

Report of the UTNL (Uitsig Thursday Night League) Club Captain for 2015

The 2015 squash year has been one of the best years for Uitsig in its history – if not the best. It is therefore a pleasure to report on the successes of the Thursday Night teams.

It is quite clear that 2015 built on the achievements of 2013 and 2014. Again we can report that most of our goals has been achieved for 2015:

1. The First league finished 3rd.
2. The two Reserve league sides finished 5th and 6th respectively.
3. The 2nd league finished 3rd.
4. The 3rd league finished top.
5. The 4th league finished 2nd.

We had 6 teams that were all very competitive! In First League we were still in contention to win going into the last night! Our goal was to start 2016 with 6 teams in the UTNL group but we already achieved this in 2015! No other club in the Northern Fraternity can boast with such an achievement.

This achievement were reached due to the following:

1. Excellent backing from the club management. That entails administrative, financial, visionary and moral support by the committee.
2. Good constant communication throughout the year on a weekly basis by the club captain and the chairman.
3. Reminders of what the goals for the year are and constantly reiterated by the team captains.
4. Six Team Captains that really worked just as hard in setting up good communication, support and motivational structures. They were Derek van der Merwe, Jaco Marais, Mike Willson, Gieli du Toit, Franco Henning and Phillip Earle.

The goals for 2016 will be:

1. To win First league.
2. To win Reserve league with at least one of our teams and the other to be under the top three.
3. To win 2nd league.
4. To win 3rd league
5. To win 4th league.

Maybe this sounds very arrogant but we all know that this is very achievable.

For a few years now the reality has been looming on the horizon that Mike Tootill might leave us for a coaching job in the USA. Unfortunately that reality struck us at the end of this year. We are therefore very emotional in accepting the fact that he will not be our nr 1 anymore. We wish him the very best for his future. I want to thank Brett and the committee for the special way in which Mike has been treated during the years and the farewell gesture at the Club Champs finals. We realize that we will have to go a long way to find someone of his stature again.

We worked hard after completion of the 2015 winter league season to contract top players in order to secure a win in 1st league in 2016. Brett Cousins, Derek van der Merwe and Mike Tootill played a major role in securing these gentleman. It is a pleasure to announce that Andrew Martin and Craig Stephens will be playing for Uitsig in 2016. Negotiations with other existing players were still in progress at the point of writing this report.

My sincerest thanks goes to:

1. The Club Committee for their support of the goals set during committee meetings which included the payment structure for first league which in turn made a huge difference over the past two years.
2. The team captains and the various team members

In closing I would like to use the same words as last two years:

I would not have been able to do this work without the committee, the team captains, the players, my wife and my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whom I have my life, my strength and my hope.

To you all I give my thanks!

Ralph du Toit

Club Captain

Thursday Night Mens League