Davis Cup players by exposing them to \$15k and \$25k events in SA as well as the southern region.
- Monitor Next Gen/Davis Cup players – fitness test evaluations before the next tie.

**Key HP categories of players identified, and priorities set for each for 2024:**

<b>Juniors</b>	<b>College Players</b>	<b>HP Women’s Tennis</b>	<b>Pro’s</b>
<b>Focus on junior ITF’s:</b> Start to build a ranking from age 14 for our top juniors.	<b>ITF Futures in SA:</b> College players to play futures in SA May – July 2024.	<b>BJK Cup:</b> Building a Next Gen BJK Cup team. Fast track top juniors.	<b>Futures \$15k &amp; \$25k events:</b> Securing more SA Futures events.
<b>Securing SA ITF’s:</b> Hosting 12+ ITF’s annually, linking to ITF’s in the southern region.	<b>TSA the link:</b> Assist Juniors with college applications.	<b>Wiphold girls’ squad:</b> Introducing Wiphold squad camps again.	<b>Futures events, SA:</b> Increase number of Futures during June/July break.
<b>Start a squad system:</b> Squad system for tours to tournaments.	<b>College camps:</b> Re-connecting also with SA top juniors.	<b>Talent ID:</b> Early talent ID to assist with player pathway.	<b>Tours to Futures:</b> Possible squad tours to Futures.
<b>ITF/CAT GSPDP Teams:</b> More than 2 boys & 2 girls selected for 2024.	<b>More exposure:</b> Top College results on SA website.	<b>Player pathway:</b> More exposure to ITF’s for U/14 girls.	<b>More recognition:</b> Player results to be published regularly.

**4) High Performance and Development Department – ITF/OS project:**

- A total of 24 players selected - February 2023 as part of ITF/OS project.
- Further scaled down to top 16 - fast tracking them into SA tournaments and ITF’s.
- Total of 14 OS project players qualified for Junior Nationals in March 2024.
- Six OS players - top 50 TSA junior ranking.
- Three players in the top 10 on the TSA junior ranking in 2024.

**5) Areas of concern:**

- International exposure for our Junior high-performance players.
- Need for more Junior & World Tour ITF events in Southern Africa.





- Building a Next Gen Davis Cup & BJK Cup team for 2024 and onwards.
- Physical conditioning of our top players a major concern: train to be resilient.
- Communication with HP player's coaches reveal a lack of planning for players.
- Our players are behind other nations on the physical/mental skills required.
- Windows of optimal physical development is crucial, physical literacy from 10&U.
- Coaches/parents push for early results instead of developing a better all-round wide base of athleticism - ABC's of physical literacy to be emphasized more.

**6) High Performance – Focus areas for 2024 onwards:**

- Securing more Junior & World Tour ITF events for 2024 and onwards.
- More U/14's & U/16's exposed to ITF's will assist selectors especially between Zonals and AJTC team events.
- Tournament pathway: Exposure to CAT events in Southern Africa for U/14's.
- Focus on ITF/CAT AJTC team events for U/12 – U/18 going forward.
- Junior teams to qualify for Junior DC and BJK cup in 2024.
- Both Davis Cup and BJK Cup teams to be promoted into Group II respectively.
- Create different strength ITF circuits – J30/60 and J100/200 events.







### Rainbow Kidz Programme



Tennis South Africa's (TSA) Coaches Education system strive to maintain ITF Gold status granted by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). TSA Coaching Structure is recognised as the governing body of tennis and tennis coaching in SA and as such is required to develop, monitor and enforce standards that ensure the continuous development and maintenance of professional competence of coaches who are members of TSA. Safeguarding in Tennis remain a priority and tennis SA coaching structures have implemented a set of actions that aim to ensure all players participating in Tennis have a positive experience.

Tennis South Africa is currently a leader in South Africa and Africa in coach education as the Federation have implemented and maintained a formal coaching framework. TSA Long Term Coach Development recognises that the learning and development journey of every coach is unique. Coaches learn through their experience as players and in life; through coaching experience and through formal and non-formal learning programmes.

The coaching department would like to thank the ITF for their continuous support as well as Olympic Solidarity, SASCO, the TSA Board, TSA National Coaches Committee, TSA Tutors, TSA Provincial Presidents and loyal TSA Registered Coaches and all others that played an important role in the process of governance and education opportunities during the year.

#### 1. ITF General Report

- ITF Coaching Beginner Intermediate Players (CBI) Tutor Course took place in Zimbabwe from 12 to 15 June 2023. Two TSA Tutors attended the course.
- ITF Advantage All – ITF hosts a Female Coaches Network - AFRICA: introduction of ITF objectives, initiatives and KPIs on 12 July 2023. Ms. Liza-Mari Olivier, Ms. G Enslin and Ms. R Clarke represented Tennis SA at the first interactive webinar. The introduction webinar was hosted 12 June.
- SA coaches were awarded educational grants to attend the Worldwide Coaches Conference. Ms Ghizela Enslin attended and presented at the 2023 conference, She formed part of the Women's Tennis Round Table discussion and presented in the conference room sessions on "Competitive Practices"





