



Deutscher Sport Club Johannesburg

2024 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The DSCJ Annual General Meeting (AGM) is once again upon us. Again, 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 fellow board members in ensuring the continuity and prosperity of the club despite this being a challenging year.

The club continues to focus on giving our kids the opportunity to practice and enjoy the beautiful game at the DSI. Our ethos remains building on previous achievements, creating new opportunities, extending the offerings and creating 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. I will also address some of the challenges we face as the pipeline reaches the higher age groups.

The 2022 success story of incorporating U6's into the club continues to be a main focus, and despite last year's U 6's being a challenge, this year's U6's have had good attendance. The U6 team fielded in 2022 has maintained two teams and is growing thanks to Carsten Frischmuth and Jeff Fok, who jointly manage this age group. They also oversee the lower age groups. Successful initiatives will be promulgated to other age groups. As mentioned before, having a healthy younger age base is paramount to the club's success. To this end we need to attract board members from these lower grades to ensure we maintain a focus on them and that these teams sustain healthy numbers. Another benefit in recruiting board members from this age group, there is a better chance of them staying on the board for longer periods.

An important goal for the club is to attract girls to the club and we have had some success in girls attending the U6 and U8 age groups, we are still falling short and are continuing to look at ways to remedy this.

Despite trying to have a full complement of teams from U6 through to U14, we have fallen short this year in the older age groups. We have had to incorporate U10 with U11 as well as U12 with U13 and 14 age groups to ensure there are sufficient players in these teams. The challenge when getting to the older groups is the numbers of players required per team increases. Getting sufficient players is difficult considering all our players are recruited from the school. Ways we will try and challenge this is to work more closely with the school to recruit players, try and offer some assistance for players that can't afford the fees and better recruiting from the NSC classes. Another challenge is, as the team is a mix of both age groups to get the numbers, the teams are weaker than others in that age group and so we need to look at putting these teams to a lower league than they currently play in. In the past the RCLFA have been quite flexible in teams changing divisions but have become more rigid in this regard.

Before he left in July, Bakary (Ex player in the Bundesliga) managed the coaches and tried to further cement a structured coaching regiment which did improve training and increased team confidence. He was able to do this as he had time to invest. Since he left, his efforts seem to have now been in vain, and we feel that the only solution is to ensure the head-coach takes responsibility for this. Heiko has taken over responsibility for managing the coaches from Bakary due to his past coaching experience and also does some extra coaching for the U13/14 on a Wednesday afternoon. This has had a very positive impact on the U13/U14 team and the kids really enjoy the training. In order to get more control over the coaching standards and ensure accountability, Heiko is putting together SLA's for all of them.

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Managing the coaches continues to be challenging, with some being late to games, not pitching or neglecting duties. With an SLA in hand, the board intends to ensure coaches deliver on their commitments. The board still intends on continuing the previous board's outlook on growing our coaches by furthering their knowledge and skills.

Holiday Soccer Camps introduced by the board two years ago is still popular and although we didn't implement our Holiday Soccer Camps calendar at the beginning of the year, we did post the dates to the site and we sent out messages well in advance. This year we are changing the implementation of the holiday camps, and they will be totally managed by the board. This will enable us to put out a Holiday Soccer Camp Calendar for the entire year at the start of next year. This should bolster numbers for the camps and people may then also plan their holidays around the camps. The main intention behind the camps remains to improve the skills of existing players, giving parents of the club and the school 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, which is a great opportunity to recruit new players. 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 third year in a row, seen an increase in membership although not as significant this year. This coupled with some welcomed donations saw the club end the year flat. In order to minimise an increase in fees, the board will look at alternatives as our parents are already financially stretched. We will continue to try and further increase membership, seek sponsorship (which helped this year) and explore fund raising initiatives to generate revenue. This will enable us to accommodate for inflation, assist players that require help and maintain healthy reserves. Special thanks goes to Jeff Fok for managing and keeping the finances up to date, ensuring the debtors book is managed and that every cent spent is accounted for. Jeff, as with Alex Schaffrath, has ensured that our books are clean, and our financials are simple and transparent.

The DSCJ website, implemented two years ago, assists the club in better communicating with our stakeholders, disseminating information and offering members a platform to communicate with the DSCJ. We are hoping to have the club calendar up on the website at the beginning of next year. 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 site's functionality and accessibility. We need to implement initiatives to create awareness of the site as there is almost no traffic to the site and it is an important tool for the club.

Last year's decision to change the club kit to Kappa kits has created a clean and professional image of both the players and the club. This year we welcomed a new sponsor to the club, Dust Fit, who's logo is now displayed on the kit. Thanks to all the board members, and especially Nicole, who rallied to ensure all kits already issued also got the logo printed on them.

Following the decision made at the 2022 AGM, we have continued to try and encourage team managers to join the board as it creates a direct line of communication with the teams. Where this is not possible, the team manager will be encouraged to attend the first half an hour of each board meeting to give updates, discuss parent's concerns and the interactions with the team and the coach. This will significantly improve communication with the teams and team morale. I would like to thank Nicole Ewet-Artman for stepping into the role of manager/coordinator and taking to it like a duck to water. Her assistance is invaluable.

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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, pending their kids' teams still being viable. This being said, new blood is welcome and encouraged. A special thanks to Heiko Braun for giving us his board room for our meetings as well as for all the legal advice and for his guidance on board procedures, and again to Jeff Fok for his accounting skills and keeping our club lean and our fees low.

Jonathan Betsalel

30 September 2024