

FREE STATE SQUASH ASSOCIATION
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
2025

It gives me great pleasure to present my Report for 2024/2025 detailing the events and activities of the past year.

Our challenge, previously experienced – the Eskom service – is relatively stable now, so not many matches postponed or difficulties at tournaments.

1. MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the Oud Studente Club on the 1st Monday of every month at 17H15.

This past year we had meetings on the 2 December 2024, Club Representatives were requested to submit budget inputs, 4 December 2024, 3 February 2025, 3 March 2025, 7 April 2025, 5 May 2025, 2 June 2025, 4 August 2025, 8 September 2025, 6 October 2025, and the 3 November 2025.

We have the same members attending meetings most of the time and there are some who hardly attend at all. We have poor support from Club Representatives.

This past year we did not have a challenge with a quorum, as I indicated last year, and our elected members did attend most meetings.

Please Club Representatives attend our committee meetings, or send a proxy. Thank you.

Our discussions and decisions are minuted as elaborately as possible. The minutes are then distributed to all Club Representatives and Committee Members and to Squash SA.

2. BUDGET MEETING AND SPONSORS

From the inputs received by the Treasurer, a budget was prepared for the year.

We did not manage to gain any sponsorships from the private sector, besides our income from the Summer and Winter Leagues.

We did send two men's teams to this year's Growthpoint Interprovincial tournament, previously known as the Jarvis tournament. We did endeavour to get a ladies team together for the Kaplan Cup IPT but we were not successful. My appreciation must go to Amy Greyvenstein for the effort she put in to get a team together. Amy, perhaps in 2026 we will be more successful.

Not procuring any sponsorships is a challenge, but we stayed within our budget, thanks to our Treasurer.

We did have a Marketing Manager for the year on our Committee, but this was not successful; there is an incentive to raise funding for the Association.

See financials.

Policy has changed and we were unable to procure financial support for our high performance athletes and coaches from funding from the Free State Academy of Sport.

LOTTO FUNDING?

Tournaments are costing our players and parents a lot of money. The cost factor to parents re IPT's, participation in the World Juniors, the SA Schools tour to Malaysia, and the cost of participation in the national senior interprovincial – the Growthpoint tournaments. Participation in these tournaments are costly.

We have a need for facilities to host and stage tournaments. Eunice has opened two new courts but it is costly to hire them. We are looking at Lotto funding and hopefully we may have our required registration and documentation in place shortly. Our Financial Statements are in order and up to date. With thanks to the Treasurer.

To date the LOTTO has not advertised any availability of funds. Waiting.

3. LEAGUES

Summer League:

This is a very popular league and continues to be successful.

Well run by Barend van der Merwe. I know there are those who assist Barend, to you, thank you.

A Summer League for 2024/25 was held and we have just commenced our 2025/26 league. We trust that this league will be enjoyed by all.

My appreciation goes to Barend, and the team captains, for finalizing the 2025/26 Summer League.

I have kept note of the results so far and what is good to see is the competitiveness of the league. We are not going to have functions every week and Barend has a programme for this, and team captains will be kept informed.

Winter League:

The use of the double dot ball during cold conditions was allowed again.

My appreciation goes to Barend van der Merwe who finalized all the arrangements.

The Winter League trophies and certificates will be handed out after the meeting. I congratulate all the winners. Congratulations to Saints for their performance in the 1st League. Their teams came first and second. Well done.

This is a big job to finalise – thank you Barend.

Disciplinary Committee
One case was finalized.

Marking and Refereeing

Unfortunately, due to the time-frame, we did not have our usual Marking and Refereeing revisionary meetings before the 2025 Winter League.

We try to keep our players au fait with the rules and every year, prior to the commencement of the Winter League, we hold revisionary sessions with the participants. This was not done this year.

Watching some of the squash it is evident that we all have to give Marking and Refereeing more attention.

There is an online marking and refereeing course available; the information was sent to Club Representatives. All league players should endeavor to do the course. Please consult your Club Representatives.

It is not only competency of the officials – the Marker and the Referee – if the players don't know the rules then they don't know when to appeal a ruling or how to appeal.

PLEASE: TO OUR TEAM CAPTAINS: with all matches there must always be a Marker and a Referee, one from each side. If a team does not provide a Marker or Referee, do not allow the match to commence.

