

## 12<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL TRANSPLANT GAMES 6<sup>th</sup> TO 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016

It was truly a Celebration of Life by all the athletes and supporters who participated and attended the 12<sup>th</sup> National Transplant Games 2016 in Johannesburg!

The main aim for participating in these Games was to qualify in different sports items to come into contention for selection to the National Team to participate in the World Transplant Games (WTG) that will be hosted in Spain from 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017 till 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. Another objective was to promote organ donation and transplantation by the living examples of these athletes and their quest to live a healthy life after transplantation. In this quest the Organ Donor Foundation and Sun Flower Fund were part of the Games.

The excitement ran high when all the athletes met on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October during registration, the Annual General Meeting and a braai after the meeting. New athletes and their families were welcomed with open arms and soon felt part of the Transplant Sports family.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October the road runners were the first to participate at the Wanderers Club while the cyclist participated in a 20km road race in the historic Cradle of Mankind.

A great atmosphere was created at the Kyalami Country Club when the golfers teed off, the Petanque players drew a crowd at the Morningside Bowling Club and the tennis players played some beautiful tennis at the University of Johannesburg's tennis club. The swimmers enjoyed the wonderful facilities at the famous Ellis Park swimming pool where the South African Olympians and Iron Man competitors come to eat up the laps.

The badminton, table tennis and squash players enjoyed their games at the University of Johannesburg. The atmosphere at the ten pin bowling competition in the Northcliff Bowl was contagious.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October all the athletes and supporters gathered at the UJ Stadium to enjoy a day of track and field events. The weather was perfect and the competition of high standard.

All athletes were rewarded with participation medals at the Gala evening on Saturday. It was clear that new athletes and their families, who arrived on Thursday, became friends and "family" members during three days of competition and Celebration. Attending the Gala Dinner as member of the SASCOC Board was Mr Les Williams who also handed out the medals. The Manager of Sport at UJ, Mr Linly de Beer, also delivered a message on behalf of the University.

### **Athlete's performances:**

Eighty Four (84) athletes participated in these Games with ages ranging from 9 to 70 years. The main aim of participating in these Games was to qualify in different sports items to come into contention for selection to the National Team to participate in the World Transplant Games (WTG) that will take place in Malaga, Spain in 2017. Of the 84 athletes 56 qualified for selection while 16 athletes performed within 10% of the qualifying standard and they will be given another opportunity to qualify till 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The standard of competition was high as reflected in the number of South African and World Records that have been bettered. ***Improved World Records will unfortunately not be recognised as such due to the fact that these records can only be recorded as such at World Transplant***

***Games events.*** At least the rest of the World's transplant athletes can take note of our wonderful athletes!

**HERMANN STEYN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**6 NOVEMBER 2016**