

Chairman's Annual Report for 2017/2018

Development of the club:

The club was formed during September 2017

During October the constitution was completed and accepted at our first AGM. A committee was selected with myself as chairman. The other members are Marcelle van den Hoven, Fienie Wallace , Marlese Buys and Braam Oosthuizen.

Structures were put in place to handle our leagues with a number of voluntary age co-ordinators appointed. This implementation helped significantly to run our leagues pretty successfully during the first year.

Leagues:

4 Leagues were done. One in the last quarter of 2017 and three this year – one in each of the first two quarters and another development league currently underway.

Leagues start at U7 level and continue up to U13 and over level. Unfortunately we were not able to secure a league for the older boys and they had to fit into the infamous “Barbarian” side from time to time. This issue would need to be addressed in years to come to ensure we cater for the older boys and girls as well.

Club teams and IPT:

The club undertook two tours in our first year.

In December 2017 we took two teams to Zambezi participating as the “Black Knights” with both teams returning undefeated and both winning gold medals. They participated in the Under 11 and the U12's in the U13 category. Well done to all involved! A new culture and tradition was also established in the process which received approval from both players and parents.

In May another 3 teams went to Edenvale for their mini IPT. Although I felt this trip should be compulsory for all IPT players it regrettably did not happen. None of the U11 and only a few of the U13 boys could go. The “eye opener” the U10 and U12 boys experienced was not only overwhelming, but a huge shock to where they fit in and what they have to expect from IPT. The parents that accompanied the boys on the weekend probably felt the same.

We also took a U7 side to Edenvale and those boys came back with two wins against older sides. The development of other players in this group will strengthen the group and help to give selectors choice of players in future years.

The IPT in June/July at Sandton was attended by four teams. With the knowledge of Edenvale my expectations were lowered quite a bit. The fact that 25 of the 34 players going to IPT were rookies also did not help. Only four boys in the entire squad had reasonable experience with only one ever playing for a medal.

The U10, U11 and U13 teams found the going pretty tough and could only win 3, 2 and 2 games. The U10 to their credit ended in the shield final which they unfortunately lost. Maybe Edenvale was just enough to allow them to achieve the play-offs.

The U12 team had a dream start in a very tough pool winning their 1st 4 games. The first being a big win over a fancied Eastern Gauteng gold medal prospect team. Unfortunately they got stuck in their final two pool games against other medal winning teams. They progressed to win a further 3 matches and qualified for the plate final. They lost the plate final 93-90, but could consider themselves unlucky. Two of our players Tiaan van den Hoven and Nicholis Grobler qualified for the "All stars" team. Tiaan ended 6th overall and Nicholis 12th. This indeed a great achievement.

With two of our teams in medal play-offs we will at least go to next years' competition with a little experience (now 16 boys with play-off experience) to hopefully perform even better.

All in all I believe the boys did themselves and the province proud. The kitt by far the best looking and boys could probably sell the shirts for triple the purchase price. Some of the players picked up a few bruises, but boys taking one for the team is part of the game.

Two of our boys also went to the Mpumalanga indoor trials in Middelburg last Sunday with both of them being included into the U14 IPT squad.

Finances:

As you heard from the treasurer the club is in a healthy financial position. This we achieved with no sponsorship this year. Our IPT was also half the cost of previous years. We further also participated in two extra tournaments. In total the club supported our touring teams with more than R 40 000.

It seems that registration fees will need to be controlled better in future to ensure all league and club players pay the registration fees.

Our fundraisers had mixed success with the golf day being called off. The dads and lads /capping day was a huge success and the catering at the Halls fun run made around R 3000. Well done to the committee and all involved in their unselfish voluntary contribution towards this club. Without your contributions the achievements of the past year would not be possible.

Umpires and Coaching:

Quite a few of our senior boys are now on the umpires' chair. The lack of umpires is still one of our biggest headaches. For coaches to do that is not ideal. A decision was made that all coaches must be or have been umpires. All IPT coaches must also have been to the recommended course run by Mr Shawn Shaper. On the parents Quiz sent out recently the coaching was scored well overall except for the U12 coach getting a 1 out of 5 from a particular quiz. This does create a little worry of what parents expect from coaches and a reminder that these coaches all did it for no compensation.

Club Champs:

Club champs is scheduled for 7-9 December this year. We will categories in the U9, U11 and U13 age groups. We are looking forward to a very successful tournament.

The way forward:

I believe more and more parents need to get involved in this club. Nobody gets payment for their time and effort, but hopefully the reward lies in the achievement of the boys. It is important that each and everyone realises that the people involved probably do it because their own child or children are involved, BUT these children get older and finally grows out of the system..... and with that probably also the parents involved.

At the committee meeting held on 22 July 2018 it was decided to move the IPT back to the arena and that the club will stand separately from the IPT. This then leaves the door open for players outside the club to be able to play for Lowveld in the future.

This decision also means that the constitution needs to be changed which will be discussed on this meeting together with a few other changes.

The Netball will also accept their own constitution and form their own club in the nearby future.

In Conclusion

It was a great experience and honour for me to chair this club from initiation to where it is today. I had a wonderful committee that allowed us to achieve what has been achieved so far. I thank everyone involved.

As per the constitution I hereby render my resignation as club chairman.

With the lack of coaching available to our beginner players as well as the feedback on the quiz I have decided to start the Black Knight Cricket Academy. This will be my business and will stand separately from the club. These coaching sessions will be charged and will start from Sep 2018 and will be on Friday afternoons from 14h00 to 16h00. This is open to all players of all ages. Parents will have to contact me personally for arrangements.

I wish the next chairman and his or her committee all the best for the year ahead and hope the club continues to grow and blossom the way it has over the past year.

Thanking you

Thys van den Hoven