Not abiding with this basic rule can cause conflict, as we have experienced in the past.

New Rules 2025

The Singles Rules were amended with effect from 1 September 2025. Club Representatives were informed. PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

4. GROWTHPOINT NATIONALS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT / PSA EVENT

This year's Growthpoint Regional Nationals were held in Bloemfontein on 6-8 June 2025, and was organized by the Association. We did not have a big entry; 13 Men and 5 Women.

Luhann Groenewald won the mens' section. Runner-up Nikhil Pather
Lara Patrick won the women's section. Runner-up Jordin Phillips

Both participated in the finals held at the Waterfront in Cape Town.

Thank you to Calvin for assisting with the draws and court allocations. To Barend for assisting with the SportyHQ data input.

Thank you to Eunice for the use of their courts.

5. FREE STATE CLOSED TOURNAMENT

The Free State Closed was held on 2-4 May 2025. Congratulations to the winners:

Men: A-Section	Tremayne McDonald bt Richard Rodrigues
Men: B-Section	Wiaan Coetzee bt Lyle Johnson
Ladies Section	Amy Greyvenstein bt Vivienne van der Schyff

A very good entry

The entry fee went towards financial assistance to our IPT/Jarvis teams.

Appreciation and thank you to Pierre Venter and his Committee for organizing the tournament.

6. GROWTHPOINT (JARVIS/KAPLANTOURNAMENTS) 2025

The 2025 tournament was held in Port Elizabeth. We supported two teams in the men's sections: Our A Side participated in the B-section and ended 5th out of 8 teams.

Initially Squash SA, because they reduced the A Section to 6 teams, "relegated" Free State to the C Section. Your Committee objected very strongly and Squash SA agreed to return our Free State side to the B Section.

Our B side participated in the D-section and ended 3rd out of 8 teams.

As previously mentioned we did not send a Women's side.

7. REGISTRATION WITH THE FREE STATE ACADEMY OF SPORT

The Free State Squash Association would like to say thank you to those athletes training/participating this year at the Free State Sport Science Institute.

Currently we have 3 coaches. The number of players participating at the Institute has decreased; the main reason being the timeframes for the juniors/learners to fit all into their busy scholastic and sport schedule.

The Academy has changed its policy relating to training at the Institute. Registration can be done on line and all athletes can apply. Athletes not using the training facilities for more than 30 days will be removed from the attendance register and will have to re-apply.

As mentioned previously the Academy has changed their policy on funding and we have not received any funding this year.

Academy Board: the Chairman attends the Board meetings regularly.

The Academy sends out regular information on aspects of coaching, nutrition etc. Please pass on to your players.

7. COACHING/DEVELOPMENT AND JUNIOR SQUASH REPORT, 2024

Free State Schools Squash report – 2025

Free State Schools Squash has achieved much during 2025. Herewith a report on the year's activities and achievements.

1. Development Progress Report

All regions and schools have worked hard at expanding the base, focusing not only on the 5% excellence but also on the 95% broad base and the development of our juniors.

With the support of FS Senior Squash and Michael Deutschmann's continued untiring efforts, we have maintained our schools' developmental initiative of Pitch n Play. Each week, players are afforded 1 hour of coaching and a further 90 minutes of free play and match practice.

- The Pitch n Play development programme ran weekly from 09h00 – 11h30 on Saturdays during the first 6 months of the year. The 1st and 2nd quarter weekly Pitch n Play sessions were well attended. Parents were also invited to participate, and this was very well received. However, Pitch n Play was put on hold for the greater part of the last 2 quarters, as the youngsters were heavily committed to their respective schools' and provincial activities.
- Development in the Eastern Free State continues, and reports from the Headmaster at Harriston School, Mr Peter Huntley, indicate that their efforts are ongoing and that the rackets and balls, etc., which were given to the school by your Association are in good use and their programme continues to run.
- In the Parys region, Paul Prinsloo and his wife Caroline maintain the programmes in the Fezile Dabi district. A number of promising juniors are emerging from their initiatives.
- Welkom (The Lejweleputswa district) continues to run their respective schools' leagues in the junior and senior sections. They have also run their own local closed events. However, their

participation at provincial level has decreased significantly and is a concern in terms of a feeder area for our major IPTs. According to their coaches, the biggest reason is financial constraints.

