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Shock in store for tennis players

MAIL
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By GABU TUGWANA

A shock is in store for the Southern Transvaal Tennis Association's (STTA) members who still have debts of the National Open which took place in Benoni from last December to early last month.

STTA has ruled that players who entered for the National Open but failed to participate without a genuine reason, will not be allowed to compete in the forthcoming STTA's R2 000 Benson and Hedges Open scheduled to start on February 17.

The Tennis Association of South Africa (Tasa), organisers of the National championships, told its unit members before the tourney that they will be responsible for the entry fees of their players. Some 30 of the 50 STTA squad did not honour their matches. But STTA had already paid for them.

Meanwhile, enthusiasm has been increasing about the Benson and Hedges Open. Muhammed Sheik and Yusuf Bhayat, officials of the South-Eastern Transvaal Tennis Association (Setta), travelled

from Benoni to attend the presentation cocktail of this competition in Johannesburg. Mike Davy, STTA secretary said they indicated that some of their top players were very keen to compete.

John Renecke, president of STTA and Davy promised to make the competition the "most talked about" from North to South corners of Transvaal. And they hoped to get more sponsorship next year and choose a suitable date to accommodate players from all units of Tasa throughout South Africa.

And this seemed not impossible to achieve. Benson and Hedges started sponsoring tennis in the black ranks with a mere R100, seven years ago. But they gradually increased it with the progress made by the sport up to the present R2 000.

More information about the entry fees for the STTA Open may be obtained from Ernest Pooe, assistant secretary, at telephone number 944-1745, or Herman Abrahams at 673-3977. The closing date for entries is February 13.



Kobus Botha, senior District manager of Benson and Hedges (left), with his representative, Tshenise "TJ" Mohapi, hands John Renecke, Southern Transvaal Tennis Association president, a R2 000 cheque for the Benson and Hedges Open championship. The Open starts on February 17 and entries close on February 13.

Picture: DAVID SANDISON

Sponsors should back nonracial organisations says Docrat

Sports Reporter

SPONSORS should support "nonracial organisations," reasoned Muhamid Docrat, chairman of the Transvaal Tennis Board (TTB) this week.

The chairman was briefing the Rand Daily Mail as to the strategy his body is soon to implement to meet the monetary demands of 1980 as the

TTB's "Year of the Tennis Junior."

"The TTB needs money to finance a string of junior tournaments and coaching courses to be held throughout the province as a bid to uplift the standard of the Transvaal junior tennis players.

"We have drawn a list of people to approach and we know that these people have

been providing for Satu (white SA Tennis Union)," said Docrat "naturally, they must stretch it a little bit further for non-racial organisations."

The TTB plan is widely looked upon as the best thing to have happened to the province' tennis juniors. The maiden 1980 junior competition was scheduled for Potchefstroom this month but has been postponed

to March.

"In keeping with our theme of 1980 as the Year of the Tennis Junior, we have ensured that our juniors enjoy maximum activity and the best coaching facilities we can offer despite our failure to acquire a full time resident coach," said Docrat.

The TTB has made it clear that even if sponsors cannot be

found to finance the programme, the initial plan will have to be applied throughout.

Docrat said a few changes may be effected but these will not affect the planned tournaments.

The programme will be effected as soon as the provinces submit their programmes for the year. "The majority of our units are still sorting out some

administrative set ups and also busy with trials.

"Soon as we receive the reports, we will ensure that Cavan Bergman and Co make a monthly call to every unit," added Docrat.

Bergman is among the coaches and he will be travelling the entire province for his designated duties.

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THE serve and volley is what makes Jacqueline van Staande tick.

She is a great admirer of superstar Martina Navratilova, perfectionist of the "serve and volley" technique.

The 21-year-old lass is a third year student at the Rand Teachers College in Johannesburg.

Jacqueline started playing tennis at age 15 and followed in the footsteps of her late granny.

The Reiger Park tennis queen rates among the top in the non-racial Tennis Association of South Africa and has won the Northern Transvaal Fanta Tennis Open Championships three times (1984, 1985, 1986) and the Northern Transvaal Putco Open twice.

It is her desire to play in

international tournaments such as Wimbledon, but there is a lack of sponsorship, she says.

Tennis to her is like a second religion. Her dream is to turn professional and become a coach.

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**Jacqueline
VAN STAANDE**

No. 15

LANKY Bosmont tennis star Cavin Bergman has become a legend in his own right.

Not only is 33-year-old Bergman a crack tennis player in the Tennis Association of South Africa (Tasa) camp, but also a prominent tennis coach.

Through his courtcraft, dedication and will to win, Cape Town-born Bergman now ranks as the third greatest black tennis star this country has produced.

Boland's tennis maestro David Samaal and ex-Pretorian Jasmat "Silent Slayer" Dhiraj, now living in exile abroad, are the only two who rank above him.

But what makes Bergman more unique — with due respect to the two grand masters of the courts — is the fact that he has sacrificed a lot towards advancement of non-racial tennis. Due to his unwavering principles, he forfeited several opportunities.

Bergman, who "emigrated" to the Transvaal with his parents at a tender age of 14 years, has scored many achievements in the game. He was six times national singles under the defunct Southern Africa LTU (three) and Tasa (three).

He also won Tasa mixed doubles' mantle with Charmain Carolissen from 1979 — 85. At present he holds the Tasa men's doubles with Raymond Anthony since they won this in 1979. Twice nominated as Sacos' Sports-person of the Year.

The great tennis ace will defend the singles crown in the Transvaal Open in Pretoria from October 9 — 11. Long live the king!

SPORTSFOLIO

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