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NORTHERN TRANSVAAL LAWN TENNIS UNION.

Annual General Meeting held on the 1 - 2 - 1978.

Secretarial Report - Season 1977.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It has indeed been a fascinating and eventful year for the Northern Transvaal Tennis Union. For those of us who have been involved with tennis in the Northern Transvaal reminiscence of the events of the past year will for a long time bring back many happy and fond memories.

S. A. L. T. U. OPEN.

The 16 th S.A.L.T.U. National Open Tournament which for the first time in its history was held in Pretoria was by far the most important event in our 1977 tennis calendar. This tournament was, despite the rain, a tremendous success. Here I would like to draw your attention to the letter received from the Chairman of S.A.L.T.U. Mr. Fortuin annexed hereto. This letter I think says a great deal for the hard work put in by the executive and the hospitality of the people of Pretoria. The only disappointing feature of the tournament was that certain officials and teams did not assist at all with the hosting of this tournament. Mr. Chairman I do not wish to labour this point except say that they have nothing to be proud of.

LEAGUE COMPETITION (DOCKRATS FLOATING TROPHY.)

This was the first competition held during the year. There was keen competition amongst the top teams. However there was a wide discrepancy between the standard of the top four or five teams and the remainder of the teams. This often caused a complete lack of interest in certain matches. With a view to eliminating this, the executive has decided to divide this competition into two sections. The Winners of this Competition for the Year 1977 were FLAMINGOES.

KNOCK - OUT COMPETITION (M.C. KHARDBHAI FLOATING TROPHY.)

This competition aroused a great deal of interest as, due to a change in the format of matches, one or two players were no longer able to influence the outcome of a match. There was concerted effort by all teams to enrol stronger players with a resultant upgrading of standards. The Winners of this Competition for the Year 1977 were Districts.

Runners - up. Old Boys.

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP.

This Competition was held during D September - October 1977. We had record number of entries and it was gratifying to see players enter this competition despite the fact that they had no chance of winning. The following members of the Executive were responsible for organising this competition Messrs. D. PILLAY, A. O. ALLI and G. PILLAY. To them we wish to express our gratitude for a job well done.

SINGLES.

Winner: A. KHARBHAI.

Runners up: D. PILLAY.

DOUBLES.

Winners A. KHARBHAI

D. PILLAY.

Runners up; T. MURRAY.

E. S. DOCKRAT.

SUPER LEAGUE.

Despite repeated requests by our Union to the Transvaal Tennis Board we have not been successful in getting this competition off the ground. Your Union is persueing this matter as it is of the opinion that contact with the other Unions in the Transvaal is of the utmost importance for the advancement of tennis in this Province.

S. A. L. T. U. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

This competition was held in Durban during June 1977. Your Union" send a contingent of juniors to participate in this competition. Although none of our juniors was placed they gained invaluable experience. The Union wishes to record its thanks to Mr. G. PILLAY for mananging the juniors during the tournament. This tournament is sponsored by Coca - Cola and part of the travelling expenses were refunded to the Union.

MEETINGS.

i) Council Meetings.

Three Council Meetings were held during the year. It was gratifying to note that all clubs were re-presented at all these meetings. The late arrival of delegates however still causes a great deal of inconvenience.

ii) Six Executive Meetings were held during the year under review.

The attendance record of the officials was as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------|---|
| S. PILLAY | 6 | D. PILLAY | 4 |
| A. O. ALLI | 4 | G. PILLAY | 5 |
| I. DOCKRAT | 6 | I. R. SINGH | 5 |
| H. HAFJEJEE | 1 | E. S. DOCKRAT | 6 |
| D. D. PATEL | | 5 | |

Besides these meetings the executive also met on numerous occasions to prepare for the S.A. Open Championships. Mr. A. Kharbhai and Mr. I. Vally (Joe) were co-opted to the Tournament Committee. The executive is grateful to these gentlemen for their kind assistance.

iii) S. A. L. T. U. Meetings.

Your Union represented by the following at this meeting which was held at Pretoria on the 29th December, 1977 Messrs. S. PILLAY, D. D. PATEL, A. O. ALLI and E. S. DOCKRAT.

TROPHY DONORS.

The Union is greatly indebted to M. M. JOSHI & SONS for donating a beautiful trophy to the Union for the mens doubles event of the Northern Transvaal Closed Championships.

COURTS COMMITTEE.

The following were elected to the Courts Committee. Messrs. A. KHARBHAI (convenor) A. MOHAMED (Haffy) S. ABOO. Unfortunately this Committee did not function as one would have liked to see it do. Now that we have new flood lights, new surfaces on all the courts new nets, new toilets and complete fencing we hope that this committee will be able to maintain and improve these facilities.

Mr. Chairman it has truly been a great privilege and honour for me to serve this Union as its Secretary during this the most eventful year in its history. To the officials and players of the Union I wish to express my sincere appreciation for their co-operation.

I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not mention the tremendous amount of work done by my assistant secretary Mr. G. Pillay. Besides the enormous amount of work he performed during the S. A. Open championships he was also responsible for the printing of all the competition forms and fixture during the year at his own expense.

On behalf of my assistant secretary and myself we wish the incoming officials everything of the best. Our humble request to you is to give them the same co-operation and extend to them the same friendship extended to us.



.....
E. S. DOCKRAT (SECRETARY.)

1 - 2 - 1978.

Marizel
Kloof Street
WELLINGTON
7655

17th January 1978

The Secretary
Northern Transvaal Tennis Union
PO Box 16101
PRETORIA NORTH
0116

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Southern Africa Lawn Tennis Union, the Panel of Referees and myself I extend to your Union my sincere thanks and congratulations for the way in which you have acquitted yourselves in running our 16th National Open Tournament.

I can say without fear of contradiction that you have succeeded in making a success of your first effort and SALTU are indeed proud and grateful to have an affiliate such as yours.

MR Pather and myself had the opportunity last weekend of reviewing the tournament and it is our unanimous opinion that you have 'set new standards' which the more experienced units will have to consider very seriously.

The overwhelming hospitality which was bestowed upon us has impressed everyone immensely, the more so because it was completely unexpected and so very sincere.

I want to place on record my gratitude to messrs S Pillay, ES Dockrat, AS Dockrat, AO Alli, S Pillay and S Motani and various others for all they did to make our stay in Laudium so memorable.

In doing so I do not forget all the wonderful ladies and other friends without whose contributions it would not have been possible. Please convey to them all my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Fraternal greetings

AE Fortuin
AE Fortuin
President

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