- Two coaches attended and successfully completed the ITF Regional Coaching High Performance Players (CHP) Congratulations to Mr Sabelo Mathebula (MP) and Mr Jared Temlett (KZN). Mr Mathebula will be the first black coach to achieve a CHP Certification.
- Ms. Ilze Hattingh was selected and received an Olympic Solidarity grant to attend the ITF CHP Course in 2024 hosted in Valencia. Spain.
- Ms Roxanne Clarke formed part of the WISH programme in 2023. The Women in Sport High Performance Pathway (WISH) aims to equip women coaches, who have the potential and ambition, to succeed in gaining roles at elite coaching levels within their sports. <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1136799/ioc-wish-programme-paris-2024>

"The WISH programme has given me a community of female coaches who face the same challenges as I do on a daily basis. The programme provides support, mentorship and important leadership skills that give us all the confidence to reach for our goals in high performance sports."  
Ms Clarke

- ITF Academy – South Africa remains in the Top 10 globally of most users in the ITF Academy – currently 2031 registered users.

## 2. Transformation and Development/Provincial Matters

- TSA Coaching Department together with the TSA NCC have implemented an opportunity for 90 Coaches to receive a registration waiver for the 2023 Coaches Registration. The barrier seems to be the Police Clearance/Criminal Check as the nominated coaches do not submit the clearance due to the cost. The proposal was to grant voucher codes to complete the criminal checks at HURU locations.
- The implementation of the Provincial and District Coaching committees is an ongoing process. Provinces made good progress, and all Provinces have sent through confirmed committees, Limpopo has sent through an interim committee.
- In the interim Eastern Cape nominated two District representatives to represent coaches in EC and serve on the TSA National Coaches Committee.
- The coaching department emphasise and monitor the progress of all Provinces to ensure the transformation targets are achieved in this coaching calendar year.
- TSA National Coaches Committee have met quarterly. The committee have been functioning well under the leadership of Ms Liza-Mari Olivier and play a critical role to ensure attempts of coaching governance and coaching activities continue within the respective Provinces/Districts.
- The communication and relationships between the Office and Provincial representatives have improved over the past year.

## 3. Coaching Registrations 2023

- The National Coaches Committee AGM was held on 28 February 2024. The majority voted for a virtual meeting. Agenda Items included: TSA Coaching Department Update; TSA Coach Education Development Strategy 2024; Strategic Discussion – TSA Coaches Policy and Governance; TSA Coach Licensing Registration Fees 2024; Provincial Matters.
- The committee have been functioning and play a critical role to ensure coaching activities continue within the respective Provinces/Districts
- Coaching registrations comparison TOTAL 2021: 678 2022: 632 2023: 602

The decrease in numbers is likely due to the TSA Mentorship programme that previously allowed coaches that formed part of the programme to receive sponsorship of coaching licence registration.

Important to note that July 2024 TSA coaching registrations already passed the 600 mark which makes it a record year to date as we are only 4 months into the calendar year,

- Coaching registration fees for 2023-2024 financial year were proposed and voted on during the AGM. A R500.00 penalty fee was implemented for all late payments (After 30 April 2024)



- All Provinces are responsible to collect the Provincial and District fees through Sporty HQ and an additional fee of R150.00 may be collected as a Provincial Coaches Administration Fee

#### 4. Coaches Education

- Tutor Training- TSA have 11 active tutors (6 female/5 male) and have regular communication and meetings to ensure best practice and current information are shared during workshops and courses. There was Play Tennis virtual tutor sessions as well as Advanced Instructor and Professional updates.
- TSA Coaching hosted 35 Coaching Events from April 2022 –March 2023 period: National Coaches Conference (1 – 459 Registrants)/ CPD Workshops (12—496 attendees)/ Play Tennis (12 – 154 candidates)/ National Instructor (5 – 47 Candidates)/Advanced Instructor (1 – 8 Candidates)/ NCC AGM (1- All Provinces Present)
- CPD Workshops – All Provinces hosted or had an opportunity to attend, except Eastern Cape
- A record high attendance of CPD Workshops as well as National Coaches Conference was recorded in this calendar year.
- The Annual National Coaches Conference was set up via the ITF Academy and hosted via Zoom with a group of International Experts in March 2024. A total of 496 coaches registered while a consistent 350 coaches were participants on the zoom platform over the 2 days.
- Recognised Centres of Apprenticeship 2023 – BRONZE: 34 SILVER: 19 GOLD: 3 PLATINUM: 2

#### 5. Policies & Safeguarding

- Tennis SA coaching prioritises safeguarding in our sport by ensuring all coaches meet certain minimum requirements. The TSA Safeguarding officer provide support and assist in dealing complaints and allegations. All questions, complaints or report are submitted to [safeguarding@tennissa.co.za](mailto:safeguarding@tennissa.co.za) / <https://www.tennissa.co.za/w/tsa-safeguarding-policy>
- TSA has trained all Tournament Directors and is in the process of training and appointing Provincial Safeguarding officers to support the initiative of safe sport.
- Continuous education of coaches, players and parents was implemented, however will need to be an ongoing process.
- The new TSA Coaches Policy draft will also be finalised and aligned with all TSA policies in 2024.

#### 6. Rainbow Kidz & Rainbow Kidz Matchplay Mania

TSA Rainbow Kidz Initiative was launched in 2019 and has operated without an official sponsor or formal financial support. We hope to expand on the initiative in 2025.

