

## **SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS CRICKET**

### **DIRECTORS REPORT: 2015/16**

**by MR R.S. CLAASSEN**

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The 2015/16 season will be remembered when South Western Districts Cricket (SWD Cricket) was rewarded for its excellent operational structures and programs. We finished second overall when Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced the final results of the 2015/16 Operational Model Incentive Scorecard and the related incentive payments to category winners. Also of significance was the award we have received as the best Sport Federation in the Western Cape by the Department of Cultural Affairs of Sport.

SWD, who finished second at 83.39% behind Northerns (83,73%) received a significant financial incentive after achieving a minimum qualifying score of 75% on the points scale after our third overall position in the 2014/15 season. SWD also won the categories for the best provincial academy and data management adding up to a total prize money of R1 466 800.

Another significant achievement the past season was the finalization of our shareholder status within the Western Cape Cricket structure. Like all new ventures we've experienced some teething problems but I can confidently report that huge progress were made and that we managed to cement ourselves as a respected shareholder in the Cobras franchise. We are looking forward to host the first franchise match in Oudtshoorn in January 2017 when the Cobras will take on the Highveld Lions in a Sunfoil Trophy match at the Recreational Grounds.

Further to the abovementioned I would like to highlight the inclusion of Jean du Plessis in the SA Colts team, Luthando Mnyanda (SA Invitational XI vs England) and O'Neill Baartman (SA u/23 Colts). It is evident that the high performance program in the province is on track and is proof that this province can produce quality players. During our annual strategic workshop that was held in April 2016 a huge emphasis was placed on our strategic approach to produce winning teams at all levels. I am confident that we can deliver further improvements in this regard.

Cricket SA placed a huge emphasis on its transformation program with specific reference to the Black African Development program. The Board together with the Transformation Committee forms a key component in reaching the desired objectives regarding this matter. We do realize our commitment and responsibility regarding this imperative and we are aware of the concerns raised in respect to the Review of Quality of Opportunity. SWD Cricket also attended the Eden Sport Council Transformation Indaba on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 where various resolutions were adopted to pave the way forward.

SWD Cricket successfully presented the CSA Franchise Academies Week in September 2015 and also rendered logistical and administrative support to the presentation of the SA National Defence Force Cricket Week and South Africa Police Services Cricket week that were hosted in Oudtshoorn. The second edition of the Africa Twenty20 Cup will take place in September 2016.

Oudtshoorn will be a host venue for this event and operational plans are in progress to ensure that we present not only a high quality event but that we also gain commercial value with this event.

In a year where we were confronted with tough financial challenges it is with pleasure to confirm that we reported a surplus of R81,915 for the 2015/16 financial year but that we further ensured a cash reserve of R1,6 million. Upon that we invested in capital improvements of R530,000 at our stadium with an additional R1,2 million that will be spend before September 2016 in preparation of the Africa T20 Cup. The Board of Directors will continue with investments towards the SWD cricket's strategic plan with the aim to improve cricket structures at all levels.

In September 2016 it will be twelve years since South Western Districts Cricket opened a full-time office and ran cricket on a day-to-day basis. In this short period we moved from an associate member of Cricket SA to a full affiliate and distinct ourselves with operational excellence. This extraordinary achievement has been achieved through committed hard work from the SWD Board, associate members, clubs, management and the coaching staff of the union. Despite many obstacles and numerous changes, the leadership followed their dreams for this organization with perseverance.

In the addition to the abovementioned we've managed to build sound relationships with all our stakeholders namely, local government authorities, tertiary institutions, schools, suppliers, the media as well as various commercial partners. We should also not forget the role of CSA as the custodian of cricket, our franchise, Western Cape Cricket as well as the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in supporting our dreams. We are further committed in understanding the needs of each respective shareholder group to ensure a standard of service delivery that exceeds expectations in reaching our vision where we strive towards excellence at all levels of cricket.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Board of Directors, members of Board committees, the chairpersons of the associated bodies, affiliated clubs and the administrative office for their continued support and commitment to make SWD cricket the best province in the country. Grace and thanks to our Heavenly Father for guiding me to lead this province to the best of my ability and in the best interest of CRICKET.

*"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty" - Winston Churchill*