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**GAUTENG CENTRAL
TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

TO: Whom it may concern

CC: GCTTA Executive Council Chairman-Ashen Maharaj
Et al GCTTA

FROM: Mogamat Salie (GCTTA Team Manager for SA's 2019)

DATE: 3 October 2019

Re: GCTTA Manager's report on the SA Championship 2019

I thought hard and long about where I should start my report on GCTTA's performance at the recent SA Championships 2019. I decided on starting at the beginning.

The junior convenor, Jonathan Wernich, followed by fellow coaches, Mubeen Hadjee and Tevia Sapire put in many hours of coaching with our juniors, in order to get the best out of our junior squad. GCTTA cannot thank them enough for their sacrifices and efforts, and as I can see by the results, it was not in vain.

Day 1

We used Queens High School as a base for the training sessions, and felt it only befitting to leave from our home base. The team left Queens at 3am on the 21st September and undertook the long trip to Oudtshoorn with vigour and excitement. The long trip did take its toll on everyone, and it's not something any of us will do again by taxi. A trip like this must be done in a bus, but as they say, you learn by experience. We stopped every 2 hours to give everyone a stretch and a toilet break.

Once we arrived at the Barons Palace Lodge at about 7pm, it was a mad rush to get settled into our rooms. Mubeen and I had to rush to the hall for a management meeting. By the time we got back to the lodge we were dog tired. All the while, the rest of the team had a chance to rest after such a long journey. Mubeen and I settled into our different rooms and slept like a log.

Day 2

We were all up early to get to the hall for practice and to commence with the playoffs. We reached the lodge late that night.

Day 3

As usual for the rest of the week it ended up being the same routine which everyone gladly got used to, i.e. early up and late to bed.

Skip forward to the team events & finals: Day 4

This was a real cracker, as everyone was on their toes for the ultimate showdown between Gauteng Central and Cape Town Table Tennis. All our teams made us proud, and that night showed everyone that GCTTA is not a push over and is a force to be reckoned with.

Day 5 & 6

This consisted of mainly the doubles events.

Day 7

Due to play starting at 3pm on 27 September, the team management decided to take the juniors to Victoria Bay in George for the morning. Everybody enjoyed themselves with a few juniors seeing the beach for the first time in their lives.

Skip forward to the Singles events & finals: Day 7 & 8

Once again, I can say with pride the GCTTA players handled themselves as professional athletes and never skipped a beat in producing satisfactory results. Even though some never made it all the way through to the finals, huge congratulations goes to everyone who participated to the very end.

Danisha Patel (GCTTA) once again showed that she is in peak form and had a nail biting final against Simeen Mookrey (CTTT).

Laila Edwards (GCTTA) deserves a mention here for her performance at the SA Championships.

The Food at Barons' Palace Lodge

The lunch and supper served to us from the Barons Palace Lodge was really terrible to say the least. It was tasteless, bland and looked like a concoction of a witch's brew that fell to the floor. No variety or creativity in the meals whatsoever; and a "eat what I give you" attitude from the owner; doesn't gel well with me.

The breakfast was good, with a good variety on offer which gave everyone a substantial start for the day. Which leads me to ask, where was the variety / creativity for lunch and supper?

Most people ended up buying their meals from KFC, or from the tuck shop at the hall. I would not recommend going back to Oudtshoorn at all. There is nothing for people of other faiths to eat.

On our team we had 1 vegetarian, 3 people not eating beef, 5 halaal diets which was not properly catered for. I would in future recommend that if a lodge cannot cater for people with different diet requests that we take a cook along to cater properly for our athletes. Every day was a long 15 hour day, with no nutritional value in the lunch and supper we received. I would gladly go next time as the cook to make sure that everyone gets a good nutritional and well balanced meal.

Our trip back was a long and tiring journey. We left at 01h30am on 29 September and arrived at Queens High School at 16h30pm.

Conclusion

Lots of fun was had by all; but by the end of the week, most of the athletes ended up with throat infections, including myself; which was terrible, as I ended up going to the doctor because of a fever.

Sanele (one of our U15 girls) had to be rushed to hospital as she had an anxiety attack at the hall. She returned later to finish her matches. A special mention to all the athletes who played their hearts out, and an extra special mention goes out to Mubeen Hadjee; coach of the year in my book. He worked tirelessly the whole day coaching the juniors during their various matches, and his contribution in working with the seniors, often moving from one match to another non-stop. My respect and gratitude goes out to you, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. GCTTA is proud and fortunate to have you on board and trust we will have a long fruitful and beneficial relationship. The juniors really looked up to you for guidance and support.

