

ANNUAL REVIEW

MIDLANDS SQUASH UNION



2023 AGM - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

LADDER TOURNAMENT

- We went back to the original format of having the ladder tournament fixtures twice a week over 2 weeks and this proved to be the right choice, however, getting the top ladies to commit was a challenge due to school and other sporting activities

INTERTOWN

- The 1st intertown held in Durban was a success and we had a large amount of players from Midlands going to Westville to compete against KZN. The 2nd intertown was cancelled as KZN were unable to put together enough players.

YOUTH IN SQUASH

- Midlands hosted the Youth in squash holiday roadshows over 3 terms and it was a resounding success. The 2nd term roadshow was fully sponsored by MSU and our coaches were happy to volunteer their time. A big thank you must also go to our coaches, Bongani Khumalo, Jerome Enoch, Cameron Marion, Trevor Fryer, Nicola Bentley and Melvyn Cochrane for all their efforts. Their inputs and commitment are extremely valuable.
- Squash balls were given to all participants. Rackets were provided for the session by Midlands Squash to children that did not have their own. Snacks and cool drinks were served to all the players, parents and coaches. The roadshow especially the mini Bell Tournament was enjoyed by all and many would like the roadshows extended throughout the year.
- Midlands Squash Union would like to thank Squash SA for giving us the opportunity once again to host a most enjoyable and educational development program which was most appreciated by the less fortunate youth. A detailed report of the events was sent to SSA

WINTER LEAGUE

- The annual Winter League ran from April to September and saw teams from various clubs compete in weekly matches. The league provided a platform for players of all abilities to enjoy competitive squash in a team setting. The 2023 Winter League was successfully run under the guidance of our evergreen League secretary, Andrew Barnes, numbers have increased slightly from 2022
- We thank Cut Right Kitchens as our continued sponsor for the 2023 Winter League. We are extremely grateful to Cut Right Kitchens for continuously showing Midlands their support. We say a huge Thank you to Denis Harel and Cut Right Kitchens for all their support over the years.

MIDLANDS CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

- The premier event of the Midlands squash calendar, the Closed Championships saw players battle it out for provincial titles in various age and skill divisions.
- The Midlands closed was hosted from 8th to 12th May across 4 sections, (3 men and 1 ladies section), comprising of 16 players per section and 8 in the ladies section. A total of 56 participants competed in this event. Due to the lack of entries in the Ladies Section, We had 2 round robins of 4 players per section
- The winner of the Men's A was Daryn Pieters with Justin Gouweloos coming in at 2nd place.
- The Winner of the Ladies section was Ellena Chemaly-Sutherland with Maxine Gouweloos coming in at 2nd place

GROWTHPOINT IPT

- A special thanks to Dalmain Strydom and Melanie De Wet for their efforts in assembling the Midlands teams and ensuring their participation in the event. Our Ladies team finished off in 2nd Place in the Ladies Section. The Midlands Mens' teams were in the B and C sections and finished off at 2nd and 7th places respectively

MASTERS MEMBERSHIP

- Our Masters Membership decreased slightly to 69 members & Midlands Squash has had a good year getting Masters tournaments back up and running

SA MASTERS IPT SINGLES

- This event was held in Cape Town in May. Due to the cost factor, majority of Midlands Masters were not keen on attending, therefore we were unable to put together a team.



ADDED PRIORITIES

- Improving social media presence. Send us your squash related photos to publish on our facebook page

DAVE SHORT IPT

- This prestigious Masters tournament took place in September at various clubs around PMB. This event was yet again sponsored by Space TV. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to Clint Voigt and Space TV for their continuous support.
- The event featured top players from around the country and offered a challenging and competitive environment for the experienced squash enthusiasts.

SA MASTERS IPT DOUBLES

- Midlands hosted the IPT doubles here in PMB. We had a total of 339 player from all over SA. The tournament was an immense success with only positive feedback from all the provinces, Players and SA Masters.

MASTERS SPRING LEAGUE

- We had a good response for doubles and ended up with 8 doubles sections.
- We thank Andrew Barnes, ably supported by Rennisha, for all their efforts in arranging this great annual event.

MSU OFFICE

- The office continues to run smoothly under the very capable secretary, Rennisha Larkin.

MSU GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

- This event was another great success despite been postponed the first time due to heavy rains. We did lose a few teams who could not commit to the alternate date. A huge thank you goes to all the sponsors and participants that ensured the success of this fundraising project

**PROMOTE
YOUR
BUSINESS**

- Increase your business clientele by receiving free advertising in return for sponsoring a tournament or items for our goodie bags

LOWLIGHTS

The decrease in the ladies league and players are still a concerning factor

HIGHLIGHTS

The MSU also hosted a number of other events throughout the year, including ladder tournaments, social doubles events, and junior development programs. The junior development programs and player assistance continue to produce talented young players, with some juniors achieving notable results at national and international tournaments. These events helped to promote squash at all levels and provided opportunities for players to connect and have fun

WHAT'S NEXT

- The MSU is excited to build on the success of 2023 and has a busy calendar of events planned for 2024. The upcoming year promises even more exciting competition, social events, and opportunities for players to develop their skills. With a strong foundation in place, the future of Midlands squash looks bright

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

