



2025 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is once again time for the DSCJ Annual General Meeting (AGM) to convene. A big thank you to our club members, their parents as well as our new partners Jozi Talents (JT) for having faith in me to lead the DSCJ once again this year. Your trust and support in myself and the board enabled us to ensure the club continues to offer great value at a high standard as well as enabling us to ensure our 2025 vision for the club materialised and was a resounding success.

The club continues to focus on giving our kids the opportunity to practice and enjoy the beautiful game at the DSCJ. Our ethos, firmly entrenched in the club's culture, remains building on previous achievements, creating new opportunities, extending the offerings and creating new channels of communicating with members. This year, more than ever, has drawn on these club values, transforming the club into an incubator for child development and skills transfer. The club's transformation (as envisioned in our 2024 Chairman's Report) incorporates our original main objectives, which act as catalysts in achieving some of these objectives. I will further explain the transformation that took place in 2025 and the objectives and opportunities these changes unlock. With change comes challenges and I will expand on these too.

Building a pipeline from U6's upwards to ensure healthy numbers in the higher age groups will continue to be an important imperative. This year the club purchased another 3 sets of goals for the younger age groups, ensuring we can hold U6/U7 games and tournaments at our home grounds at the DSCJ. I would like to thank Janine Watkins-Berger and Nicole Ewert-Artman who have managed this age group, ensured the kids get to training and back safely and that they had fun. Notwithstanding a healthy lower base being paramount to the club's success, it also affords parents an alternative for their kids to develop their core, hand-eye-ball coordination and team skills in a fun and affordable environment.

Another important initiative, which we have unfortunately failed to get traction on, is attracting girls to play soccer at the club. When attracting girls for the U6's, we will need to keep them passionate as they move to the higher age groups. If we are able to put some girl's teams together and they achieve, this could be the catalyst required to entrench and maintain a conduit for girl's teams in the club. Cooperation with school initiatives will be imperative in tackling this challenge.

This year we have the following teams registered in the RCLFA league, 2 x U6, U7, U9, U10, and U12. Every year, the challenge in ensuring healthy numbers is determined by the size of the group that was in place when the team were U6/U7. This year we had healthy numbers in both these groups, and, with the new professional training provided by Jozi Talents (JT) we hope to ensure they stay with the club and have many years of joy playing soccer for the DSCJ. Although this initiative is paying off, we still need to work at it.

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As mentioned in the 2024 Chairman's report, Bakary's (Ex player in the Bundesliga) best efforts to manage the coaches and cement a structured coaching regiment within the club didn't gain traction and so the board decided to outsource the coaching to JT, a professional outlet that focuses on coaching players in order for them to reach their full potential. To ensure fairness and inclusivity in managing the changeover, It was decided that all existing coaches be given first preference to apply for coaching positions at JT. All the coaches that took up this offer were successful and were trained, at no cost, to the level of coaching expected at JT.

Club Coaching is managed and evaluated by JT to ensure that all training is consistent with the standard expected at JT. All coaches at the DSCJ have undergone JT training and evaluation and any coach that joins will need to be trained and vetted before being admitted as a JT/DSCJ coach. This decision has ensured our members get a professional, consistent and proactive training regimen. Feedback received confirms that members of the club are happy with the current training standards and the decision to change over. The collaboration with JT has resulted in coaching becoming more structured with players being managed personally and reports on each player provided biannually.

Another initiative taken by the board and provided by JT is the Coachbetter app. This app allows the coaches to evaluate the players, give parents feedback on their kids as well as communicate with parents. This app has brought structure, transparency and accountability to the club and feedback suggests that it is doing its job and has been well accepted by all. Using this app, coaches are able to manage player development, keep up to date track of players' progress and game performance which gets relayed to parents through the coach better app biannually.

The DSCJ and JT have seen the need for a dedicated goalie coach. The goalie coach now trains the goalies during training and will give the coaches pointers on warming the goalies up and getting them ready prior to a match. We trust this will enable the goalies to perform at a higher level and enable the teams to compete on a better footing.

Holiday Soccer Camps introduced by the board three years ago are now well entrenched and attract healthy numbers. These camps are managed by the board, but implemented by JT. These camps are now well structured, and offer kids an opportunity to develop their skills, whilst giving parents an affordable option to keep their kids active and healthy in a safe environment. These camps also offer an opportunity to recruit new players.

Another initiative that has been on the boards to do list is overseas football tours. JT has agreed to put together an overseas football tour for next year. JT has successfully organised these tours in the past and are in the process of putting together a trip for our members for the June holidays next year. The club looks forward to presenting the tour to members as soon as JT has finalised the details.

Our collaboration and good standing with the DSJ is very important to the club as our main stakeholders are all DSJ pupils. The club communicates with the school regularly to coordinate with the school to ensure we maintain a harmonious relationship between us. The DSCJ and the DSJ are looking at further collaborating to ensure that the DSCJ kids get to enjoy more game time without compromising training time. Once we have more details on this, we will communicate this with members. Another result of closer cooperation is that we will now be looking to acknowledge our players at assemblies.

