

16th May 1983

Sunday, 8th May 1983 will be remembered for a long time by the officials and delegates of the Transvaal Tennis Board that went to the YWCA Hall in Dube, Soweto for a peace tennis mission. It turned out to be a BLACK SUNDAY for the TTB and the tennis fraternity in the Transvaal and for all the players under the non-racial banner of TASA.

Once again, despite several unsuccessful attempts in the past, another attempt was made by the TTB to reconcile the strained relations in Southern Tvl Tennis Association and South Western Tvl Tennis Union; and also to outline the feud between TTB and the two dissenting Tvl units. It was felt that we should discuss the fact that because of the failure of the officials of the two units to attend the TTB meetings, including the Annual General Meeting and also the non-affiliation of the two units to TTB, all the innocent tennis players, juniors and seniors, would be excluded from the TTB activities, notably junior tournaments, inter-unit fixtures and the Tvl Open.

However, the peace mission was short-lived. Soon after the meeting commenced, about 25 tennis players from the two units lead by Mr. Kenneth Ramaboa (secretary of STTA), Mr. Micah Nhlapo (BTF coach) and Mr. Amos Magodialo (secretary of SWTTU), stormed into the meeting. On their arrival, they were welcomed by Mr. Phinias Xulu, President of TTB and Assistant-Secretary of TASA, but their intentions were not discussions but violence. The group turned out to be 'tennis henchmen' as we were herded out of the hall. Racial insults were passed by some of the members, notably Mrs. Pooe. Some of them remarked that if we did not leave immediately, our faces and cars would be smashed up. This reminded me of Soweto in June 1976. As I got into my car, I saw a few members 'talking' to the Sowetan reporter, Mr. Boiki Mothei. Also, I saw 2 members opening the door of Mr. Mohammed Sheik's car. Later that day I learnt from him that they were looking for me.

Finally, we are prepared to live and play together, but not at all costs. This was the final nail in the coffin. I hope and pray that this is not the future of the 'other people' in the country we are planning and striving for.

*Bhyat*

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YUSUF BHYAT - GENERAL SECRETARY  
TRANSVAAL TENNIS BOARD



Attention L. Jugwana

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Transvaal Tennis Board

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This body is open to all Tennis units in the Transvaal. Its purpose is to co-ordinate and promote tennis amongst blacks. It is a non-racial organisation. I happen to be the President of this Body.

On the 8 May, the Secretary of the T.T.B., Mr J Bhayat extended an invitation to all Transvaal based units and players to attend a meeting at the Y.W.C.A in Durbe for the purpose discussing problems encountered in tennis, getting solutions where possible and working towards having all Transvaal units to come under the wing of the T.T.B.

Our priority is to see to it that our junior players are afforded all possible opportunities to improve their game of tennis.

To our dismay, however, that well meant meeting was disrupted by elderly players of the Southern Transvaal and the South Western Transvaal units. When we saw ~~the~~ <sup>the crowd</sup> of familiar players such as K. Ramabwa, M. Nhlapo, A. Magodiela, Mrs B Pooe and Mrs Radibe and many others, we thought we would have a fruitful meeting in which we would co-ordinate different views for the good of our tennis in the Transvaal. To our surprise, however, that group of players entered in an unceremonious manner, used mean language, disrupted the meeting and ordered every one of ~~us~~ us out. We were not given a chance to state our case. Though we had hired the services of the hall, we were forced out ruthlessly. Mr W Ngobisa sat speechless.

P.T. Xulu      P.T. Tshu



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1983-05-17

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir / Madam

re : TTB MEETING HELD ON THE 8-5-83 AT YWCA-DUBE

I attended the abovenamed meeting as a delegate of the South Eastern Transvaal Tennis Association. The meeting commenced at about 10,00 a.m.

Mr P Xulu, the president of TTB was on the chair also present were the TTB executive members from the Southern Transvaal Tennis Association ( Newlands and Soweto ) and the members of the Press.

The meeting had progressed for about 45 minutes when a group of about 25 tennis players of Southern Transvaal ( Soweto ) and South Western Transvaal Association (Black Township ) came rushing into the meeting. Conspicuous amongst the group were Mr Kenneth Ramaboa ( Secretary of STTA ) and Mr Magodiela ( Executive member of SWTTA ).

The group was very much aggressive and they rushed to the chairman and the Secretary of TTB and demanded that we all pack our documents and vacuate the hall immediately. They shouted that we were not supposed to hold a meeting in Soweto as all the executives (Mr Ramaboa) of STTA had such a right.

It became obvious that their aggression was directed to certain individuals. For instance I notice that the chairman and the TTB Secretary were threatened with physical violence, as well as other Soweto members and the Press. It was further quite clear that the Soweto players do not want to see Newlands group.

The meeting was in this manner disrupted. Only the calm and control of the members attending the meeting made it possible that violence was obviated. I cannot find any words to condemn the action of the Soweto Tennis players. It is further quite clear that this action was uncalled for especially that TTB is a well organized association which does not force anybody to its fold.

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One can only wonder whether all the efforts made by TTB and other sister units are really worthwhile pursueing. On the other hand for how long should the state of affairs in Soweto be left to ensue? Or is this the end of non-racial tennis in Soweto? Or are the forces-that-may-be succeeded infiltrating the non-racial sport in Soweto?

Yours faithfully

S B GUMEDE



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RE T.T.B. Meeting

THE ABOVE MEETING WAS HELD IN SOWETO ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 83 COMMENCING AT 10AM, <sup>AND I ATTENDED</sup> ~~MY~~ ROSSIGNOL AS TREASURER OF THE TRANSVAAL TENNIS BOARD. ~~WANTED ME BEING PRESENT~~

THE MEETING WAS CALLED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GETTING ALL TENNIS PLAYERS TO PLAY TENNIS IN A ORGANISED FASHION UNDER T.T.B. AT 10:45 THE MEETING CAME TO AN ABRUPT <sup>END</sup> ~~STOP~~ - CAUSED BY KENNETH RAMABOA AND COMPANY.

WE ~~ALL~~ WERE <sup>ALL</sup> PUSHED OUT OF THE YWCA HALL IN DUBE. RACIAL INSULTS ~~WERE~~ MADE BY MRS POOE. PEOPLE WHOM I KNOW BY NAME THAT WERE THERE: KENNETH RAMABOA, MICA NYHLAPO MRS POOE, PRO MAGADELO. IT WAS FRIGHTING <sup>IN</sup> THE MANNER WE WERE THROWN OUT, ONE PERSON CAME TO MY CAR AND OPENED THE DOOR WANTING TO KILL ME THINKING I WAS THE SECRETARY YUSUF BHAYAT. THIS WAS THE SADDEST DAY OF MY TENNIS CAREER

Sheer  
Mohamed Sheer  
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