



CHRIS BURGER
PLAYERS
FUND

PETRO JACKSON

Rugby's Caring Hands

IMPACT REPORT 2018

Statistics and Financials for year ended March 2018



“

Since 1980, the Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund has been Rugby's Caring Hands in South Africa. When rugby players run onto the field, they do so with a team behind them. When a player finds him or herself having to adapt to life with a "new normal" after a serious and life-altering injury, a team approach is once again needed to lift them up. The Players' Fund joins this team, and does so indefinitely.

”

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION:

To be an internationally recognised organisation that supports the recovery of all seriously injured rugby players across South Africa, whilst promoting safer rugby.

MISSION:

When a serious rugby injury changes a life, we step in offering help and hope. Every aspect of the injured players' welfare is our concern.

VALUES:



CARING

The holistic care of each recipient is our focus.



DEPENDABLE

Our recipients and the rugby community can count on us to remain at their side.



STABLE

We have stood firm in our work and approach since 1980.



TRANSPARENT

We are open and honest about the work that we do and our processes.



APPROACHABLE

Help is only a phone call away.



ACCOUNTABLE

If you entrust your support and funds to us, we are accountable for all the resources we apply to achieve a better quality of life for our recipients.

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A WORD FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIRMAN - MORNE DU PLESSIS



The year in review

Since my retirement as CEO of the Sport Science Institute of South Africa in June of 2016, my time has been freed up for projects that remain close to my heart and as a result I am able to work even more closely with our dedicated Players' Fund management team. This team really does make a difference in the lives of our recipients.

Looking back at our financial year, ended March 2018, it has been a year of growth and development for our team, with Eleanor Kloppers leaving for a new, exciting chapter in her career and being replaced by Kim McBain whose financial controls exceed all expectation. Tori Gardner continues her growth with the Players' Fund and consistently produces excellent work. She was promoted to Marketing Manager. Our General Manager, Gail Baerecke, is well into her 13th year with us and continues to successfully manage the Players' Fund through often tough and changing times.

Our sponsors and partners must be thanked for their tremendous support over this past year, with special mention of the relationship we have with SA Rugby. The annual grant from this important partner, makes it possible to adequately cover many of our expenses.

BokSmart continues to do sterling work in promoting safer rugby. We are extremely proud partners of this programme and acknowledge the significant reduction made in the number of serious injuries in rugby. To Dr Wayne Viljoen and Clint Readhead: thank you for your commitment.

Our Board of Trustees help define the Players' Fund from many other organisations and we thank them for that. They are a group of passionate rugby supporters who have stood true through the years. This solid foundation has also allowed for further change to happen, with myself and Frikkie Naudé being able to step down from our roles as Chair and Vice Chair of the Players' Fund. This was formally recognised at the last trustee meeting of 2018 held at Hartenberg Wine Estate in Stellenbosch. While we will remain active members on the board of trustees as the new Chairman, Jean de Villiers and Vice, Hanyani Shimange, now lead the Players' Fund into the next chapter, a journey we will all be proud to support them on.

It is an honour for us to continue to partner with our recipients and to ease the challenges that they face on a daily basis. Many of them inspire us with their sheer tenacity and determination. They need our support and we will be there for them.

Thank you for joining me in this 38-year journey thus far and being on the support squad for seriously injured rugby players in South Africa.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Morne du Plessis'.

A NOTE FROM INCOMING CHAIRMAN - JEAN DE VILLIERS



What a privilege and an honour it is for me to accept this role. I have very big shoes to fill and will do my best with the support of the board of trustees and management staff to maintain the great reputation and the positive impact that the Players' Fund has.

There is a reason the Players' Fund is known as Rugby's Caring Hands, everyone involved truly does care. We all love the game of rugby, however we all understand that sometimes bad things happen, which is where our responsibility lies, ensuring that those players are cared for and never forgotten.

To outgoing Chairman, Morné and Deputy Chair, Frikkie Naudé – what you have created & achieved through this Fund is a remarkable legacy, which has made a difference in so many lives over the last 38 years. Thank you for being such good-hearted people and for setting the example for us to follow.

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER - GAIL BAERECKE



The consistency of change

This past year has been a time of transition and renewal. Besides the support that we receive as a charity and the care that we are determined to continue providing our brave young players injured on the rugby field, change has been the only constant.

We continue to build on a very firm base that we are fortunate to have, thanks to an exemplary board of trustees. Their guidance and expertise has helped us as an organisation to refocus on what we do and who we are, without getting lost in the glamorous world of rugby – all the while not losing sight of who we serve.