- All the Bloemfontein schools continue to work hard at growing their respective bases. It is encouraging to note the progress made, especially at Under 13 level. All the schools' administrators and their coaches are thanked for their efforts in this regard. However, the one area we need to focus on at schools, specifically, is the U11 age group in order to maintain growth going forward.
- Free State entered 18 FS Teams in the SA Country Festivals in April (from U11 – U19; 12 boys' and 6 girls' teams). This event provides an excellent platform for our players to compete in a team context and prepares them well for this aspect of the IPTs.
- Free State also entered 11 teams into the respective Age Group SA Schools Squash IPTs. The details and results follow later in this report.
- A real highlight of the year at the high-performance level was the selection of three of our FS U16 players to represent SA Schools Squash in Malaysia and Singapore on the SA Schools Squash tour in December. These players included Dean Katzin, Cobus Schimper, and Vivienne van der Schyff.
Further invitations were extended to U19s Matthew Strydom and Benedette van Tonder.
- Dean Katzin and Cobus Schimper will be representing SA Schools Squash and FS in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in December. The other three players will not be participating in the tour; for some, the reasons are other personal commitments.
- Our regional coach, Calvin Deutschmann, has also been appointed as the Senior Coach and Manager for this SA Schools Tour to Malaysia and Singapore (7 players from SA will be participating in the tour).
- Our province did very well at the SA Top Schools Squash event during August. St Andrew's School (Boys) and Eunice High School (Girls) both ended 4th at the SA Top Schools Squash National Championships.

2. IPT's in June

Acknowledgments relating to IPT's

A huge thank you must go to our regional coach, Calvin Deutschmann, for all his efforts in preparation for the IPTs over many weeks. His contribution to the preparation of the teams is crucial.

Much appreciation also goes to Mr Keith Deutschmann for assisting our provincial players with marking and refereeing courses and assessments.

Amanda Carreira is thanked most sincerely for the admin support provided in the run-up to the IPT's.

Sincere thanks are also due to all the team managers and coaches for their efforts in the interests of the players and squash development in our province. Much gratitude goes to

Susan Bell and the management of Human Auto for assisting with the provision of a vehicle for the Under 13 Boys Squash team.

We entered 11 teams in the June IPTs. The sections and results were as follows:

- U19 Boys A – one team in A section (7th out of 9)
- U16 Boys A – one team in A section (team was plagued by injury, finished 10th)
- U16 Boys B – one team in B section (B team impacted by injuries also, 6th out of 9)
- U14 Boys – none; however, 3 players played as part of the SACF U14 Team: Matthew Van Rooyen, Jaydon Damons, and Erik Du Plooy. The team finished 6th out of 10
- U13 Boys A – one team in A Section (finished 2nd out of 8)
- U13 Boys B – one team in B Section (finished 7th out of 12)
- U19 Girls – none; however, Benedette van Tonder participated in the SACF U19A team (SACF ended 4th)
- U16 Girls A – one team in A Section (5th out of 9)
- U14 Girls A – one team in A Section (finished 7th out of 10)
- U13 Girls – one team in A Section (finished 5th out of 12)

Note that U11s play in the Angela Difford festival and there are no official results, as it is festival-based. The draws are done randomly.

- U11 Boys – one team
- U11 Girls – one team

3. SA Schools Top Ten Rankings

Six players in our province achieved SA Schools Top Ten rankings:

- U19 Boys – Top 15: Matthew Strydom (12th)
- U19 Girls – Top 10: Benedette van Tonder (9th)
- U16 Boys – Top 10: Dean Katzin (1st), Cobus Schimper (6th)
- U16 Girls – Top 10: Vivienne van der Schyff (3rd), Keira Hung (8th)
- U14 Girls – Top 10: Jasmaine Rust (1st, Parys)

4. Schools' Squash Events hosted in our Province

We successfully hosted the following SA Schools Squash events: The SACF event (55 teams entered), the U16 IPT (34 teams entered) , and the Tecnifibre Bloem Junior Open (484 participants). Through these events, FS Schools Squash provided approximately 850 learners across the country an opportunity to play in a tournament, to grow and develop, and improve their skills.

