

Chairman's' Report AGM -3 December 2017

The past year was marked by the quadrennial Maccabiah Games held in July 2017. This will be the focus of the report. The games were the culmination of some 2 years of planning and organisation by Maccabi SA. The preparation for the games, involved the significant efforts of the Executive Committee and multiple volunteer Sports Convenors. The entire project was coordinated by our Sports director, Alain Nathan. The 2017 Games was the first games since 1987 that Maccabi SA had the services of a professional staffer.

Background

The 2013 Maccabiah Games proved to be a financial calamity for the movement in South Africa. The collapse of the rand between March and July 2013 left Maccabi SA heavily indebted to Maccabi World Union in Israel.

It became clear that in order for Maccabi to survive, the volunteer corps needed to be backed by a Professional Administrator. In addition, the organisation needed to be relaunched, reinvigorated and rebranded. These two elements were accomplished with the appointment of the Sports Director in August 2014 and the relaunch of the Maccabi SA brand in March of 2016. The co-opting of Ros Goldin (A previous Marketing Manager for Cricket South Africa) onto the Executive committee proved to be invaluable. She brought skills and experience that resulted in an outstanding new look for Maccabi SA. This initiative required a significant financial injection and the commitment of certain individuals in the movement need to be noted.

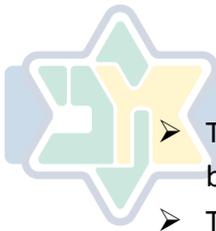
Both of these initiatives resulted in a major improvement of our organisational capacity and a much enhanced profile with in the broader Jewish Community.

Maccabi World Union soon recognised what was being achieved in South Africa and committed to assist in dealing with 2013 legacy and providing further help in order to optimise the size of our delegation for the 2017 games. The CEO of Maccabi World Union, Eyal Tiberger, took the lead with this initiative and the SA delegation to the 2017 Maccabiah benefitted from the funding that emanated due to his efforts.

20th Maccabiah 2017

From an overall perspective the games were a huge success for Maccabi SA. The salient features are pointed out below:

- The Change in our USD Land Arrangement payment model eliminated any forex risk to the organisation.
- An overall subsidy of \$1000 per participant (Junior and Open) made it significantly more affordable to most people. Additional subsidies were allocated on an application basis, ensuring assistance to a number of participants who had affordability challenges.



MACCABI

- The SA delegation numbered some 300 participants and managed to be one of the bigger delegations to the games.
- The Medal Tally was 19 Gold, 11 Silver and 6 Bronze medals
- Our organisational capacity and processes in the build up to the games were outstanding. Our leadership group was professional, committed and effective especially regarding our junior contingent numbering some 170 individuals.
- Special note also needs to be made of our Medical Team. Numbering seven professionals and an Administrator they performed efficiently and effectively.
- The narrative and sentiment after the games was overwhelmingly positive and Maccabi SA's reputation was further enhanced.

The Sporting Codes

Athletics:

There were two athletes that competed in this code. One junior and one open. The open athlete Adam Lipschitz, won 2 gold medals in the in the 5000 Meter track run and the 10KM Road Race. This achievement could well qualify for the most outstanding achievement by an individual athlete at the games.

Bowls:

Bowls was very well organised by Raymond Liebman and Jonty Alexander. We took a group of 7 male bowlers to the games. The bowlers also managed to find themselves in the medals winning the singles Gold, and Bronze in the trips and fours.

Chess:

SA was represented by individual competitor, Jacob Berman. Berman did well in the tournament but did not medal. He played a high profile exhibition match against Natan Sharansky.

Cricket Junior:

This was a very well prepared and cohesive team. The team beat Australia convincingly in the final to win the Gold Medal. The team kept alive the record of winning every single junior cricket gold medal since its introduction to the games in 2005. Special mention the convenor and team manager Joanne Tankle who a remarkable job organising and manging this team

Open Cricket:

The SA Senior cricket team won the Gold Medal at the games, beating a very strong England side in the final. Another victory that further illustrated SA's dominance in the competition since its inception. Tribute to Matt Rosen who organised the team and to Wayne Josselson who assisted and managed the team.

Cycling:

Our team had outstanding success in the cycling competitions, dominating the time trial with 3 gold medals and the Road Race with 1 gold and 1 silver medal. The open time trial was won by Jared Poulton with an outstanding performance in a very competitive field. Issy Zimmerman achieved an excellent double gold, winning both disciplines. A huge thank you to Jody Zulberg who organised and coordinated the team. She also won a Gold medal in the time trial and a Silver in the road race. We also had 2 very good efforts by Josh Cesman and Ryan Horwitz who will no doubt have future success at the games.



Football: SOUTH AFRICA

Junior Girls:

Having to reconfigure our girls U16 Futsal Team (The event was cancelled), our girls played in the U18 Football event. Whilst the girls did not manage a win, they hugely improved as the games went on. Thanks to Ronen Cohen and his coach and manager for their efforts in getting the girls to and from the games and having a great experience.