The lessons learnt from recipients are significant. The strength of the human spirit under challenging circumstances is inspirational to us all. There are countless stories of personal achievement that one would not consider possible – proving that where there is a will there is a way.

Our recipient stories bring our work to life and demonstrate the impact we have in their lives. Every day, we're making sure that our values are visible and tangible and take pride in being able to share some of these with you in this Impact Report.

Rugby's Caring Hands has an amazing family of supporters who generously contribute to our work in many different ways. Our work is only possible due to the involvement of fundraisers, donors, volunteers and corporate partners.

We can only change lives with your support.

THANK YOU!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Baerecke". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light background.

RECIPIENT STORY:

Koben Hofmeyr

On the 19th of May 2018 in Bela-Bela, 15-year-old Koben ran onto the rugby field for his school, Hoërskool Louis Trichardt. He was a popular and respected captain, playing inside centre and identified by those close to him as “always fit and well prepared” and known as “an intelligent player”.

In the second half of the match Koben lined his opponent up for a tackle as he had done so many times before. On impact Koben felt the player’s hip hit his neck, heard a cracking sound and fell to the ground. Koben immediately felt pain and pins and needles and realised that he couldn’t stand up. It quickly became apparent that Koben was seriously injured and required urgent medical attention.

Whilst this tragic scenario could be viewed as a nightmare for most, Koben and his family have grown even stronger since this accident – thankful for the blessings they have received from God, in awe of the progress that Koben has made and grateful for the wonderful support from Koben’s school, their community and that of the wider rugby circles, as well as their friends.

When Koben ran onto the field in May, he did so with a team behind him. Now on his road to recovery, a team approach is also being adopted. His immediate support base has been joined by the Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players’ Fund.

Since Koben’s injury in May 2018 he has displayed immense determination and dedication to his ongoing rehabilitation. His family is committed to giving him the best chance of recovery and he is attending daily physiotherapy sessions in Louis Trichardt.

Small, but noticeable improvements have been seen on a weekly basis and he is currently working hard on improving his speed across a 10m field with the aid of a walking frame.



Fund launched to aid rugby players



MORNÉ DU PLESSIS, WP-Springbok-kaptein, aan die woord by gister se perskonferensie in Nuweland, waar die Chris Burger-gedenkfonds vir Spelers bekend gestel is. Links is Hennie Bekker en regs Robbie Blair, twee lede van die bestuurskomitee, en agter Blair, H. O. de Villiers 'n derde lid. Feitlik die hele WP-span asook ander spelers wat vanjaar vir die WP gespeel het, was teenwoordig.

Rugbyfonds gestig

SPELERS SPRING IN



“It is my belief that if we are supporting rugby, we need to support those whose lives are changed through the game too.”

- Morné du Plessis (Chairman of the Players' Fund) in 1980

The amalgamation of the Petro Jackson Fund and Chris Burger Fund took place in 1992, following the unification of the South African Rugby Union and the former SA Rugby Board. Chris Burger was a Western Province fullback when he sustained a fatal neck injury in 1980 following a tackle during a Currie Cup match in Bloemfontein. This led to the founding of the then Chris Burger Fund by the Western Province captain at the time, Morné du Plessis, along with his teammates. Petro Jackson was a young player from Kylemore, near Stellenbosch, who was also fatally injured following a neck injury during a match in 1987. A similar fund was established in his honour.

RECIPIENT STORY:

Charles (Chicco) Oppelt

Charles was seriously injured on 23 March 2002, at the age of 17, while playing for the Mamre Rugby Club. Charles lives with his family in Mamre in the Western Cape and is going to be marrying his fiancé, Carmenda, in 2019.

Charles has recently been a study subject for a project assessing the benefits of regular exercise and walking in the Ekso Suit for individuals with spinal cord injuries. During this study it required four different bus changes in order to get to the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, situated in Newlands, Cape Town, which displayed sheer determination and dedication. These long hours of effort and travel has paid off hugely as his strength, confidence and functionality has improved greatly.

Charles is also a passionate wheelchair rugby player and is a member of the Maties Wheelchair rugby team.