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Over the last three years, the club has consistently increased its membership year on year. This was the first year we thought we would fall short due to the big changes implemented as well as the increase in our membership fees of 50% in order to implement these changes. I am happy to say that for the fourth year in a row, the DSCJ has managed once again to increase our membership. This is only due to the huge effort made by entire board, Nicole and JT. A big thank you for your efforts. Despite the increase in fees and membership, the club still needs membership growth to ensure our membership fees exceed our expenses. We trust now that members have seen the professional training provided by JT culminating in the success the club teams have had, which we trust will result in even better numbers for the new season.

Although the focus of the board is to ensure the lowest fees for the best possible offering, the board was unable to avoid a significant increase this year. Despite the 50% increase in membership fees as well as obtaining a large donation, we will end the year flat. Although this can be remedied by increasing fees, the board will look at alternatives as our stakeholders are already stretched. We will continue to try and further increase membership, seek sponsorship (which helped this year) and explore fund raising initiatives to generate revenue. 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.

The DSCJ website, implemented two years ago, assists the club in better communicating with our stakeholders, disseminating information and offers members a platform to communicate with the DSCJ. We still need to include a club calendar on the website. We have appointed a web developer parent from the DSJ to take over the website in order to ensure it is well managed, regularly updated and current. The web site remains an important tool in maintaining the club's existing membership and increasing its footprint, and we will continue, with the assistance of the newly appointed web developer, to increase the sites functionality and accessibility. Last year we successfully implemented an initiative to create awareness of the site, which will be carried through.

As the club's current Kappa kits are ending their run, the club purchased spare kits to ensure we were able to continue with the current Kappa kits for 2026. The Kappa kits give the club a clean and professional image and so we will continue with the brand and next year we will display the new kit look for 2027 for members to view and comment on. Dust Fit continue to be the sponsor logo on our kits, and all new kits get this logo printed on the shirts. I would like to once again thank Nicole and the board for ensuring all players received their kits on time. Well done.

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. Being strict in this regard will significantly improve communication with the teams and team moral. Once again, I would like to thank Nicole Ewet-Artman for stepping into the role of manager/coordinator, her assistance is invaluable.

Due to poor attendance of past DSCJ AGM's, we decided to delay this year's AGM to coordinate with our end of year function. We hope this, coupled with it being a weekend, will bolster attendance. We will monitor the success of this initiative, and based on it's success, will consider making this move permanent.

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It is with a heavy heart that I inform the board and members of the DSCJ that this is unfortunately my last AGM. As the club was unable to garner an U14 team this year, and most likely, unable to garner an U15 team in 2026, I was forced to transfer both my kids to an alternative club. Based on this, I have decided not to rerun as Chairman of the Board after the 2025 AGM. The decision is two pronged. I think after four years at the helm, it is time to hand over the baton to someone with younger kids in the club, whom has a better vantage and understanding of younger age groups and their parent's expectations as well as a longer runway with the club. I also feel that board members should have at least one kid as a member of the club to ensure a vested interest in the club's success. I accepted the boards request that I stay on until the 2025 AGM in order to manage the enormous changes implemented this year and to hand over a club that is up and running and in good standing to the new chairman post the 2025 AGM.

In closing I would like to thank the current and past board members for your unwavering support and dedication to the club and for giving of your time selflessly.

Thank you to Greg Naiker, Hans Hillebrand, Nataly Watermeyer, Alex Schaffrath and Renate Hertenberger for stepping up with me in June 2021, to ensure the continuity of the club post the dissolution of the DSCJ board headed by Birte and Thommy Adleff and for having faith in me to steer the ship. Thank you too to the current board Heiko Braun, Janine Watkins-Berger, Jeffery Fok and Carsten Frischmuth, as well as our secretary Nicole Ewert-Artman for your support over the last few years.

To our new partner Jozi Talents, thank you for your support and effort in ensuring our collaboration was successful. Our strong and successful partnership is testament to both the DSCJ and JT's commitment to ensure the club's members are at the forefront of our efforts and that we realize our goals and meet their expectations. A true partnership is fluid, with flexibility and agility determining the magnitude of success. Thank you for all your support and hard work in ensuring our collaboration is a success. Looking forward to seeing this partnership blossom and grow. A special thank you to Roman Schröder for his flexibility and accommodating the DSCJ's unique requirements in our negotiations and to Sinawe Koni for implementing and managing the plan whilst making it seem effortless. We see and understand the hard work you both put in. Thank you both.

To all our stakeholders, thank you for your support and for the trust you placed in me. I wish the club much success in the future and that the focus of the club remains ensuring the DSJ kids (our most important stakeholders) have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful game, have fun with their friends and fulfil their dreams in a safe and professional environment at an affordable fee.

Jonathan Betsalel

20 October 2025