

Maccabi South Africa

Head of Delegation report Maccabiah 2017

It gives me great pleasure to present the Head of Delegation report for the 20th Maccabiah.

It was an honour and a privilege to be nominated to represent our Organisation at the highest level for the Games and I thank our Executive for bestowing this on me.

There were daily meetings which were utilised to assess the previous day's occurrences and by and large there was nothing that was critical that needed to be resolved regarding the staging of the Maccabiah. An undertaking of this magnitude will never be without its problems, but these were ironed out quickly and efficiently. Kol hakavod to Amir Peled and all those who were involved to ensure that we had such a wonderful experience.

One of the major problems which came out of the 2013 games was the transport to and from the opening ceremony. This aspect saw a complete turnaround and the organisation in getting us to the Teddy Stadium and back to our hotels was phenomenal. Unfortunately the holding period prior to the start of the ceremony at the basketball/ice rink was not up to scratch and the content of the opening ceremony was poor.

As far as the South African contingent was concerned, there was not much that actually stood out that was problematic. There are always going to be glitches along the way and these were sorted out immediately and efficiently by our delegation. I basically travelled the length and breadth of Israel during the two weeks of the Maccabiah and 95% of what I saw and what I had to do was of a pleasant nature. There was very little that I needed to report on at the daily meetings.

To this I must thank the management of Team South Africa for their co-operation and hard work which ensured that problems were sorted out immediately and efficiently. Thanks to Des, Cliff, Alain, Leigh, Yaron, Gabriella and all the Convenors, Managers and coaches for ensuring that Maccabiah 2017 was a memorable one.

Les Cohen