The Tecnifibre Bloem Junior open, hosted in the beginning of March, is the largest School's Squash event in the country. This year, 484 players entered the event. The event was once again a showcase for our province. It was however not without the stress of potential loadshedding and the additional costs of renting generators and making contingency plans for these situations were again costly. **THANK YOU MARGO AND YOUR TEAM.**

Bloemfontein also hosted the Growthpoint SA Junior Regionals event during March. Because Squash SA scheduled this event during the March school holidays, when numerous other school tours were taking place, the entry for the event was relatively small.

The organiser went to great lengths to ensure that invitation players were called upon to participate in the event to provide sufficient competition for all players.

Well done to the following players who won their sections and went on to represent FS at the SA Junior Nationals in Cape Town during August.

A wonderful highlight was Dean Katzin winning the Growthpoint SA U17 Junior Nationals Title in Cape Town on the all-glass court at Makers Landing at the Waterfront.

- U15 – George Hung (1st in FS hub, finished 7th at Nationals)
- U15 – Jasmaine Rust (1st in FS hub, ***finished 2nd at Nationals***)
- U17 – Dean Katzin (1st in FS hub, ***SA U17 Champion for 2025***)
- U17 – Vivienne van der Schyff (1st in FS hub, finished 5th at Nationals)
- U19 – Benedette van Tonder (1st in FS hub, finished 7th at Nationals)

5. Senior Schools Boy Invitation Festival - February 2025

St Andrew's hosted the 31st Invitation Squash Festival. Twenty Four teams from around the country participated in the event. The event was once again a huge success, and the FS Players gained invaluable match experience through this opportunity to play against all the top teams in the country.

6. Inter-Primary Junior Festivals

An inter-primary Junior Festival in October saw 75 players participate (a total of 16 teams). The event was run in a festival format with split-strength teams, focusing on fun and development. It was very well received by both the players and the parents. Apart from local teams, teams from Grahamstown, Queenstown, and Parys also participated.

Special thanks again go to Amanda Carreira for her support in organising of the event.

It was also most encouraging to note that Eunice Primary School also hosted a small Inaugural Primary Squash Festival for the junior schoolgirls' teams during August. It is pleasing to note that they will again do so in 2026. We wish them success in these endeavours.

7. FSSSI Training

A small number of high-performance players (provincial players) have been training at the FSSSI in the Free State Sports Science programme. It would be of great benefit to more players if they utilised these free services.

The major constraints which make it challenging for players to make use of the services, are the limited daily times when the facility is open for learners to participate. With schools starting as early as 07h15 and the FSSSI gym closing by 16h00 each day, it is challenging for learners to access the facility within the confines of school academic commitments and their school sporting programmes.

8. Acknowledgments

This report would not be complete without acknowledging several persons who ensured another busy and successful year for Free State Schools' Squash:

- All coaches, administrators, and teachers in charge of squash at the respective schools.

- All parents who supported us with volunteering, sponsorships, and event assistance, including Amanda Carreira, Susan and Greg Bell, Michael and Calvin Deutschmann, and Nicky Pappin.
- The schools and clubs that made their facilities available to FS Schools Squash throughout the year.
- FS Senior Squash Association for financial support for IPT players, development programmes, and overseas tour participation.
- Garrett Amm from Twizza for supporting squash events.
- Alan Hung for donating towels for all players at the SFS Closed event during September 2025.
- The FSSSI for their services and support of FS Schools Squash learners.
- Lastly, sincere appreciation to the Chairman, Mr Keith Deutschmann, for his invaluable and ongoing unwavering support in promoting and developing Schools Squash within Free State province.

No association can sustain itself without a strong foundation of growth, development, and commitment to School Sport structures. Without Schools Squash, there can be no senior squash in our province. Mr Keith Deutschmann is acutely aware of this reality, and his insight, leadership, and dedication continue to guide the advancement of the game.

On a personal note, during these turbulent times for SA Schools Squash nationally, our Chairman's steadfast support and guidance have been deeply appreciated.

Keith Deutschmann is a true servant of the game, and FS Schools Squash thanks him most sincerely for all he does.

9. Looking Ahead

After extensive feedback received from the managers, post the IPT events for 2025, the following initiatives are envisaged going forward.

