



# TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT

24<sup>TH</sup> WORLD TRANSPLANT  
GAMES

PERTH, AUSTRALIA

15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL TO 21<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023

---

HENNIE LE ROUX



## INTRODUCTION

Being appointed as Team Manager of the South African Team was a great honor for me.

Being part of the World Transplant Games since 2017 first as a supporter and now as Team Manager, my task was made easy by each athlete that formed part of the team, by their commitment to preparation and amazing teamwork.

The LOC of the Australian World Transplant Games 2023 was very helpful with their hospitality by welcoming us and always ready to assist where needed.

There are several reasons why I felt very honoured to have been a part of the Team.

They were:

1. To be a part of a very special group of people who have been given a second chance in life due to a transplanted organ.
2. To be able to assist the various members with the day-to-day arrangements and to make their participation in the games as easy as possible.
3. To be able to share with them the triumphs and heartbreaks of participation in a competition such as the WTG and to share many highlights through the period of the games.
4. To see our athletes, compete with total commitment and to see them showing real humbleness in their success.
5. To be part of a Touring Committee where every member gave their all to make our participation such a success.

Congratulations to those that received medals and for every one that gave it nothing less than their best.

It is my pleasure to present this Report to the Committee and members of SATSA with the wish that it also be shared with, in full or in part, to the athletes.

Thank you to everyone that made World Transplant Games 2023 a memorable lifetime event and for making my task as team manager of this team such an enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,



Hennie le Roux  
**Team Manager**

# THE GAMES

## 1. REGISTRATION

The on-line registration process assisted in the smooth running thereof. I would like to thank all the participants for keeping to the registration deadlines and by doing that, making sure that the National Office kept to the deadlines.

Our thanks to Julie Edwards and the rest of the LOC who ensured a very smooth registration process and contributed to the fact that all our athletes knew the what, where and when of the Games.

South Africa registered the following categories for the Games:

- Athletes National Team: 36
- Supporters: 17

## 2. FINANCES

SATSA applied to Department of Sport Arts and Cultural for funding to enable the SA Team to participate in the Games and we are thankful for the funding we received. We also applied to the National Lotteries Commission for funding, but the application was unsuccessful. Our thanks go to various sponsors who supported athletes.

All the Regions also got involved in various fundraising projects. These fundraising events ensured that we have been able to cover most of the costs, but our athletes still had to contribute a minimal amount.

I wish to thank all athletes and supporters who kept to the payment deadlines to ensure that all expenses were paid before we left for Australia.

## 3. TRAVEL AND VISAS

Travelling by air over long distances is at the best of times difficult but made even more so when the travelers are organ recipients. We were presented with several travelling options and in the end decided on Qantas Airlines.

We received excellent service from Marcele Smit from Flight Centre Montana and we would like to thank her for all her assistance.

The participants had to apply online for their visas and in person for their biometrics at VFS Global (agents for the Australian Consulate). All the participants except one, received their visas in time. Unfortunately, one participant's visa was declined. I would like to thank the Management Committee who contributed R 1 500 towards the athlete's visa costs.

### Travelling arrangements during the Games:

Airport Pickup. The organizers arranged bus coaches from Perth International airport to take us to our accommodation and back to the airport on our return.

Inter venue travel arrangements were excellent and busses ensured that people arrived at venues on time. There could have been more shuttles busses running between hotels and venues on a more regular basis.

## 4. ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

We received excellent service from Madonna Moulds of Ozaccom. We would like to thank her for her assistance.

The Team and supporters stayed in the Mercure Perth. All were very satisfied with the service and the rooms.

All participants enjoyed the breakfast at the hotel. Participants were supplied with dinner vouchers apart from the Opening Ceremony, Cultural Night and Closing Ceremony.

Although the vouchers that were handed to participants was a good idea, some of the restaurants did not allow families with children and time scheduled for meals was not always suitable, especially when athletes returned late from sporting events.

My observation was that not all athlete's ate enough (Lunch) on the days that they competed. This was either due to athlete's not planning lunch or not using their subsistence allowance to buy lunch. My suggestion is to try and arrange lunch packs at the next World Transplant Games.