- 2006 Playing entries were received to participate in Rainbow Kidz Matchplay Mania events in 2023.
- The Rainbow Kidz initiative provides more match play opportunities for red, orange, and green ball players.
- Rainbow Kidz Ambassadors – Our department recognise Rainbow Kidz Coaching Ambassadors. The role of the ambassador is to promote the programme and include all FUNDamentals to Tennis and is aimed at players AGES 4-12 Years, to introduce and develop players in their formative years. Develop players in a way tennis is played and ensure players can move, make decisions, implement tactics.
- The Rainbow Kidz coaching, and competition initiative is also driven by the ITF JTI Coordinator in South Africa across SA. They hosted activation activities across SA in 2023.

*Special Thank You:*

*“Thank you to the TSA registered coaches across South Africa for your hard work and dedication in tennis and striving to raise the standard of players' performance. This is a reminder of opportunity as a coach to remain professional and lead in tennis coaching. Coaches can shape*

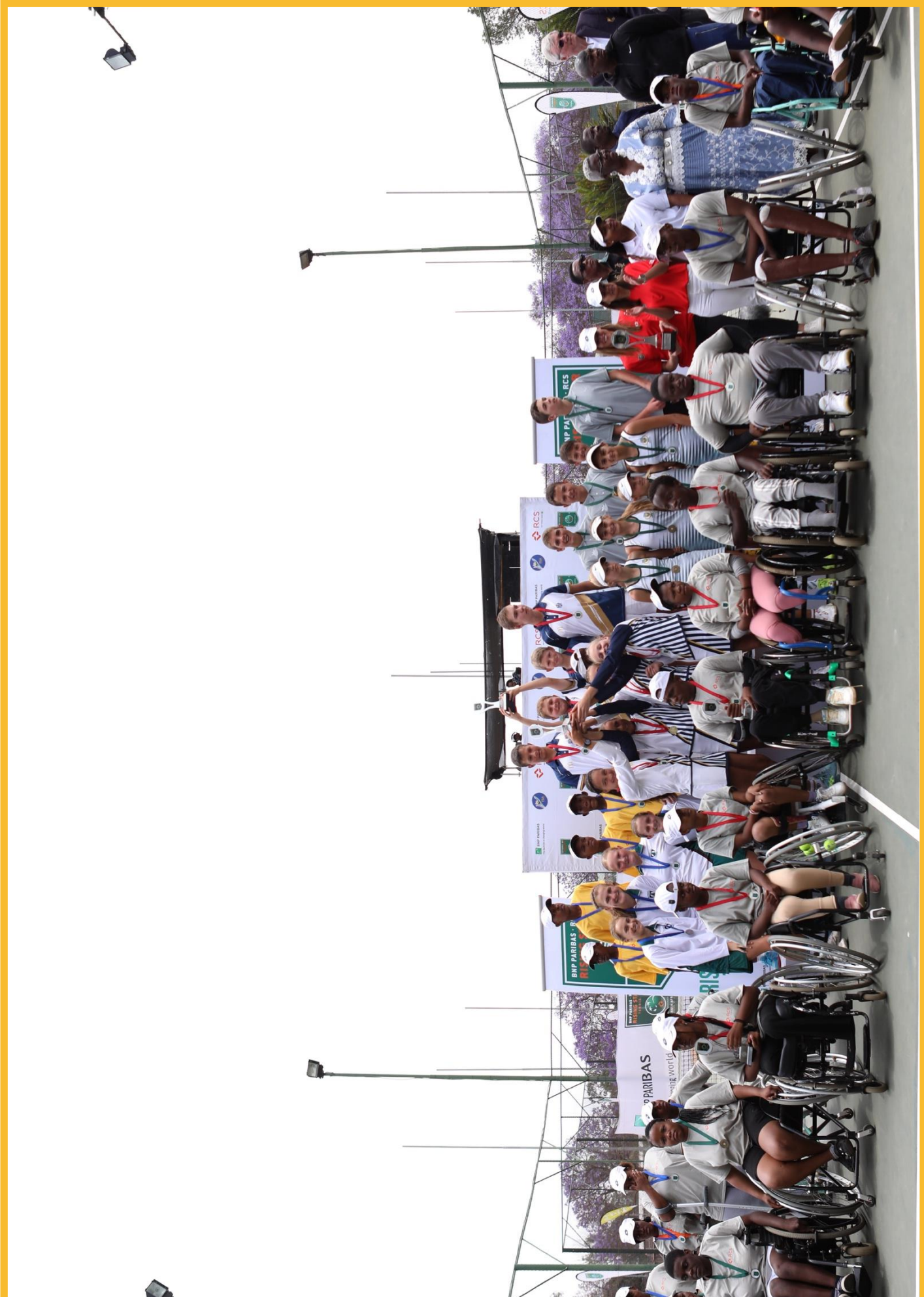


players not only as athletes but also as individuals. The values of enjoying the process, sportsmanship, resilience, hard work that you instil will stay with a player for a lifetime."

TSA NCC Chairperson and Coaches Representative on the TSA Board, Ms Liza-Mari Olivier







RCS Rising Star Tennis National Final in Polokwane.



