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E A S T E R N   T R A N S V A A L

T E N N I S   U N I O N

MEMORANDUM

PRESENTED TO THE:

A C T O N V I L L E   M A N A G E M E N T   C O M M I T T E E

ON:

19TH MAY 1976

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## 1. ORIGIN

The Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union originally came into existence eleven years ago on the 25th April, 1965 as the Benoni Indian Lawn Tennis Association. During this time most of the people were moving into the new Area of Actonville. As a result of the great interest shown by the new residents the name was changed to the Actonville Lawn Tennis Association and a new Constitution was drawn up.

In 1975 the name and constitution was again changed to its present name in order to extend the Unions jurisdiction and to accomodate players and teams living outside the Actonville area.

## 2. PRESENT STRENGHT

The Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union is the only body catering for organised tennis amongst the local community. It has affiliated to it eighteen (18) teams and a total membership of over one hundred and ninety members. These teams participate in the various competitions organised by the Union.

The Union also participates in fixture organised by the Transvaal Lawn Tennis Board, to which are affiliated the Southern Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union, the Western Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union, the Northern Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union and the South Western Lawn Tennis Union. In addition the Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union also participates in various tournaments all over the Transvaal.

The Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union also caters for the needs of those players who do not wish to participate at competitive levels as well as running a coaching scheme at the William Hills High School.

Were it not for the existence of this Union, tennis in Actonville and in the Eastern Transvaal would not have made the rapid progress it is making since the Union makes every effort to promote the game of tennis amongst both adults and school children.

## 3. PRESENT FACILITIES

The Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union has only two tennis courts of its own in Actonville. These courts have change room and toilet facilities but four families are occupying the premises. The four families comprize of over fifteen (15) persons both adults and children.

The courts themselves are in a very poor condition. The playing surfaces are very course due to lack of paint. Between surface slabs are cracks through which grass grows. Over the passing of the years the slabs have sagged in places thus giving the courts surface bad level in places.

Not with standing these facts tennis continues to make progress. For the past season use has been made of two courts belonging to William Hills High School.

As a result of the number of teams involved in competitive matches those players interested in playing tennis on a purely social basis are restricted to playing on a Sunday afternoon. Further more at this

stage the Union is unable to conduct a junior league because of the shortage of Tennis courts.

4. PREVIOUS FACILITIES.

The people that move from Boksburg to Benoni had the use of four (4) clay courts at the Bakerspark sporting grounds in Stirtonville.

In Boksburg North the people had an all weather court with flood lights and change room facilities.

Under the group area act they came to Actonville with the assurance that similar facilities will be provided.

5. PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR IMPROVED FACILITIES.

(a) From its very inception the Union have time and again sent letters to the Benoni Town Council for improvements to the two tennis courts in Actonville. These letters were subsequently channelled to the Actonville Indian Consultative Committees, but no improvements have been made.

(b) In 1965 an amount of R300,00 was annually given the Indian Consultative Committee for distribution to various sporting bodies in Actonville. Of this amount approximately R50,00 was allocated to the Tennis body in the form of sporting equipment.

This allocation has since stopped and no aid has been given to the Tennis Union except for two tennis nets received in March 1976.

(c) In 1969 the Indian Consultive Committee invited the various sporting bodies to a special meeting for the purpose of finding out what the needs of the various sports were.

Following this a memorandum was submitted by Mr. S. Singh/ Mr. P. Kanjee who was then President of the Tennis body.

As a result of the memoranda received, land was allocated for a sporting complex and a proposed master plan No. AV8/3 dated 11th April, 1973 was drawn up.

According to these plans 6 courts were planned with change rooms. Up to the present no further development of these courts have taken place.

(d) The Actonville Management Committee called a special meeting on the 4th March, 1975 and invited all the sporting bodies to attend. At that meeting it was agreed that all sporting facilities would be developed simultaneously. This was to enable all the sporting bodies to obtain sporting facilities instead of one body obtaining everything to the detriment of the other bodies.

The Chairman Mr. M. Ramatolah assured all those present that in the next budget he and the committee would strongly recommend that the cricket grounds and four tennis courts be planned for erection as soon as possible.

According to the present budget development has now been planned for only 1977/78.

- (e) In 1975 a letter was sent to the Benoni Town Council which in turn sent it to the Actonville Management Committee concerning the people living at the Actonville Tennis Court change room.

In reply the Union were informed that the families living at the courts could not be removed due to the shortage of housing in Actonville. See Annexure I.

These change rooms have become a health hazard to the tennis players due to the over crowding.

- (f) In 1976 a letter was once again sent to the Actonville Management Committee requesting improvements to the Actonville Tennis Courts and also enquiring when the new courts were to be started. See Annexure II.

The reply to this letter was to say the least inadequate. The main issue in the letter was ignored. Instead the Union was informed that the court surfaces were to be painted, the fence mended and that they were allocated two new nets. See Annexure III.

## 6. REQUIREMENTS.

As a means of alleviating the present conditions prevailing in the Actonville complex the Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union recommended that:

- (a) An immediate need for 6 tennis courts be recognised and that these be erected not later than the end of 1976. Two courts to be flood lit.

Change room and toilet facilities also to be provided.

- (b) A Tennis pavilion and stands be erected not later than 1977 as the Southern Africa Lawn Tennis Open championships will be staged in Actonville in December, 1977.

- (c) The planning of courts and layout of the Tennis Stadium be re-planned in consultation with the Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union before they be passed and erected.

## CONCLUSION.

The Eastern Transvaal Tennis Union would like to thank the Actonville Management Committee for granting us this interview, and look forward to receiving a reply granting the Union its requirements.

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