U18 Boys:

This was a fantastic team that finished 4th in the competition, far exceeding most expectations. This is one of our best results in a fiercely competitive sporting code at the games and a huge achievement in general. A special thanks to Craig Nossel and Ashley Kotzen who did a fantastic job of coordinating and enhancing the boys' overall build-up to the games. The team was run in a professional sports manner.

Opens:

This team assembled quite late in the day, finishing 13th on the log and winning one of their 4 matches.

Futsal:

We were represented by a boys U16 side. In a first for South Africa, our U16 boys won a brilliant bronze medal in the U16 Futsal competition. This was an outstanding achievement and very well deserved. The boys prepared for about 2 years and tasted success at the games. Thanks again to Ronen Cohen for Managing, coaching and coordinating this effort. He did an exceptional job.

Golf:

We took a large group of golfers to the games, including Juniors, Opens and Masters as well as Grand Masters. Our Junior team swept the board and won an impressive Team Gold as well as the individual Gold and Silver medals, won by Judd Sundleson and Benjy Stein respectively. Moshe Duek won the silver in the Grand Masters Tournament. Golf was organised by Les and Simone Cohen as well as Golf Chairman, Daniel Egdes.

Netball

Juniors:

Our Junior Team was very well prepared and won a bronze medal, narrowly losing out on a silver medal to Great Britain. The girls had a great experience at the games and restored some faith in Maccabi SA's netball. Thanks to Jack Lurie for his assistance and excellent fundraising and Alain Nathan for acting as convenor for this team.

Opens:

This team was hastily assembled for the games just a few months before. They did well under the circumstances. Thanks to Desmond Hyman for making the team a reality.

Rugby:

Juniors:

Having to assemble a team in April due to the tournament being previously cancelled made the whole process for this team a struggle from the beginning. The competition was called off in December of 2016 due to GB pulling out of the competition. It was reinstated when Argentina was included in the competition. We were under immense pressure and obliged to bring this team to the games. Our 21 boys however came together as a team and had some good coaching and management. They managed a bronze in the 7's and silver in the 15's.



Opens:

Members of the Games Committee and the Convenor of Rugby, Brad Berger, embarked on a project to take a well organised and competitive team to the games. SA's results and reputation were severely diminished in 2009 and 2013 in this regard. In a major effort, an excellent team coached by professional Kevin Musikanth, went to compete at the games. The team went into the 7's competition and dominated all of their games winning the gold medal. In the 15's it was very much the same beating Australia, Israel and Argentina in their first 3 games. In a nail biting final against the USA team unfortunately slipped up losing the game in the dying minutes but still clinched a very impressive Silver Medal. Overall a fantastic performance. The Status of Jewish SA rugby has been restored by our team's performances at these games.

Squash:

We were represented for the first time at the games by a full junior team. 3 boys and 3 girls competed in the team and individuals events. They had a great run of thing but did not medal. This was a very likeable and well behaved team. Our masters had a great tournament winning 2 silvers and a bronze.

Swimming:

We took a large group of 16 swimmers to the games as well as 2 coaches, a physio and a manager. An individual silver medal won by Daniella Solkow in the 50 M Freestyle final. This is an exceptional individual performance. The team was very well managed by Shireen Sapiro. Lisa Heilbron did a great job as the team convenor before the games. A huge thank you to both of them for making it all happen.

Table Tennis:

Mark Schlome put together great trials for the games and found our best players. With a number of drop outs happening leading up to the games he managed to ensure that two boys went to compete. The boys were joined by open player and team manger Danica Schlome. The team had a great experience at the games.

Tennis:

We took a full team of 6 boys and 6 girls to the games as well as 4 masters women. The juniors performed well and made a great impact but didn't manage to find the medals. The standard of tennis was incredibly high at the games and was one of the biggest events at the Maccabiah. Thank you to Byron Werbeloff who did a superb job of coordinating and coaching this team. The masters' women were highly competitive and very successful. They won 5 gold medals and silver. Jacqui Boyd won double gold medals.

Water Polo

Very excitingly, we took our first ever junior water polo team to the games. This group did reasonably well and unfortunately was struck with a number of last minute withdrawals from key players in the squad.

Overall team SA performed incredibly well. We also had individual competitors in Maccabi Man, Half Marathon and Judo.

The Future

In March 2018 an elective AGM is scheduled to occur. This will usher in a new leadership group for Maccabi SA. This group will be entrusted with planning and executing strategies to ensure that Maccabi SA remains relevant within the Community and has a feasible fundraising and funding model to sustain our efforts.



These efforts continue to be to facilitate local Tournaments and events but also to ensure a continued major presence at the 2021 Maccabiah Games.