The annual trip to the UK took place from 29 June to 7 July 2023. In contrast with 2022, all went well with the visas. We had a scare at the airport when we received a message that the flight had been cancelled. Fortunately, Virgin managed to reinstall the flight. The tour is a real test for our players. We arrived in the early hours of the morning, left luggage at the hotel, and went straight into our first match at Sutton. To make matters worse, the matches were played on clay. Fortunately, South Africans are known for their tenacity and the players embraced the opportunity. We narrowly lost this tie. It was clear that jetlag played a major role. Our next match was against the LTA academy at Bisham Abby. Again, it was on clay courts and indoor courts. It was clear that our players were finding their feet, and we drew this tie. Our top boy received a good hiding from a girl from the Ukraine - giving some perspective on his career and the way forward.

Wimbledon, as always, was the highlight. We camped in the queue twice, once in pouring rain. The vibe amongst our team was to die for. It was a privilege to share in the excitement.

### SA Schools' match – Pretoria

This match that was co-organised by the schools' committee and the TSA office, was well attended. We selected a date prior to the ITF tournament in Pretoria. It served as a nice warmup for the players participating in the tournament. Opponents were selected according to the UTR rating and tough matches were played. The SA Schools' team lost this tie against the older and stronger opponents from Gauteng. André de Beer had a high-performance training camp prior to the matches which was well received.

### RCS Rising Star Tennis Championships

We are in the final stages of this competition. Only primary schools are participating due to the bank leaving the country. The high school section was dearly missed. Perhaps a sponsor in the future will revive this tournament for the high schools.



Our normal program was turned upside down by the 2024 calendar. The Schools' Week which was always part and parcel of the March / April holidays – now had to be played in January before term started. A side effect was the fact that provinces had to play trials in 2023 but according to 2024 age groups. Our biggest challenge was to get hold of grade 7 pupils to play in the high school trials. For the first time we realised that there is a big gap in communication on ground level. Many primary schools did not care to enter players because the player was not their responsibility the next year.

All provinces went the extra mile to assure that all involved are aware. The provinces with strong junior structures as well as a well organised coaching system, benefitted.

The week went well. It was disappointing when Eden withdrew at such a stage, when inviting another B-team was not possible. This is the second year in the row. Eden changed chairpersons last year and we had high hopes that this will not happen again. The Schools' Committee will engage with the Eden structure to make sure this does not happen again.

We also had to split the High Schools' Week from the Primary Schools' Week. The Primary Schools Week will take place during the long weekend in August. We normally have our AGM during the Schools' Week. This will now take place during the tournament in August.

The High Schools Week was rain interrupted. The committee had to make challenging decisions. Unfortunately, this did not always suit everyone. The last two sessions (semi-finals and finals) went without interruption with great matches being played. The high light was the announcement of the SA Schools' team who will play a match later during the year. This normally coincide with an ITF tournament to make the travel worthwhile. The last two years happened in Pretoria. Our aim is to move this match down to the Western Cape in 2024. A training camp will again precede the tie. Players were also invited to join the tour to Wimbledon.

#### March 2024 – July 2024

Most “summer rain” provinces play league during this time. This is a very important time for schools' tennis. This is time for mass participation. The biggest league is in Gauteng Central where about 1500 children plays league. Gauteng North is second with bragging rights of about 950 players. This is followed by KZN, Northwest, Free State (+/- 450) and then the smaller provinces. These players are just as important as the stronger players playing in provincial teams and up.

Many schools have started festivals to extend the tennis season. Unfortunately, this is only for top teams and on invitation. Smaller festivals do make provision for smaller schools and B teams of bigger schools. The rest still forms the very important bottom of the pyramid. These are often the players who get involved in club tennis.

The overseas tour is also taking place towards the end of June. Much debate has been taking place in the past about the tour and I suppose it will always be a bone of contention. The fact of the matter is that we are in competition with codes like hockey, cricket, netball, rugby etc. who provide opportunity at this level. If we do not do the same, it will affect the provincial competition that will influence league numbers.

Schools are feeding zones for clubs. It is common knowledge that Padel is having a big negative effect on club numbers. Currently it is mostly students and young adults playing Padel. The Padel facility is too expensive for schools to invest. (Schools like Kearsney College are planning Padel courts though. This will most probably start the competition amongst private schools. In the bigger picture of schools' tennis, it will be a small portion.) I am aware of several school coaches who are not playing club tennis anymore but have been diverted to Padel. We are not sure when school players will leave tennis clubs and follow coaches to Padel.

It is therefore important for schools' tennis to provide as many opportunities as possible. Unfortunately, tennis is not cheap. Coaching, stringing, footwear, travel, accommodation will





remain a running expense. Touring overseas is no exception. We must do all in our power to make the sport as affordable as possible. Taking away opportunities is not an option.

The 2024 tour to the UK was again a highlight. Fourteen players (7 boys and 7 girls) joined the tour. Several parents joined the group with even two grandmothers and a grandfather joining. The TSA office made at least one ground pass for Wimbledon available to all the players. The second day was spent camping. This was well awarded as everyone had either center court or court one ticket. Not even the rain on Tuesday night could dampen the spirit. The matches against Bisham Abbey and Sutton also went well. Our players adapted well to the clay and indoor surfaces. Unfortunately, we do not have days to prepare. In true South African spirit our players put up a huge fight. In between Wimbledon and our own matches some sight-seeing took place and a bunch of tired but satisfied group of players arrived safe and sound back in the country.





