



# Deutscher Sport Club Johannesburg

## 2022 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank the previous board of the club as well as the members of the club for having faith in myself and my fellow board members in taking over the responsibilities of the Deutsche Sports Club Johannesburg (DSCJ) and ensuring it continues serving and supporting the Deutsche Schule Johannesburg (DSJ) pupils through the difficult times this past year.

A special thank you is extended to the previous board for their handing over of the club to the new board, and the good job they had done in putting solid foundations in place. These have afforded us the DSCJ to grow and cement new structures. A special mention and thanks to Birte, Tommy, Chris, Ross and Luca.

Continuing in the previous board's footsteps of creating a club focussed on giving our kids the opportunity to practice and enjoy the beautiful game, we have tried, as the board, to build on previous achievements, create new opportunities, extending the offerings and create new channels of communicating with members. I will further expand on these points in order to convey how we have achieved some of these objectives as well as expectations going forward.

A big achievement for the board and a success story for the entire club is the introduction of the U6's. This was an ambitious task taken by the club and a huge commitment by the coaches. We currently have 20 kids in this age group which translates to 20 new paying club members. A big influencing factor in targeting this age group (Grundschule) was to feed the club with new members, so creating a conduit from the ground up. Another factor was to try and get more girls to enjoy the game and become active members, which is evidently lacking in the higher age groups. An added benefit we see is giving the kids an opportunity to improve their hand eye ball coordination as well as improve their physical fitness. Time will tell if these new members catch the bug, and help the club to maintain healthy numbers through the higher age groups.

Another achievement, which is challenging to maintain with such thin numbers, but nevertheless we feel is important in creating the conduit, is having a full complement of teams from U6 through to U11. It is the first year in the club's history we have this, and I am proud of the board for agreeing to try this and for putting in the hard work in maintaining the teams. We are confident that this will lead to club's teams moving up the age groups to include older students. A special thanks to Natalie for heading this up.

In order to improve training and increase team confidence, a more cohesive and structured coaching regiment has been implemented with Morgan taking on more responsibilities and deliverables as head coach. Another decision taken to improve coaching and training was hiring a new coach. This has helped tremendously, and we are looking at adding more coaches as the club's membership increases. We are intent on continuing the previous board's outlook on training and furthering our coach's knowledge and skills. The above implementation seems to have had a positive effect, which is evident in the improved skill of the players and in that we are now winning more games than previously. We will continue to strive in improving our teams whilst ensure they still enjoy the game. Thank you to Greg and Hans for championing this.



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Another initiative taken by the board, in conjunction with the coaches, was to implement holiday camps during the short holidays. The intention behind the camps is to improve the skills of existing players, giving parents a cost-effective solution to keep kids occupied during the holidays, as well as giving newcomers (especially girls) a glimpse of what the club offers. An added benefit is an extra opportunity for the coaches to earn more money. This has proved to be a great initiative, and an improvement in the players that attended, was clearly noticeable. This initiative will be added as a permanent offering. Thanks to Hans for running with this initiative and ensuring it is a success.

Furthermore the club has seen a 17% increase in membership, as well as an improvement of  $\pm 85\%$  in retained surplus from 2020 to 2021. Special thanks goes to Alex for keeping the finances up to date, ensuring the debtors book is managed and that every sent spent is accounted for. Alex has ensured that our books are clean, and our financials are simple and transparent.

In order to better communicate with our stakeholders, disseminate information and offer members a platform to communicate with the DSCJ, we have actioned and implemented the DSCJ website. The website ([dscj.co.za](http://dscj.co.za)) is now up and running. Although it is still a work in progress, it will prove to be an important tool in maintaining the club's existing membership and increasing its footprint.

Another aspect for the club is marketing and the look and feel of the club. We are constantly looking at ways to attract players and improve the overall image of the club. In order to keep the club fresh, we are looking at changing the uniform of the club to a Kappa kit. We have a parent who is able to get us a special deal on the kit. This decision has also been taken as the supplier of our current kit has informed us the kit will no longer be available after this year.

The board feels that each age group should have representation on the board and we will be looking for parents from the different age groups to join the board. We will also seek parents that have time to manage and coordinate the teams and game schedules, as this is, at times, quite a lot of work for one person.

In closing I would like to thank Renate, Alex, Hans, Natalie and Greg for the countless hours spent in discussing, negotiating and planning to get the club to its current state as well as the personal time taken in managing the club and their portfolios. I am also pleased to mention that all current board members have agreed to continue serving on the board, if nominated and elected. A special thanks to Renate for giving us her board room for our meetings as well as for all the legal advice. A special thanks to Natalie, for staying on and keeping the teams and games moving forward despite her workload increasing. Also to Alex for his accounting skills and for his guidance on board procedures in his capacity as a lawyer and his legal board experience.

**Jonathan Betsalel**

**30 July 2022**