

29 December 2024

December Newsletter

Dear All,

This is my 1st newsletter as the Chairman of HMTB since our July AGM that ushered in a new board for the next 3 years. I would like to acknowledge my predecessor and the board members who have continued to work hard as a team to keep the wheels of tennis running in our province.

2024 was a year where as a board, we worked on improving systems, creating more tournaments and most importantly doing more with regards to development programs at our provincial centres. I am pleased to share with you our progress thus far.

As a province, we have chosen to have all our tournaments ranked using UTR. This system not only creates a professional registration system for the players, but it also helps the players gain points for the matches they play, that are recognised internationally, which will assist with university and college applications.

We would like to thank you, parents and guardians, for supporting the province by paying membership fees. This has assisted us with improvement in our tournaments, and most importantly being able to fund development programs and cover tournament fees for over 20 development players in our province. As a province, our aim is to give opportunities to those that have talent, but cannot afford kit or tournament fees. We are also working together with the government against the drug pandemic by offering career opportunities to both the kids and adults by expanding possibilities in tennis. With your help, we believe we will be able to produce strong players that will represent the country as well as offer job opportunities like coaching, administration and officiating for members in our communities.

Development Program

We are pleased to announce that we had development programs running in the last term of 2024. We managed to run programs at VOH (an orphanage school in Good Hope), Lusitania Primary School and Chitungwiza centre. Chitungwiza managed to successfully host a closed tournament on the 6th and 7th of December with over 45 participants from U10s to U18s playing.

We look forward to expanding this program in 2025 by adding more schools as well as districts as we push on the drive to increase kids playing tennis in our province. Membership fees go towards the successful expansion and running of the development program which depends on that money as we need to buy equipment (rackets, nets, strings and restringing machines) and also pay monthly coach fees for those running the program. It is our sincere hope that you will partner us in this endeavour.

We would also want to acknowledge Bishopslea Preparatory School for Girls for the donation of 44
Chairman: I Chitsa Vice Chairman: C Chitambara Treasurer: T Mkondo, Secretary: O Manzungu

rackets for our development program. We are really grateful

August Interprovincial Tournament

We managed to field 2 teams per each age group which was a total of 40 kids. The results were as follows:

Under 12 boys - 1st position, Under 12 girls - 2nd position, Under 14 boys - 2nd position, Under 14 girls - 1st position, Under 18 girls - 1st position, Under 18 boys - 2nd position.

Harare province took 1st position overall and were crowned 2024 inter provincial winners.

We would like to congratulate the kids as well as the parents/guardians who supported the provincial tournaments that gave us an opportunity to rank the children accordingly and coming up with a winning team. We would also want to highlight that, with our improved financial systems, the board managed to buy a kit of 2 t-shirts, 2 shorts, 2 caps and a full tracksuit for each of our team members who participated in the tournaments. We also want to give special mention to our subcommittee led by coach Kayanga, Tafi Mkondo, Mrs Murindagomo and Mr. Chirewa for coordinating the whole process to fruition.

In the upcoming year, 2025, we shall continue with the same format of hosting provincial tournaments with the idea of using these to come up with our provincial ranking system, which we shall use to come up with our team for the August interprovincial tournament. Further to this, we are organizing a tour to South Africa for our team scheduled for either the August or December holidays. More details will follow as we are still in the process of organizing the tour.

We would also want to take this opportunity to apologise for delays/failure to update on UTR on some national tournaments that were played in August. We have since rearranged our personnel in that regards and we hope in the future we will not face such shortcomings. It is our commitment to you that we shall be updating the rankings and UTR within 2 weeks of the tournaments ending.

Harare League

We have had a league running in the last few years but it has been facing challenges to the point where it does not fully end and no winner is declared. We are committed to revamp this league in the coming year and we have already gotten a trophy and we will be introducing prizes at the end of the season to acknowledge the winning individuals, teams and overall club winners. Further details shall be communicated to you by the responsible authority. We also encourage our junior players to join any of the participating clubs as this gives good exposure to our junior players and they can also tap into the wisdom of the senior players to improve on their game.

Senior Tournaments

As a board, we have realised that we have no senior tournaments in Zimbabwe as a whole anymore

and we are hoping to change this in the coming year. We have put 3 tournaments on the calendar for 2025 so as to revive competitive tennis at this level. We hope, through our partnerships with you, we will be able to make this happen as this also speaks to our tennis going beyond the junior levels but setting the platform for our players to play in the ATP Futures and Challengers and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen, thus said, we thank you so much for your support in 2024 and we look forward for an even greater engagement in 2025 with the programs that we as a board have deemed necessary to take our tennis to the next level. Accompanying this letter is our board team whom you can engage with for any of the different needs you may have from HMTB.

Kind Regards

Israel Chitsa
Chairman

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