Winnie Masemola

### **2023 TSA Junior Nationals**

In April 2023 we saw players going to the city of roses to compete for the National crowns. The 2023 event attracted 488 players from across the country. The tournament was played over 5 venues with around 70 tennis courts. Below are the singles results of Junior Nationals:

#### **Singles Girls**

##### **Under-18**

[1] Kaitlyn Ramduth (KZN) def. [5] Hanmaré MC Aslin (WC) 7-6(2), 6-4

##### **Under-16**

[2] Donna Le Roux (FS) def. [10] Allegra van der Walt (GP) 6-1, 6-4

##### **Under-14**

[2] Jahnne Van Zyl (NW) def. [1] Alicia Taylor (WC) 6-2, 6-4

##### **Under-12**

[1] Lily Haley (KZN) def. [3] Megan Van Vuuren (WC) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6

#### **Boys**

##### **Under-18**

[2] Rudiger Dusselberg (GP) def. [7] Cornel Liebenberg (FS) 2-6, 7-6(5), 6-2

##### **Under-16**

[1] Reuben De Klerk (NW) def. [11] John Bothma (KZN) 6-1, 6-1

##### **Under-14**

[5] JP Snyman (MP) def. Israel Dowie (WC) 6-3, 6-4

##### **Under-12**

[3] Juvan Van Pletzen (NW) def. [16] Nathan Herbert (FS) 6-2, 6-1

### **TSA Super 8 Series Events**

- During the government school holidays 3 Super events were held.
- The KZN Super 8 Series attracted around 243 players this number was lesser than the 2022 event which had 249 entries, the event was played around 4 venues with around 40 tennis courts.
- The KZN event was followed by GC Super 8 Series which had 311 entries for the 2023 calendar year this was 1 entry lesser than the 2022 event. The tournament was played across 4 venues with 40 tennis courts in use.
- The last event over the holidays was the GE Super 8 Series which had around 333 entries, this number was lesser than the 2022 event which had 344 entries. The tournament was played across 6 venues with over 44 tennis courts in use.
- The GN Super 8 series was held in October, and it attracted 335 players this number was lesser than the 2022 event which had an entry of 394 players. The tournament used 5 venues with around 60 tennis courts.
- The December circuit of the Super 8 Series was kicked off in Cape Town, the event attracted 338 players this number was lesser than the 2022 event which had attracted 410 players. The event was played across 7 venues with around 48 tennis courts in use.
- The last Super 8 event of the 2023 season was held in Winelands the events attracted around 337 players this number was lesser than the 2022 which had 353 players, the event was played over 6 venues with around 44 courts in use.





- The 2024 season kicked off with the TSA Schools Super 8 series originally the event was held in the Eastern Cape, the event attracted 337 entries, and it was played over 5 venues with around 60 courts in use.

### **Trio TSA Junior Masters Final Results**

- 2023 Trio TSA Junior Masters the event was held in Cape Town at Edgemead and Welgemoed Tennis Clubs the event hosts the top 8 players across the age groups below are the results of the event.

GS 18 **Kaitlyn Ramduth (KZN)** def Luise Janse Van Rensburg (FS) 64 62

GS 16 **Donna Le Roux (FS)** def Morgan Jordaan (GN) 60 1-1 Ret

GS 14 **Jahnie Van Zyl (NW)** def Alicia Taylor (WP) 60 61

GS 12 **Megan Van Vuuren (WP)** def Lily Hayley 62 16 63 (WP)

BS 18 **James Hart (Gauteng)** def Guy Vorwerck (KZN) 62 63

B16 **Reuben De Klerk (NW)** def Willem De Waal (WP) 64 63

BS 14 **Dehan Van Deventer (WP)** def Hlumani Kekana (WP) 62 16 63

BS 12 **Nicholas Kruger (WP)** def Juvan Van Pletzen (NW) 64 62

### **2024 Amex Junior Nationals**

The 2024 Amex Junior Nationals was hosted in Bloemfontein this was the first event hosted with the new title sponsor the event attracted 496 players which was more than the 2023 Nationals, this event was played over 5 venues with around 70 tennis courts in use.



Under-12 winner and runner-up at the American Express Junior Nationals – Lily Haley (L) and Winnie Masemola (R)



2024 American Express Junior National Championships Winners





Masters World Championships





## Masters Tennis

The Another busy year for the Masters division. This year included a rebranding by the ITF to change the name of the tour from SENIORS to MASTERS. International tournaments were back in full force with fewer and fewer restrictions as the year progressed. Herewith a summary of the activities undertaken over the period.

The Masters flagship tournament took place in Cape Town from 2 to 6 March 2024. This was the first time since 2013 that the Nationals had been hosted at the coast. While the numbers were 12.5% down from 2023, this can partly be attributed to the fact that the 65+ age groups were leaving for World Champs the day after Nationals.

