

Report on the 11th Grandmasters IPT 2023

The Grandmasters Inter Provincial Tournament was held from Friday 17th till Monday the 20th March 2023 in Cape Town. The headquarters was at Bergvliet Sports Assoc. Fields. There were 3 astro turfs used, one at Constantiaberg Astro and the two at Wynberg Girls High school astro, except for the last day, Mon 20th March where all games were played at WPCC x 2 Astros.

Preparations and planning for the IPT began 6 months prior to the event. The budget was sent to Barry Froneman for approval and it was agreed on a tournament levy of R650 per player

KwaZulu Natal sent 3 teams, 65 and 55 year old men's team and a ladies team
Southern Gauteng sent 5 teams, a 70, 65 and 60 men's team and two ladies sides
Eastern Province sent one men's team
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SA Alliance had 1 x men and 1x ladies
Western Province had 8, 2 x 70 , 1 x 65, 2 x 60, 2x 55 and an Invitational men team and one ladies team
There were 311 players involved

It was very difficult to organise the pools according to age, so it was arranged on ability and strength as far as possible.

The Tournament Director was Noreen Wonnacott

The 3 technical tables were run but experienced trained technical folk, Merle Haley, Charlene and Chelsea Fourie who controlled the field's exception well. Clive Belcher was the Umpires Manager and was able to obtain good graded umpires. There were only one or two very minor complaints. No red cards were issued and all matches ran on time.

This year was the first year that Grandmasters used the Altius computer program to capture data for tournament. There were a few hitches, with the TD not been given all the detail to allow this program to run smoothly but one thing that is critical in future is that every team must have a Manager / Coach. A player cannot be the Manager. Every other tournament run under the auspice of FIH demands that every team has a Manager. I don't think this must be an option for any team in future.

The Saturday function was held at the Bergvliet Sports Club with 3 food trucks supplying food. One supplied Fish and Chips, one supplied Pizza and one supplied Shawarmas and chips. Food was available from 6pm onwards. This was a huge success. Good music had many folk on the dance floor till late.

One recommendation is that if the tournament continues to be held over 4 days, that the 70 year old play the maximum of 3 games over the 4 days. Preferable a game on Friday, a game on Saturday with a rest day on Sunday and then to play their last game on Monday.

Otherwise this tournament ran very smoothly and except for one game, the 70 year finals which was played in absolutely pouring rain, the weather was good

Particular thanks go to Karl Luff, Noreen Wonnacott, Vinnie Orchards, Neil Van Blerk, the Constantiaberg Hockey Club and Fish Hoek Hockey clubs and to Bergvliet Sports Association for all their hard work to ensure this tournament was such a success