



ANNUAL REVIEW

MIDLANDS SQUASH UNION



2024 AGM
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

LADDER TOURNAMENT

Getting players to enter or commit to the Ladder tournament is getting more difficult with each year especially in the Ladies Section. However, we saw some impressive individual performances and a noticeable improvement in the standard of play for many players

INTERTOWN

The 1st intertown was held in Pietermaritzburg and was a success. We had more player participation from Midlands as it was a home tournament. The 2nd intertown was held at Westville Country Club in Durban and unfortunately, Midlands saw a large drop in numbers for the 2nd Intertown due to many players been away or injured.

YOUTH IN SQUASH

Midlands hosted the Youth in squash holiday roadshows over 3 terms and it was a resounding success. The first Development program was held over 3 days, from the 2-4 July with a total of 86 participants.

The second Development program was held on the 27th September. This was not a favorable date for most and we had a small group of 12 children.

On 12 December 2024, the Midlands Squash Union successfully hosted a Youth Development Program, welcoming 55 children, primarily from Pietermaritzburg Children's Home and Sunlit Gardens. The program aimed to introduce these children to the fundamentals of squash in a fun and engaging environment. Many children lacked essential equipment such as shoes and racquets due to their circumstances. However, they demonstrated immense enthusiasm and enjoyment throughout the program. To ensure continued participation, Midlands Squash Union is seeking donations of:

Used Squash Shoes

Used Squash Racquets

These donations will play a crucial role in enabling these children to fully engage in the sport.

We express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated coaches, Bongani Khumalo, Kim Hardman, Cameron Marion, Mark Rautenbach, and our junior assistants, Ruvay Ramdhin, Bhavna Ramdhin, Jade Hardman and Shreya Maharaj, all who volunteered their time and expertise. We extend our thanks to Squash SA for their crucial funding support that made this program possible. We believe this program has had a positive impact on the lives of these children by introducing them to a new sport and providing them with valuable life skills

WINTER LEAGUE

The 2024 Winter League, spanning from April to September, successfully concluded with increased participation compared to the previous year. This annual event offers a valuable platform for players of all skill levels to engage in competitive team squash. We express our sincere gratitude to Cut Right Kitchens for their continued sponsorship of the 2025 Winter League, demonstrating unwavering support for Midlands squash. A special thanks to Melanie De Wet, our dedicated League Secretary, for her invaluable guidance in organizing the successful league.

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 29 April – 3rd May 2024 across 5 sections, (4 men and 1 ladies section), comprising of 16 players per section and 8 in the ladies section. We welcomed the Men's D section back after a drop in Numbers since 2020. A total of 50 players participated in this premier event. Daryn Pieters emerged victorious in the Men's A section, with Justin Gouweloos securing second place. In the Ladies section, Nicola Bentley claimed the title, while Maxine Gouweloos finished as runner-up.

GROWTHPOINT IPT

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dalmain Strydom and Melanie De Wet for their tireless efforts in assembling and guiding the Midlands teams for the Growthpoint Inter-Provincial Tournament (IPT). The Men's A team achieved a commendable third-place finish in the Men's B section, while the Men's B team placed fourth in the Men's C Section. The Ladies team faced strong competition and finished sixth in the Women's B section.



**ADDED
PRIORITIES**

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

MASTERS MEMBERSHIP

Masters membership experienced a slight decline to 60 members. However, Midlands Squash successfully revitalized Masters tournaments this year. Masters who paid their membership subscriptions before March 31st received a complimentary Midlands shirt and free entry into the Midlands Spring League.

SA MASTERS IPT SINGLES

The Masters IPT Singles tournament was held in Port Elizabeth from May 23rd to 27th, 2024. Due to the significant travel costs, participation from Midlands Masters was limited. Despite this, Midlands successfully fielded two teams in the Men's section

DAVE SHORT IPT

The prestigious Dave Short IPT, a Masters tournament, took place in September at various clubs in Pietermaritzburg. Despite the absence of a major sponsorship, Midlands hosted a highly successful event. Positive feedback was received from all participating provinces, and newcomers eagerly anticipate the next DSIPT.

SA MASTERS IPT DOUBLES

The Masters IPT Doubles tournament was held in Cape Town from November 7th to 9th, 2024. High travel costs impacted participation, but Midlands entered two Ladies teams, seven Men's teams, and four Mixed teams.

MIDLANDS DOUBLES SPRING LEAGUE

The Spring League was expanded to include all players, not just Masters. This resulted in a slight increase in participation, with younger players joining the competition. We express our sincere gratitude to Andrew Barnes and Kay Meyrick for their exceptional work in organizing a highly successful Spring League.

MSU OFFICE

The MSU office continues to operate efficiently under the capable leadership of Secretary Rennisha Larkin. A new computer was acquired for the office, and a new cell phone number (068 601 8975) has been implemented. The previous number is no longer in use. Please update your contacts to ensure you receive WhatsApp messages from the new number.



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

MSU GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

The MSU Golf Day Fundraiser was once again a resounding success. We extend our sincere gratitude to all sponsors and participants whose generous contributions ensured the event's success.

LOWLIGHTS

The decrease in the number of ladies players is still a concerning factor

HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, MSU hosted a variety of events, including ladder tournaments, social doubles events, and junior development programs. The junior development programs and player assistance initiatives continue to nurture talented young players, with some achieving remarkable results at national and international tournaments. These events serve to promote squash at all levels, fostering a vibrant community and providing opportunities for players to connect and enjoy the sport.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Midlands Squash Union is thrilled to announce an exciting lineup of events for the 2025 season, building on the successes of the previous year. Get ready for a year filled with competitive matches, social gatherings, and opportunities to develop your squash skills. Visit our website and social media pages to learn more about upcoming events and how to get involved!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



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