Cape Town showed us the full array of weather conditions over the 5 days of tournament. Saturday saw what the Gautengers described as a gale force wind. Monday was almost completely lost to persistent rain and Wednesday dawned as a peach of a day! We look forward to the 2025 edition. A few of the winners and runner ups



### 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 3% down from 2022, with 4 fewer players. It was once again a well-run tournament. The organisers were very pleased that the tournament could be completed this year after being washed out in the previous year.
- Cape Town Super 6 – the 2024 year started with a bang with the Cape Town Super 6. This was the first time that I had an opportunity to play this tournament and CT showed off with 4 of the most perfect days. The numbers were 3% down, but this could have been



influenced with some out of towners not travelling in Jan but rather travelling for Nationals in March.

- Winelands Super 6 – the entries for the tournament were 14% down on the prior period. The tournament was also unfortunately rained out with NO matches being played at all on the last day due to the intense rain that the area received.
- Growthpoint Super 6 – Gauteng North: The GN Committee hosted this tournament in June 2023. The entries for this tournament were poor, with an 18% decrease in numbers. This year the public holiday fell on a Friday which may have resulted in some players deciding to have a long with family rather than playing the tournament. GN trailed having 4 NEW balls per main draw match. There were mixed feelings among the players as to whether or not this experiment worked. The organisers did feel that the quality of the balls for the back draw matches were improved.
- Gauteng East Super 6 – The entries for this year were down 27%. This is a poor result for a tournament that usually has one of the biggest entries. Gauteng East though put on a good show – the Benoni Lakes venue has had a facelift, and the new court colours and roof top viewing deck were a hit with the players that participated. Always a highlight of the tournament are the daily emails received from Tournament Director Karin Steenkamp.
- Jozi Super 6 – The use of new venues Rivonia and the German club have increased the interest in the Jozi tournament. The entries were slightly down. The weather in the 2023 edition was much better than in 2022 and all events were completed.

#### **OTHER CATEGORY B TOURNAMENTS**

- Ugu Masters: The South Coast tournament once again had the final day of play called off due to persistent rain. A host of the finals were not played as a result. The numbers were slightly down from 2022. A successful players party was hosted by the organising committee – it was well attended by the players.
- North West Masters: This tournament had to be cancelled for 2024. The NW committee was very disappointed to have had their tournament cancelled and will make every effort to ensure that the 2024 edition will take place.
- Mpumalanga Masters – The numbers for the MPM tournament were also down on by 22% on the prior year. The tournament was well run by the MPM committee, and the player feedback was very positive. I am hoping that I will be able to visit this tournament in 2024 as it is 1 of the few that I have yet to visit.
- KZN Masters – as with the other Masters tournament in this period the numbers for the KZN tournament were down by 11.4%. Despite a little rain in the area all the matches for the tournament were completed.
- Eastern Cape Masters: The numbers for this tournament were slightly down this year. The organisation and running of the tournament in 2023 was much better than in 2022. The EC committee have settled down and are making a concerted effort to grow Masters Tennis.
- Cape Town Masters – this tournament changed from a 2-weekend tournament to a 4 day tournament in 2023. This was a great decision from the organising with an almost 50% increase in the entries



## INTERPROVINCIAL 30-50+ KZN

- The final IPT for the year was hosted by KZN in October 2023. The tournament started out on a rainy Monday morning. Thanks to Johann's experience and the team's patience ALL the rain delayed matches were completed during the course of the week to ensure that a winner in each section could be crowned.
- The Herman Putter Trophy for the overall winning province was awarded to **GAUTENG** and The Harry Potter Spirit trophy was awarded to Mpumalanga.

## WORLD CHAMPS 2023

- **55 - 60+ Masters World Champs**

The 55 and 60+ World Team and Individual Championships took place in Lisbon Portugal from 13 – 26 August 2023. We entered a mens and a ladies team into each of the age categories. For many of the players this was their first experience on the red clay, which is quite an adjustment to the hard courts of SA.



The teams all played their hearts out! The final results were as follows:

- Maureen Connolly Cup - Women 55+ ended 7<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams
- Austria Cup - Men 55+ ended 20<sup>th</sup> out of 25 teams
- Alice Marble Cup - Women 60+ ended 16<sup>th</sup> out of 20 teams
- Von Cramm Cup - Men 60+ ended 18<sup>th</sup> out of 23 teams

We also had 2 notable performances in the Individuals. Brian Clark along with his South African partner, Clive Wilson, finished as the runner ups in the MD55 event.







**Runners-up in MD 55: Clive Wilson and Brian Clark**

Clive Wilson although a South African has been living in Australia for the last few years and was not included in the team that went over. Clive himself managed to win the gold medal in the MS60+ at the individuals. This is an amazing achievement, and we are very proud.

- **65+ Masters World Champs**

The final World Team and Individual Champs of the year took place in Mallorca Spain from 8– 21 October 2023.

There were 156 teams from 29 nations competing, this included 6 teams from South Africa. We had 3 ladies in the 80+ age group competing. For some of these players it was their first experience on the red clay – this can be quite an adjustment to the hard courts of South Africa.

The final results:

M65 – 12 out of 25 teams

M70 – 16 out of 22 teams

W65 – 8 out of 21 teams

W70 - 10 out of 17 teams

W75 – 15 out of 15 teams

W80 – 8 out of 9 teams

The most notable results from the individuals were as follows:

- Duard Botha – 4<sup>th</sup> round in the MS65
- Brian Colby and Miles Foxcroft made the quarter finals of the MD70.
- Jenny Cerf – the last 16 of both the mixed and doubles events. She also won a GOLD medal in the consolation singles.