1. Implementation of squad training earlier in the year to ensure players prepare more effectively for IPTs, Greater emphasis on pride in representing the province, fitness training, skills training, team cohesion, and M&R training will be the focus.
2. Increase parental and community involvement in fundraising initiatives and sponsorships to address growing financial constraints for our players and families.
3. Raising the profile of events through recognition at schools, certificates, gift towels, and potentially hosting awards evenings/functions.
4. An Appeal to FS Senior Squash to assist with Lotto Applications so funding applications can be submitted promptly.

In conclusion, as we close the chapter on 2025, the seasons stands as a testament that the Free State Schools Squash fraternity continues to move forward with purpose, resilience, and a shared passion for the game. Despite the many challenges faced—financial, logistical, and structural—the collective efforts of our players, parents, coaches, schools, and leadership have ensured that growth and excellence remain at the heart of all we do.

Despite ongoing challenges facing schools' sport nationally, the province has continued to demonstrate progress in both player development and performance.

The dedication of our coaches, administrators, parents, and players has ensured that the structures necessary for growth and sustainability remain firmly in place. Our collective achievements reflect not only the pursuit of excellence, but also a deep commitment to inclusivity, sustainability and the continued expansion of our development base.

As we look ahead, Free State Schools Squash remains steadfast in its resolve to nurture young talent, strengthen partnerships, and build upon the solid foundations that underpin our success.

We remain dedicated to strengthening our foundation, expanding opportunities for all young players, and ensuring that Schools Squash in the Free State continues to thrive as a vital contributor to the future of squash in South Africa.

MARGO MORGAN

(ON BEHALF OF FS SCHOOLS' SQUASH)

Coaching Report 2025

Free State squash has had another exciting year on all fronts. There has been a renewed interest in squash and the uptake of the sport has been encouraging.

After a Level Two Coaching course was held in Pretoria in January, Michael Deutschmann has been accredited with his WSF Level Two certification. WELL DONE MICHAEL

I would request that the schools making use of coaches please assist them to acquire the necessary qualifications to best assist the pupils in their care. It is imperative that the coaches are educating the players correctly from the start as bad habits or poor technique can seriously hinder their future potential.

I would like to thank the following schools for their ongoing and successful programs namely: Grey College, St Michael's, Eunice, St Andrew's. These schools continue to carry the bulk of the work being done to raise awareness of the game and develop our sport.

To the coaches doing the work out there, Tremayne McDonald, Monique de Gouveia, Michael vd Merwe, Kiran v Eeden, Greg Bell, Kobus vd Vyfer, Michael Deutschman and Semano Mohapi, a huge thank you for all the time and effort to grow our sport.

Another big thank you to Teachers in Charge of Squash at the respective schools for all the admin and support of the players. Your tireless efforts are much appreciated.

To the parents who afford the children the possibility to play our sport. A huge sacrifice is made on your part, and I thank you on behalf of all the coaches.

We, as coaches, are entrusted with the development of the players in our care and whatever the goals may be, let us provide an environment that is fun, a space that is safe, behavior that is ethical and fair to all. Let us build together for our community.

We look forward to another great and even better year ahead in 2026.

Many thanks to the Free State Squash Association for all your guidance and support.

Many thanks to Margo Morgan for your passion and for providing the opportunities that you do for all the players.

Yours in squash

Calvin Deutschmann

Free State Regional Coach

8. COVID MEASURES AT SQUASH COURTS

All restrictions have been removed.

9. SQUASH SA

The Chairman attended the 2025 Squash SA Convention and AGM in Johannesburg on the 28 June 2025.

Issues taken up with Squash SA:

Financial Statements only received at the Convention, did not have time to peruse. They were went out to all Club Representatives requesting comment re how Squash SA spends their money, how the income from Court Levies and Individual Registration (SportyHQ is spent. No reply received from the Club Reps.

Participation in the Olympics

Based on the speeches given at the prizegiving of the Growthpoint U15 and Senior events finals; the speakers were very enthusiastic about South Africa's participation. I did query how South Africa would be participating in the LA28. Squash will only have two sections, Men and Women, 16 draw each section. Based on our current world rankings I cannot see South Africa participating in the LA28.

Safeguarding Policy

Squash SA has a Safeguarding Policy and this applies to all members of Squash SA and clubs. Squash SA has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse or exploitation or to the abuse of vulnerable persons and seeks to ensure a safe and inclusive environment in which all squash players can achieve their potential.