## **5. TOURING COMMITTEE**

I would like to thank the following members of this committee for their hard work, commitment and compassion with which they approached their portfolio:

- Team Captain – Heilie Uys and her vice-captains Rentia le Roux and Sean Samujh.
- Media liaisons –Alta Withers
- Physiotherapist – Andri Smit
- Ex Officio – Jan Marais
- The following senior athletes and mentors who made sure each athlete knew the where and when of their participation:
  - Mark Nortjie – Athletics, Field events
  - Itumeleng Phoshoane – Athletics, Track events
  - Lloyd Perry - Tennis
  - Anil Balmakund – Squash.
  - Susan Burri – Road Race
  - Cycling – Alta Withers
  - Sean Samujh – Golf
  - Gawie Marx – Petanque
  - Frans Maluleke – Lawn Bowls
  - Carlo Prince – Darts

## **6. MARKETING**

I thank each and every one who contributed to the marketing campaign before, during and after the Games, namely:

- Athletes made sure that their stories appeared in local and national newspapers and magazines pre- and post the Games. As emphasised before, it is the responsibility of every member of SATSA to make sure the message of Transplant Sports & organ donation and transplantation reach every part of the country;
- Everyone who kept our social media up to date, special thanks to Alta Withers who facilitated the social media.
- News clips appeared In many local newspapers.
- **Interviews before the games:**
  - Rentia le Roux & Melda Ruiters – Sports Federation TV
  - Jan and Alta – MixFM
  - Jacques Boshoff – Pretoria Record Newspaper
  - Carlo Prince – News 24
  - Mark Agnew, Carlo Prince and Heilie Uys – Daily Dispatch
- **Interviews after the games:**
  - Susan Burri, Heilie & Willie Uys – RSG
  - Susan Burri – Radio Tygerberg
  - Alta Withers and Windston Baatjies – Groot Ontbyt
  - Rentia le Roux – Business Day and Sports Federation TV
  - Michelle Luscombe – Herald Live and Medies, Kyknet
  - Jan Marais – Pretoria FM & Mix Fm
  - Pedro Basson – Netcare Hospitals and RSG
  - Iaan Burden – Groot FM

## **7. CLOTHING**

When we ask for quotations, we received the best prices from Sedgars and we decided to use their services. In the end their quality was not of a very high standard, and we had to make use of another supplier to replace clothing that was wrong.

I would still like to thank Sedgars for their assistance. A special thanks to Jan Marais who worked very hard to ensure that all ordered clothing reached the right persons in time.

The Team received many compliments with regard to our outfits. Being photographed in our National Team Colours for the Team photo made a great impression on all present. South Africa stood out from all the other teams as we were the only team wearing formal wear during the Opening Ceremony.

## 8. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

**Opening Ceremony:** The Opening Ceremony took place in the Optus Stadium and every South African athlete felt proud to enter the venue under the SA Flag. Our thanks to the supporters who cheered us on and waved their flags. The Opening Ceremony was very enjoyable with all the entertainment making for a really spectacular event.

**Cultural evening:** This was also a special evening of cultural clothing and gave everyone a taste of the many different countries.

**Closing Ceremony:** This splendid evening was held at the HBF Stadium and the food was excellent. Our thanks to the Local Organising Committee who made all the arrangements.

## 9. MEDICAL

I thank every athlete who submitted their medical forms on time. A special thanks to Andri Smit, our physiotherapist. She was on board with enthusiasm and skill and if it wasn't for her continuous treatment and monitoring of athletes, we would have ended with fewer medals. She will definitely be approached to assist with the WTG 2025.

Thembisa Tyeku is a registered athlete who competed in shotput, discus, and javelin. On Friday 21 April during the Closing ceremony, she experienced intense back pain and could not stand or sit. The St Johns personnel at the venue attended to her and called an ambulance. After 7 hours the ambulance transferred her to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital on Saturday 22 April at 02:30.

According to reports they diagnosed a slipped lumbar disk as well as a viral throat infection. She received excellent care and with physiotherapy she can walk short distances and sit in a chair for about 30-60 minutes. Thembisa is at time of writing still being treated in hospital in Perth Australia. We wish her a speedy recovery and a safe flight back to South Africa.

## 10. SPORTING EVENTS AND RESULTS

Reports by the various members of the touring committee responsible for specific events are attached to this report.

I would like to emphasise the following with regard to the sporting events:

**Rules and Officials:** Most of the events ran smooth and on time and was well organised within the rules, with enough officials.

**Team Managers Meetings:** These meetings ensured that most of the arrangements for every day's events were communicated to the Teams. I thank the Captain and Vice-Captains for their commitment in getting the information to members.