## **WORLD CHAMPS 2024**

- **65+ Masters World Champs**

The teams for the 65+ World champs in Turkiye were selected after the conclusion of the Eden tournament in 2023. There are currently 5 teams in Turkiye participating at the championships. Teams in the following age groups, M75, M70, W80, W75 and W70.

- **50 – 60+ Masters World Champs**

Teams have been selected for the 50-60+ World champs in Mexico at the end of April 2024. Preparations are under way for the teams. We have entered 5 teams. No M50 team will be travelling to Mexico this year.

- **30 – 40+ Masters World Champs**

Masters Nationals was the selection cut-off for the 30-40+ World Champs. Availability will be determined in the coming days and then the teams will be selected for the World Champs in August in Portugal.

## **MASTERS ANNUAL WORKSHOP 2023**

The Annual Masters Workshop took place on Saturday 28 October 2023 at Bryanston Country Club. Provincial and district chairpersons from around the country gathered to discuss issues relating to Masters tennis for the 2024 year. It was a fruitful morning with robust conversation and discussions where important decisions for 2024 were taken. Debra Hyde was re-elected as the Chairperson of the NMC. Roelof van Wyk was elected as the Vice chairperson.





Kgothatso Montjane – 2023 Roland Garros Doubles Champion.





## Wheelchair Tennis

The year 2023–2024 improved when compared to the previous year in terms of activities and results.

### High Performance

Some Athletes received SASCOC operational excellence support and Department of Sport Arts and Culture funding which assisted with improving player rankings by being able to play a few tournaments.

### Events

#### World Team Cup 1-6 May 2023 Portugal

With invaluable support from SASCOC, we proudly participated in the World Team Cup. Our two teams—Men and Quads—showed remarkable spirit. The Quads secured an impressive sixth position, while the Men narrowly missed the world group by ranking twelfth. Our standout players included Danny Mohlamonyane, Lucas Sithole, Donald Ramphadi (Quads), and Leon Els, Alwande Sikhosana, Mpho Mhlongo (Men), guided by Coaches Patrick and Moleboheng.

#### Africa Para Games

Alwande Sikhosana and Leon Els represented South Africa at the inaugural Africa Para Games. Their outstanding performance earned them Gold in doubles, with Alwande also clinching Gold in singles. Notably, Alwande's victory secured a spot at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Accompanied by Manager Patrick Selepe and Coach Gopolang More, they made us proud.

#### World Team Cup Qualifier 08 – 11 Feb Abuja

Despite budget constraints, our Men and Women rallied at the World Team Cup qualifier. After the Women missed the 2023 World Team Cup, and the Men slipped to twelfth place, our determined teams—led by Evans Maripa, Alwande Sikhosana (men), and Mariska Venter, Kgothatso Montjane (Women)—achieved Gold and secured qualification for the World Group in Turkey.



Team SA: 2024 BNP Paribas Africa World team Cup Qualifying event in Nigeria.



## Development Players Camp in Japan 14 – 22 June 2023

In June 2023, our promising young tennis players received an exclusive invitation—the Development Players Camp in Japan. Here's what unfolded:

- **Invitation and Purpose:**

- The NPO Kyushu Wheelchair Tennis Association, in collaboration with the Japan Tennis Federation, extended this prestigious opportunity.
- Their goal? To expose our juniors to international competition, allowing them to gauge their skills against the world's best.

- **Generous Support:**

- The Japan NPO covered all expenses, ensuring our juniors could focus solely on their game.
- Thanks to the Global Sports Mentoring Program, attire costs were taken care of—an inspiring example of mentorship in action.

- **Triumphant Performance:**

- Despite lacking official ranking points, our juniors excelled. Their determination and talent shone brightly.
- The camp reinvigorated our commitment to junior development and intensified our focus on junior programs and tournaments.

- **Meet the Rising Stars:**

- Khanya Xundi, Bongumenzi Biyela, and Ntando Nokama—the trio that carried our hopes.



### SA Schools Championships (July):

- Six provinces—KZN, NW, GP, EC, WC, and Limpopo—participated.
- Gauteng emerged as champions, with Northwest and Limpopo close behind.



### **Johan Cruyff Camp (Sep-Oct):**

- A unique partnership with Ithembelihle School in Germiston saved costs.
- Accommodation, meals, and transport were covered, allowing us to focus on training.
- Botswana and Tanzania joined, courtesy of ITF grants.

### **Ithembelihle Junior Tournament (Oct):**

- Our first junior tournament in South Africa, hosted with the school.
- Boys who attended the Japan Camp played the finals, earning ITF ranking points.
- Girls competed valiantly, despite the challenge of facing boys.

### **Rising Stars Provincials and Nationals (Oct):**

- All seven provinces showcased their best talent in Polokwane.
- Travel logistics posed challenges, especially for participants with disabilities.
- Forty juniors had a blast competing and connecting.

### **KPM ITF Juniors Tournament (Mar):**

- KPM sponsorship covered all costs in Middleburg.
- Ntando Nokama and Bongumenzi now rank 13th and 14th globally.
- Africa boasts nine players in the top 10—an incredible achievement.