All clubs have been contacted relating to the provisions and the implementation thereof. Correspondence has already been sent to clubs.

We queried Vicarious Liability but have not received a ruling from Squash SA.

I received a roll of posters for each club. All Club Representatives are requested to take your roll.

ANNEXURE G OF THE SQUASH SA SAFEGUARDING POLICY READ TO THE MEETING

- A Designated Safeguarding Officer to be appointed by the Province and by each club in the Free State.

TO DO – the 4/6 expectations:

Safeguarding Policy

Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Officer

Anonymous Reporting procedure

Communication Strategy

Six Expectations:

Cleared by the Sexual Offences Register

Cleared by the Child Protection Register

A Criminal Clearance
Declaration of Good Standing
Sign a Code of Ethics
Safeguarding Awareness Certificate.

The Squash SA Safeguarding Manual has been sent to the Club Representatives.

**Clean Sport Activities: WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency)
ITA (International Testing Agency)**

We received regular information regarding anti-doping and this is distributed to all Club Reps.

Key Objectives

Inform your athletes about anti-doping
Raise awareness about clean sport
Contribute to your proactive approach to keeping your sport clean.

Court Affiliation fees to be increased with effect from 1 April 2026.

10. PLAYER REGISTRATION

The Individual Registration fee was increased to R275.00 with effect from 1 April 2025. Will be increased to R300.00 with effect from 1 April 2026. The Provinces have been requested to endeavor to increase their base membership.

11. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

No organization will function without controversy. There will always be someone that will try something or bend a rule. We can agree to disagree.

At last year's AGM I made the appeal to all clubs to look at our Constitution, our Winter and Summer League Rules and any other issues that you think could be improved or amended, and present them to the Committee for consideration. The Committee is always open to suggestions.

This year, out of the blue, we received a request from Ramblers to change our Constitution. Ramblers have requested that key issues be changed. A more reasonable way of approaching an amendment to our Constitution would have been to arrange a meeting with the Committee and to table and discuss any proposals.

As Chairman of the Association, I have a responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the Association. The Constitution is the base document of our Association. When allegations are made, which are unsubstantiated, then it is my responsibility to react.

Ramblers proposed certain amendments that would reduce the composition of our elected Committee, e.g. replacing paragraph 10.1 in effect would remove the following positions from the Committee:

Two additional members
Past Chairman
Marketing Manager
Coaching Representative
Development Representative.

**LET US LOOK AT THESE PORTFOLIOS
READ TO THE MEETING**

This could possibly be contrary to Clause 2 of our Constitution affecting our **OBJECTIVES**.

The proposed amendment would also in effect delete paragraph 10.2 which took away sitting of Club Representatives on the Committee. It was only after I brought this to the attention of the Club Representatives, on the 9 November, that a reply was received from Pierre Venter on the 10 November that:

“If one properly reads the proposed amendment.....”

The email from Pierre was still not correct and referred to paragraph 10.2 which removed Club Representative sitting on the Committee.

On the 9 November 2025 I wrote per email to the Club Representatives and asked all to look at the implications of the proposed amendment.

On the 10 November 2025 Pierre wrote “If one properly reads the proposed amendment and he still referred to paragraphs 10.1 – 10.1.11, 10.2, 16.2.

It was only on the 12 November 2025 that the error was acknowledged, and we received a further email that read:

“We have picked up that unfortunately the original notice has a small typographical error, all references of 10.2 should refer to 10.5 instead”.

With any proposed changes to a Constitution they must be specific, correctly worded, acceptable and not detrimental to the institution/Association.

There should also not be any misleading “motivation”.

I mention a few:

Streamling the Committee

The proposal to reduce the main committee from 12 to 5 elected positions (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary) to improve efficiency and accountability.

All the elected positions on the Committee never created inefficiency or irresponsibility or unaccountability. I would like to hear from Tremayne of how he sees this creating malfunctioning of the Committee.

Fairer Representation

The allegation that currently one club holds 8 of 11 positions, creating a perception of imbalance. Whose perception. One must not overlook the fact that the Committee is elected every year at the AGM and one club cannot manipulate the election. Let's look at it:

Saints

4

Chairman - Keith

Treasurer – Michael

RegionalCoach/ Coaching Representative: Calvin – who was the only Level 2 Coach then Additional Member, was Nico, who resigned due to work responsibilities.

