



2023 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The DSCJ annual general meeting (AGM) is once again upon us. I would like to thank all the board members of the club for your time, dedication and unwavering support and commitment. The board thanks the club's members for having faith in myself and my fellow board members, entrusting the continuity and prosperity of the club to us and believe this report will validate that.

Building on the foundations laid by the previous board, the new board has been able to manage the season with relative confidence and ease, allowing us to focus on laying down and finetuning the templates and roadmaps required to ensure a better managed and functional club.

The club continues to focus on giving our kids the opportunity to practice and enjoy the beautiful game at the DSJ. Our ethos remains building on previous achievements, creating 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 was the introduction of the U6's. This was an ambitious task taken by the club and a huge commitment by the coaches and we continue to pursue these kids in order to ensure greater numbers for the U7's and up. Although an important goal is to attract girls to the club, we are failing in this regard and are looking at ways to remedy this.

The success story of incorporating the U6's continues to filter through with last years U6's (now the U7's) fielding two teams and growing exponentially. Acknowledgement is given to Carsten Frischmuth and Jeff Fok for taking charge of this age group and championing new initiatives for the lower age groups. Successful initiatives will be promulgated to other age groups. A healthy younger base is paramount to the club's success.

Having a full complement of teams from U6 through to U12 (next year U13), we believe, is important in maintaining the feeder conduit. I am proud of the board for trying very hard to maintain this. We unfortunately lost our U10's this year, but are determined to get them back. Overshadowing this is the growing numbers in the lower age groups, demonstrating our initiatives are paying off. To this effect, we have two teams for the U7's and healthy numbers in the U8's and U9's which we haven't had before. Despite the absence of the U10's we had 7 teams this year as compared to 6 last year.

The more cohesive and structured coaching regiment implemented to improve training and increase team confidence seems to have paid off with most teams finishing last year in the top placing and being promoted.



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Attracting new coaches has proved to be difficult, despite this we have employed three new coaches this year and will try and attract more before the start of next year's season. This being said, we need to remain cognisant of our duty to ensure the fees are affordable and more coaches adds significantly to our overheads. Moreover, we are intent on continuing the previous board's outlook on growing our coaches by furthering their knowledge and skills.

Holiday camps supported by the board last year continue to be popular and we believe the new club initiative calendarizing holiday camps at the beginning of the year will lead to greater attendance and exposure for the club. The main intention behind the camps remains to improve the skills of existing players, giving parents of the club 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. It also allows coaches to exchange ideas, experiment and improve their coaching skills. This initiative has seen more benefits than we expected.

Furthermore, the club has, for a second year in a row, seen an increase in membership. Despite this, in an effort to keep the club affordable as well as increasing the coaching complement to ensure club team competitiveness, we will end the year in the red. Although this can be remedied by increasing fees, the board will look at alternatives as our stakeholders are already stretched. Ideas to address the shortfall going forward will be to further increase membership, seek sponsorship and explore fund raising initiatives. Special thanks goes to Alex Schaffrath 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.

The actioning of the DSCJ website last year, to better communicate with our stakeholders, disseminate information and offer members a platform to communicate with the DSCJ is fully functional and will include a club calendar next year. The club calendar will highlight registration, important dates as well as when the holiday camps take place. The web site remains an important tool in maintaining the club's existing membership and increasing its footprint, and we will continue to increase the sites functionality and accessibility.

Marketing, even to a captive client base is paramount. Last year the club took a decision to change the club kit to Kappa kits. The kits look even better than we expected and believe they improve the overall image of the club. A banner with our logo and the line 'Home of the DSCJ' was erected on the field container, thanks to Natco for sponsored it. Banners were also purchased to be displayed on the field during holiday camps and events in order to enhance the club's image and attract new players.

Following the 2022 AGM, we have achieved assigning a board member for each age group and in most cases the board member is the team manager. This has significantly improved communication with the teams and team moral. We have also employed a manager/coordinator to fill positions that require more time than members of the board can afford. I would like to thank Nicole Ewert-Artman for stepping up and filling this position.

The DSCJ is a common law corporate body whose current Board members, in alphabetical order, are: Adrian Haas, Alex Schaffrath, Carsten Frischmuth, Gregory Naicker, Hans Hillebrand, Jeffrey Fok, Jonathan Betsalel (Chairman), Renate Brack (Deputy Chair) and Wolfgang Dumfart. [September 2023]

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In closing I would like to thank all board members for the countless hours spent in discussing, negotiating and planning, 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 re-elected. Yet again, a special thanks to Renate Brack for giving us her board room for our meetings as well as for all the legal advice and Alex Schaffrath for his accounting skills and for his guidance on board procedures in his capacity as a lawyer and his legal board experience. Thanks again to head coach Morgan van Rooyen for assisting and dealing with all the changes being implemented.

Jonathan Betsalel

22 September 2023