

The Wanderers Squash Club

Chairman's Report for 2021

Presented at the Wanderers Squash Club AGM on Monday 15 November 2021

Following a devastating year in 2020 in which the Covid pandemic put paid to most squash tournaments and league matches, we were fortunate in 2021 to be able to partake in Joburg League matches and several tournaments once again.

Many clubs were hesitant to run regular tournaments due to the restriction in the number of players allowed and individual's reluctance to participate. However, one of the first tournaments to be run in 2021 was the Joburg Junior Squash Open Tournament held at Parkview Squash Centre. Three of our Development players, Bongani Machava, Bandile Machava and David Machava, took part in the tournament which was run under very strict Covid protocols. Both Bongani and Bandile took plate prizes in the main draw and David came second in the pool section.

Joburg Masters League commenced on Thursday 18 March and the Joburg Men's League on Tuesday 13 April. Although there were only seven Joburg Men's leagues this year, players were keen to enter and Wanderers fielded five teams in the Reserve, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th leagues. We also entered two teams into the Joburg Masters 2nd and 4th leagues.

Club membership numbers took a significant dip in 2020, dropping to 154 from 187 in 2019. However, there are positive signs that players want to get back onto the courts again and our membership currently stands at 171.

Our income is mainly derived from membership levies and occasional sponsorship and court-hire. While the country is still locked down at Covid Level 1 it is difficult to get additional income from sponsorship and court hire due to the restriction on spectators and visitors to the club. However, we are in a strong financial position going into 2022 and we hope to be able to grow our activities as Covid restrictions are eased.

Unfortunately, our cash flow is still insufficient to fund an attendant at the squash office. However, due to innovative schemes to provide support for members remotely and obtaining assistance from Gavin Halston's food & beverage bar staff at the Spinners (namely Melusi) to collect court fees from the Masters 2nd League players on Thursday nights, we have been able to continue to administer the courts successfully.

The courts are generally in a good condition thanks to the regular cleaning services provided by the Main Club. Some attention will be required to some of the floor boards on Court 5 in the near future but, otherwise, the courts are fine for hosting league and tournaments going into 2022.

Recognition of Individuals

Club Awards

Club awards are given in recognition of club members who have made an impact on the playing scene during the year.

Team of the Year - Wanderers "E" team once again came first in their league, only losing one out of the 16 matches they played in the 6th League. The team comprised Graham West, Martin Cowper, Wayne Bennett, Fabio Lorregian, Sasha Lunsche and James Thomas.

Club Champion - The winner of the 2020 Club Championships was Phil Louw, beating Bruce Young 15-13 in the fifth game and winning three games to two. This year's Club Champs finals will be held on Tuesday 23 November and all members are encouraged to come and watch some exciting squash on the glass court.

Joburg League Results 2020

Joburg League

1 st League	(10 teams)	<i>(No Wanderers team)</i>
Res League	(9 teams)	WN-A in 7 th position.
2 nd League	(10 teams)	<i>(No Wanderers team)</i>
3 rd League	(10 teams)	WN-B in 3 rd position.
4 th League	(9 teams)	WN-C in 3 rd position.
5 th League	(10 teams)	WN-D in 5 th position
6 th League	(9 teams)	WN-E 1 st position.

Masters League

2 nd League	(6 teams)	Wanderers A in 2 nd position.
4 th League	(9 teams)	Wanderers C in 4 th position

I'd like to thank Phil Louw and Keith Willows for continuing to manage the Gauteng League teams Masters teams respectively.

Tournaments

Some of the tournaments that had been held at The Wanderers Squash Club in the past such as the annual doubles tournament, the Movember tournament and the Planet Fitness Fourways challenge were unfortunately not held this year.

- The Wanderers Club hosted a series of training sessions for Egoli Squash, to which the Thusong Development players were invited.
- The annual Wanderers / Chamber Challenge was held at The Wanderers Club on World Squash Day, Saturday 9 October. After a hard-fought tournament, Chamber won 55 games to 41, retaining the cup for the second year in a row.

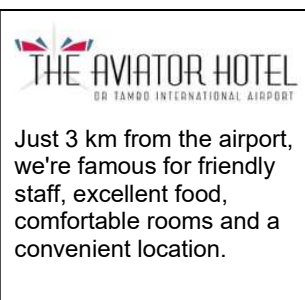
Tournaments still on the calendar for this year are:

- Wanderers Squash Club Championships, with the finals and a braai taking place on Tuesday 23 November 2021.

Advertising and Court Sponsorship

Understandably, companies were reluctant to sponsor courts this year. However, The Aviator Hotel continued their support on Court 4 and we are extremely grateful to Nick Constas for this.

We are continually striving to advertise the facilities of the club and our activities to increase much needed membership, sponsorship and hire of the courts. I'd like to thank Gary Plumstead for continuing to update the social media platforms with club activities.



Squash Development Programme

The weekly Thusong Squash Development coaching was terminated at the end of March 2020 due to the lockdown. However, the top five players have been given Honorary Temporary Membership of the club to allow them to continue practicing on the courts in their own time and they have been making use of this facility throughout the course of the year. Four of the players have entered the club championships and we are looking forward to seeing them challenging some of our top players.

Conclusion

The club has many challenges ahead of it to increase the utilization of its top-class facilities, not least the only permanent all-glass court and spectator facility in South Africa.

On behalf of the committee I wish to thank all the members for their support and I wish the committee and the club the best of success in 2022.

Chris Hughes,
Chairman, Wanderers Squash Club.