Marking and Refereeing - Keith

Old Greys

1

League Secretary – Barend

St Andrew's School

1

Development: Margo,

Bobbies Park

1

Vice- Chairman – Clint Gouws

Ramblers

1

Marketing: Riaan van Straaten

Additional Members

2 Vacant

Two vacant – one previously filled by Nico.

Past Chairman: we only have one Past Chairman – Vivian

Not Active

Secretary: Rita

Not Active

Yes, there are three Deutschmann's on the Committee, and I am proud of all of them.

Do you know that our financial statements are all properly audited since Michael took the reigns of Treasurer. Do you know that he is also a Qualified Level 2 Coach?

Do you know that Calvin Deutschmann was our only Level 2 Coach and been selected to accompany overseas junior tours on numerous occasions.

Do you know that there is one person who has taken Marking and Refereeing very seriously and has always endeavoured to enhance the standard of refereeing in the Free State. Do you know who that is? How many times have I specifically attended first league matches, and other leagues, where there is only one Marker/Referee contrary to our Winter League Rules. Who compiled the supporting Bleeding and Injury document, with the four freedoms listed.

Club Representatives were requested to give this document to all Team Captains to assist them with marking and refereeing. Was it handed out?

Just recently I had an incident at a Summer League match where the decision taken was not correct. Had the marker and referee had the document there would not be any query or reaction from the players.

To allege that 8 of the 11 is from one club is creating misinformation and brings the game into disrepute.

The current members of the Committee have always acted in the best interest of the game and in the interest of Free State Squash.

As trivial as it may seem this attack is not only on my integrity but on the integrity of the Free State Committee who has always acted positively in the interests of our squash fraternity.

Practical Functionality

A leaner, focused team will operate more effectively.

Are you saying that our outgoing Committee did not operate effectively???

How many of our Club Representatives attended our monthly Committee meetings? I can name them.

The old maxim should be learnt, people don't attend meetings if the organization is functioning well. Club Representatives – did you read the Minutes of our meetings? Did you follow what your Committee was doing on your behalf? Did you ever complain on any issue you read of in the Minutes or did you ever present any issue that was not taken up by the Committee?

The aim is a more efficient balanced and representative Association- not to exclude anyone, but to ensure it works better for all clubs.

Innuendos like this do not portray a valid complaint. If your Association was not acting in the best interest of the group, then why did we not get any complaints?

I may be wrong, but looking at the Ramblers distribution list for notifying our affiliated clubs and schools, it is obvious that not all our member clubs were taken into account. Old Greys was excluded, any reason for that? They are part of the Free State Squash Association.

Some of you may know who Douglas Murray is. Just this week he commented on the situation in the USA relating to the Republicans and Democrats. He used the term ENVY AND RESENTMENT.

With all this in mind, and my responsibility as custodian of the Constitution of the Free State Squash Association, I have decided that the submission of the proposed amendments to the Constitution that was finally submitted on the 12 November 2025 with all the corrections, which changed completely the initial proposal, is not 21 days written notice before the date of the AGM. I am not tabling the proposals. I would suggest that the incoming Committee arrange a meeting with the Ramblers Committee, go through the proposals, look at the pros and cons, and then arrange a Special General Meeting to consider the proposed amendments to the Constitution. I can't emphasize it enough, look very carefully at them, are they in the interests of our Association.

Another challenge is communication. To keep all players informed of what is going on with squash. This must be looked at. We may not always be successful in this regard.

12. FREE STATE SQUASH FEDERATION / FREE STATE SPORT CONFEDERATION

Constitution:

I reported last year that I had had a meeting some time ago with a legal representative from the Confederation in an effort to finalise a Constitution for the Free State Squash Federation. Mr Anthony Mokoena. Still not finalized. The incoming committee must look into this.

Northern Free State

Goldfields Tournament

Held on 26-28 September 2025.

The A Section was won by a Bloemfontein team. Unfortunately one of our top juniors, Josh van Zyl, injured his wrist and this has taken him out of squash for some time.

13. THE VIVIAN WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY MATCH

A number of years ago we introduced the Vivian Welsh Challenge Match between Bloemfontein and Kimberley. The aim to improve squash relations between Griquas and Free State.