**Medal ceremonies:** These events were presented in a smooth and efficient manner.

### Results of Team South Africa:

**Results:** It is with pride that I can announce that Team South Africa was placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall by winning 41 medals in total:

- Gold: 9
- Silver: 21
- Bronze: 11

### Records:

- SA Record – 8
- World Record – 3

**Athletes Performance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position/Medal</b>
<b>5km Road Race Women</b>		
Susan Burri	60-69	Gold
<b>Squash Men</b>		
Winston Baatjies	50-59	Silver
Anil Balmakund	50-59	Bronze
Greg Sarradinho	30-39	Silver
Kyle Southworth	18-29	Gold
<b>Cycling 10km Time Trails &amp; Teams</b>		
Alta Withers	40-49	Bronze
TEAM – Byron Powel, Paul Lombard & Alta Withers		Silver
<b>Petanque Pairs</b>		
Dean Arnolds & Mpumi Damane		Bronze
<b>Golf Singles</b>		
Derek Botes		Silver
Jaco Potgieter		Bronze
Sean Samujh		Silver
Heilie Uys		Silver
<b>Golf Teams</b>		
Jacques Boshoff & Derek Botes		Gold
Jan Marais & Jaco Potgieter		Silver
Lloyd Perry & Sean Samujh		Bronze
<b>Lawn Bowls</b>		
Jacques Carstens	60-69	Silver
<b>Tennis Singles</b>		
Pedro Basson	18-29	Gold
Jacques Boshoff	18-29	Silver
Joshua Kriegler	18-29	Bronze
Lloyd Perry	40-49	Silver
<b>Tennis Doubles</b>		
Lloyd Perry Jacques Boshoff		Gold
Joshua Kriegler & Pedro Basson		Silver
<b>Athletics Track Event – 3000m Power Walk Women</b>		
Susan Burri	60-69	Gold
Michelle Luscombe	30-39	Bronze
Melda Ruiters	50-59	Silver
<b>Athletics Track Event – 5000m Power Walk Men</b>		
Frans Maluleke	60-69	Bronze
Itumeleng Phoshoane	18-29	Silver
<b>Athletics Track Event – 100m Women</b>		
Rentia le Roux	50-59	Bronze
<b>Athletics Track Event – 200m Women</b>		
Rentia le Roux	50-59	Bronze
<b>Athletics Track Event – 800m Women</b>		
Susan Burri	60-69	Silver
<b>Athletics Field Event – Ball Throw Women</b>		
Rentia le Roux	50-59	Silver
Heilie Uys	70-79	Gold
<b>Athletics Field Event – Shot Put Men</b>		
Mark Agnew	60-69	Silver
<b>Athletics Field Event – Shot Put Women</b>		
Mary-Anne Johnson	50-59	Bronze
Heilie Uys	70-79	Gold
<b>Athletics Field Event – Discuss Men</b>		
Mark Agnew	60-69	Silver

Name	Age	Position/Medal
<b>Athletics Field Event – Discuss Women</b>		
Heilie Uys	70-79	Gold
<b>Athletics Field Event – Long Jump Men</b>		
Mark Nortje	40-49	Silver
<b>Athletics Field Event – Long Jump Women</b>		
Rentia le Roux	50-59	Silver
<b>Athletics Field Event – Javelin Women</b>		
Rentia le Roux	50-59	Silver
Heilie Uys	70-79	Silver

## 11. FITNESS AND CONDITIONING

We have to improve athletes endurance and fitness and we have to stress better conditioning of athletes. Depending on funding we have to try organise a Training Camp annually on regional level where athletes can have access to good coaches, physiotherapists, strength and conditioning trainers, psychologists and nutritionists.

We should consider pre departure screening or fitness testing a couple of weeks before departure to avoid athletes traveling with injuries and failing to compete.

## 12. SUMMARY

A huge congratulation to Willie Uys with his election as Vice President of World Transplant Games Federation.

Finally, to each of the Team and the accompanying supporters, a **BIG** word of thanks for your support and for making my job as your Team Manager a pleasant and uncomplicated one.

The support from the supporters was particularly heartening as they could easily have gone about doing their own thing.

The next WTG will be held DV in Dresden, Germany and we are sure that we can count on each member of SATSA and our supporters to again do SATSA and South Africa proud. I trust that we will all be available and qualify for Germany.



**HENNIE LE ROUX**  
**TEAM MANAGER**

**10 May 2023**