### **Development Coaches Contracts (Nov):**

- Coaches' contracts terminated, prompting a focus on school-based programs.
- Our goal: nurturing the next generation of high-performance players.

### **ITF Wheelchair Tennis Summit (Nov):**

- Our presentation sparked action for wheelchair tennis development in Africa.
- More countries receive grants for Johan Cruyff Camp, with a path to junior masters.
- We are invited to contribute to the wheelchair tennis junior's strategic plan which is exciting.

**Conclusion:** Our strategic shift prioritizes juniors, aiming to elevate them to the highest levels. More ITF tournaments will solidify our recognition. Let's continue nurturing talent and reshaping the game!







Launch of American Express as the new title sponsor of Tennis South Africa. From L-R: Khensani Nobanda (Nedbank), Gavin Crookes (Tennis SA) and Briana Wilsey (American Express).

## Communications

The following report aims to provide a summary of the work conducted by the Head of Commercial, Communications and Stakeholder Management during the period from March 2023 to April 2024. 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>2023/04/05: Bella maak buiging vir SA span in Portugal</p> <p>2023/04/12: Young SA stars elected for Billie Jean King Cup</p> <p>2023/05/12: SA U/14 boys and girls' teams compete in African Junior Team Championship in Egypt</p> <p>2023/06/01: Tennis SA announces the end of its relationship with title sponsor Growthpoint properties.</p> <p>2023/06/11: SA's duo make French Open glory.</p> <p>2023/06/20: French Open winner Donald Ramphadi finally returns home.</p> <p>2023/06/25: Montjane returns from French double delight.</p> <p>2023/06/28: SA to host 2023 Davis Cup Africa Regional Event</p> <p>2023/09/11: SA tennis ace Montjane wins her second Grand Slam of the year with US Open title.</p> <p>2023/09/12: RCS rising star tennis promotes inclusivity and equality in cape town.</p> <p>2023/09/14: Alwande Sikhosana scores spot for Paris paralympics</p> <p>2023/09/27: Polokwane to host Rising Star Tennis national finals.</p> <p>2023/12/05: Tennis South Africa and WIPHOLD to host major women's events in 2024.</p> <p>2024/03/15: Tennis South Africa three-year sponsorship deal with American Express</p> <p>2024/03/22: Rising Star Tennis returns for another exciting season</p>
<b>TOP MEDIA</b>	<p>Beeld Sport</p> <p>Die Burger Sport</p> <p>Motsweding FM</p> <p>Newzroom Afrika</p> <p>Independent on Saturday</p> <p>SABC 2</p> <p>SAFM</p> <p>The Citizen Sport</p> <p>Metro FM</p> <p>ENCA</p>



	<p>Sunday Times Sport</p> <p>Business Day Sports Day</p> <p>702/Cape Talk Simulcast</p> <p>SABC News</p> <p>e.TV</p> <p>Rapport Sport</p> <p>SABC 3</p> <p>Get It Magazines</p> <p>Motsweding FM</p> <p>IOL</p>
<b>COVERAGE REPORT</b>	<p><b>Press releases issued:</b> 79.</p> <p><b>Total AVE:</b> R20 392 306,17</p> <p><b>Total PR Value:</b> R61 176 918,51</p> <p><b>Number of Coverage pieces:</b> 358</p> <p><b>Circulation:</b> 84 339 678</p>
<b>DIGITAL MEDIA</b>	<p><b>Followers: As of 31 August 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook – 32 950 (7.52% growth)</li> <li>• Twitter – 11,289 (9.1%)</li> <li>• Instagram – 8,819 (12.16%)</li> <li>• LinkedIn – 470 (49.21%)</li> </ul>
<b>SABC LIVE BROADCASTS</b>	<p><b>Live Broadcasts on SABC 3, SABC 2, SABC Sport channel and SABC+:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 x live broadcasts delivered to SABC during this period.</li> <li>• Average viewership of live tennis matches ~ 689 213.</li> </ul>
<b>TENNIS SA MAGAZINE SHOW</b>	<p><b>Half-hour format monthly magazine show aired on SABC 3 every last Saturday of the month:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 x shows delivered to SABC during this period.</li> <li>• Average viewership ~ 419 821.</li> </ul>





SABC live broadcast at the WIPHOLD International events (W40 Pretoria) in Pretoria.



Interview with RCS Group Deputy CEO Mariné van Brakel during the national final of Rising Star Tennis.





## 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
	<p>Our Headline Sponsor – covering: Junior tennis, Transformation and development, the National Club Championships and Amex Tennis Town.</p>
	<p>Rising Star Schools Tennis Programme.</p>
 <p>WIPHOLD</p>	<p>Women's Tennis in South Africa.</p>
 <p>Southern Sun</p>	<p>Official hotel partner of TSA.</p>
	<p>Official tennis ball for selected events and the TSA development centres.</p>
	<p>Official broadcast partner of TSA.</p>
	<p>Official apparel partner for all of our national teams.</p>
 <p>sport, arts &amp; culture Department Sport, Arts and Culture REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p>	<p>Federation Support Partner across all programmes and departments.</p>
 <p>NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION LOTTO FUNDED</p>	<p>Federation funded by National Lotteries Commission.</p>