Squash in the Kimberley area unfortunately has taken a nose dive and there is little taking place there now.

With the enthusiasm of Garrett Amm this challenge match was re-introduced and the last match arranged was between Bloemfontein and Welkom. I would like to see this continue and it is time that we have a match again, hopefully soon. I hope that Garrett or someone else will be able to organize it.

14. FREE STATE MASTERS SQUASH

Masters Squash and Squash 57

I am pleased to say that a Sub-Committee for Masters Squash and Squash 57 has been established; thank you to Nico Dreyer (Chairman), Jors Reynders (Finance) and Rudo van der Merwe (Squash 57), Zelna Delport (Media) and Heinrich Terblanche (Logistics) and for taking on this task.

6 Free Staters participated in the Squash 57 Nationals this year.

A Racketball Challenge was held locally (26 players) to determine a ranking.

Plans are afoot to stage the 2026 nationals in Bloemfontein and we wish Rudo well with getting this off the ground.

2 Free State teams participated in the Masters IPT in Johannesburg.

A Masters doubles team also participating in the IPT in Durban, tough squash I believe. (Nico/Jors).

Our Masters have participated in national tournaments for the first time in a long time and we wish them well and may they go from strength to strength.

We have a very good group of Masters and we must cultivate their availability to participate in tournaments.

15. ELECTION OF A NEW COMMITTEE – VOTING RIGHTS

The main objective of an Annual General Meeting is to report back to members of what transpired over the past year, look at the finances, and, importantly, the election of the incoming Committee.

In terms of our Constitution our voting rights are determined by our playing membership.

Section 14.2 stipulates:

For the purpose of this clause, the playing membership of a member shall be determined by multiplying the number of league teams affiliated by the members per team fielded by such member during that year. Where a member affiliated more players than the equivalent teams affiliated, then the total number of players affiliated will be taken into account for the purpose of this clause.

In determining the numbers registration with SportyHQ also had to be considered. A player, not registered with SportyHQ, is not allowed to participate in any league/tournament run under the auspices of SquashSA.

Unfortunately there are still players participating who are not registered with SportHQ. Club Reps are kindly requested to check their SportyHQ databases and please update. It was noted that a number of players were not registered this year and this was taken up with the Club Representatives. Pleased to say that some of the clubs took it to heart and many of those defaulting players did register. There are some still defaulting and clubs should not play them in our leagues.

I know this was looked into by our League Secretary, Barend – dankie Barend.

16. MY APPRECIATION

I would like to thank Squash SA, on behalf of the Free State Squash Association, for their support throughout the past year. My appreciation goes to Ms Jennifer Sawyer, Jacqui Fryer, Vuyelwa Mbata and Palesa Mosepele who are always available to give advice and assistance.

To Erika Calitz and the staff at the Academy of Sport and at the Free State Sport Science Institute, thank you for your assistance and support, and the regular information received.

Liz Addison in the interim has passed on and to Margo Morgan and Calvin Deutschmann, who attended her Memorial Service, THANK YOU Calvin and Margo.

In a report of this nature there are always people to thank and I have already mentioned a few by name. There is, unfortunately, always the possibility of missing someone. If I do, I apologise.

I would like to thank all the members of the out-going Committee. We did meet regularly, and I think we did a good job. A special word of thanks to Rita Welsh for being Secretary.

Thank you Michael for handling the Treasurer portfolio.

Baie dankie aan Barend van der Merwe wat die organiseering van die Winter en Somerligas hanteer. Die Vereeniging waardeur u werk en insette.

To our Past Chairman, Vivian Welsh, thank you for being at all the meetings we had. Your guidance and support are appreciated.

To the management of the Oud Studente Club our appreciation for the use of their facilities for our meetings.

Our monthly meetings are open to all Club representatives. To those club representatives who attended our meetings – thank you. However, very few attend. Please support your new Committee.

Finally to our squash fraternity. The Free State Squash Association is your Association. It is only as strong as the support it gets and the input from its affiliates. It does not act independently of the members. You have a duty to support it and to present any suggestions to make this Association a force to be reckoned with and an example to the other Associations in South Africa.

Yours in squash

Keith Deutschman

CHAIRMAN: FREE STATE SQUASH ASSOCIATION

17 November 2025