Results

Single Events

- a) Daniel (u13b) went out in round 16; in the (u15b) he went out in round 32
- b) Ariel (u13b) went out in round 32; in the (u15b) he didn't make it out of his group.
- c) Nthabiseng (u13g & u15g) didn't make it out of the groups
- d) Keira (u13g) lost in round 16, in the (15g) lost in round of 64.
- e) Hannah (13g) lost in round of 16, in (u15g) lost in round of 32
- f) Muhamed (u15b) went out in round 32 and in the (u18b) lost in the group's stage.
- g) Josh (u15b) lost in round of 16 to Hussain Talal from the Free State, in (18b) lost in round of 32
- h) Dean (u15b) lost in semi-finals to Ahmed Karim. In the (u18b) he lost to Yukail Naidoo in the quarter finals.
- i) Belinda (u15g) lost in round 32 and in the (u18g) she lost in group stages.
- j) Sthembile (u15g) lost in the round of 16 and in the (u18g) went out in round 16.
- k) Nthuthuzelo (u18b) out in round 16, in men lost in group stages
- l) Tsepho (u18b) out in round 16, in mens he reached round of 64.
- m) Siphosiphiso reached quarter finals (u18b). In the mens he reached round 32.,
- n) Sanele (u18g) lost in the group stage.
- o) Mbali (u18g) lost in round of 32, in the Womens' she lost in round 32.
- p) Lailaa (u18g) lost in semi-finals. She also lost in round 16 of the Womens'.
- q) Chetan (Mens') out in round 16.
- r) Tevia (Mens') out in round of 16.
- s) Odele (Mens') out in round of 32.
- t) Nilesh (Mens') out in round 64.
- u) Jonathan (Mens') out in round of 64.
- v) Osuji lost in the semi-finals (mens) to Kurt from Cape Town.
- w) Danisha won gold in the Womens' singles.
- x) Saadia lost in round of 64 in Womens' singles
- y) Ronel lost in round of 64 in Womens' singles
- z) Saiisha lost in group stages

Team Events

- a) U13g didn't make it out of their groups
- b) U13b lost in the semi-finals and got bronze
- c) U15g lost in quarter-finals
- d) U15b took gold beating Cape Town.
- e) U18g lost to Cape Town in Semi-finals, they got Silver.
- f) U18b lost to Cape Town in Semi-Finals, they got Silver.
- g) Mens won gold
- h) Ladies lost in quarter finals.

Mixed events / doubles

- a) U15b doubles title and gold goes to Josh and Dean
- b) Dean and Sthembile reached the semi-finals of the U15 mixed doubles and got bronze.
- c) Danisha (GCTTA) and Simeen Mookrey (CTTT) won gold in the Womens' doubles.
- d) Chetan and Osuji both GCTTA won gold in the Mens' doubles.
- e) Osuji (GCTTA) and Mushfiqah (CTTT) won Silver in the mixed doubles.
- f) Chetan and Danisha, won bronze in the mixed doubles

Top 16 Rankings

U13

Daniel Marshall – 11th
Ariel Marshall – 16th
Hannah Levy - 4th

U15

Dean Levy - 1st
Muhammed Patel - 10th
Josh Sach - 12th
Hannah Levy – 13th
Sithembile Buthelezi – 14th

U18

Dean Levy – 5th
Tshepo Majoe – 6th
Sipho Boo – 7th
Nthuthuzelo Lusithi – 8th
Lailaa Edwards – 2nd
Mbali Masiteng – 8th
Sithembile Buthelezi – 11th

Ladies

Danisha Patel – 1st
Lailaa Edwards – 7th

Mens

Chijioke Osuji - 4th
Chetan Nathoo – 7th
Issy Badat - 11th

I would like to thank the following persons who made my job as Team Manager easier, and without them being there it would have been an absolute nightmare. This is in no particular order:

- Mubeen Hadjee
- Ronel Swanevelder
- Jonathan Wernich
- Tevia Sapire
- Saiisha Naidu
- Danisha Patel
- Saadia Edwards

Thanking you

Mr Mogamat Salie

Duly signed

GCTTA – Financial Manager