MEET THE TEAM



MORNÉ DU PLESSIS:
Founding Chairman until December 2018
Stepped down from the position of chair at the final trustee meeting of 2018.
Board of Trustees member since 1980
Former Springbok: 1971–1980
(Captain: 1975-1980)



FRIKKIE NAUDÉ:
Vice Chairman until December 2018
Stepped down from the position of deputy chair at the final trustee meeting of 2018.
Board of Trustees member since 1980



JEAN DE VILLIERS
Elected as chairman at the final trustee meeting of 2018.
Board of Trustees member since 2017.
Former Springbok: 2002 – 2015
(Captain: 2012 – 2015)



HANYANI SHIMANGE
Elected as deputy chairman at the final trustee meeting of 2018.
Board of Trustees member since 2015.
Former Springbok: 2004-2006



ANTON ENGELBRECHT
Board of Trustees member since 2013.
Recipient of the Players' Fund since 1989



CHESTER WILLIAMS
Board of Trustees member since 2008.
Former Springbok: 1993 - 2000



FC SMIT
Board of Trustees member since 1991.
Former Springbok: 1992



GEORGE RAUTENBACH
Resigned from the board of trustees, after 36 years, at the final trustee meeting of 2018.
Board of Trustees member since 1983



JOEL KRIGE
Board of Trustees member since 2011

MEET THE TEAM continued



JOHN SMIT
Board of Trustees member
since 2013.
Former Springbok: 2000-2011
(Captain: 2004 -2011)



JOWA ABRAHAMS
Board of Trustees member
since 1980.



TIAAN STRAUSS
Board of Trustees member
since 2014.
Former Springbok: 1992-1994



WAYNE FYVIE
Board of Trustees member
since 2009.
Former Springbok: 1996



KHAYA MAYEDWA
Board of Trustees member
since 2016.
SA Rugby representative



CLINT READHEAD
Board of Trustees member
since 2017.
SA Rugby representative



NEIL STRYBIS
Honorary financial advisor
since 1980.



GAIL BAERECKE
General Manager (Since 2005)



TORI GARDNER
Marketing Manager (Since 2014)



KIM MCBAIN
General and Financial
Administrator (Since 2017)

WHAT WE DO

The Players' Fund is alerted of serious and life-altering injuries* through the BokSmart reporting process. Following on-field care and during the acute medical care in hospital, the immediate needs of the individual and their family are assessed and the Fund steps in to assist where necessary.

*These injuries include, but are not exclusively confined to: Spinal cord injuries with irreversible nerve damage resulting in dependence on wheelchairs and walking aids. Head injuries that impair normal day-to-day functioning (inability to work/walk/talk etc.) Other injuries that may lead to: visual impairment, irreparable limb damage or loss.

Prior to discharge from hospital and in consultation with the rehabilitation team, the Fund assesses the needs of the recipient and begins to provide support that ranges from:



PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT

We are there every step of the way. Following on-field care and during the acute medical care phase in hospital, the immediate needs of the individual and their family are assessed and the Fund steps in. During this first treatment phase the occupational therapist (OT) and treatment team will advise the Fund of the equipment needed by the recipient. The Players' Fund will then purchase the equipment (especially the required wheelchair) in advance in order for the OT to fit it properly before discharge.



MODIFICATION TO HOMES

Being discharged from hospital is a major milestone – emotionally and physically – but still a very early step on the long journey for our recipients. Before being discharged finally, recipients often spend a trial weekend at home where the family or carers will be able to ascertain any stumbling blocks for mobility and care in their new life. The Players' Fund, together with local construction companies and builders, make the necessary modifications to the recipient's homes in order to facilitate wheelchair usage.



MEDICAL CONSUMABLE ALLOCATIONS

Through a partnership with Ysterplaat Medical Services in Cape Town the Players' Fund is able to assist all recipients, on a national basis, with medical consumables throughout the year. An annual allocation is provided to each recipient with a list of consumables that they may order. This list includes items such as urinary catheters, linen savers, vitamins, dressings and hygienic products.



SECONDARY REHABILITATION

Increasingly, the importance of exercise for the physical and mental wellbeing of our recipients has become evident. The Players' Fund provides a financial allocation to recipients for physiotherapy and outpatient treatment close to their place of residence. Every recipient's situation is different, hence the allocation can be utilised for what makes sense for that recipient in his environment – be it a government-provided service, a private physiotherapist or outpatient programme.

WHAT WE DO

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

On an annual basis the Players' Fund gathers information on the socio-economic and living conditions of some of our recipients and their families. Where possible and appropriate the Assistance Committee, a sub-committee of the Board tasked with this function, then approves monthly subsistence to those recipients that are in desperate need of financial assistance. The financial support given by the Fund also extends to cover rent at assisted-living facilities for recipients and a further small subsistence grant to help with other necessities required by these recipients.

PARTNERING EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT JOURNEYS

Our focus is the holistic health and well-being of all our recipients and to remain with them throughout their individual journeys to ensure that they can have the best quality of life possible. Where recipients reach out to us and indicate that they would like to further their academic or skills journey, we partner with them in order to see where we can assist.

TRANSPORT FACILITATION

Wherever possible the Players' Fund endeavours to assist its recipients in being able to travel where they need to go for medical attention, studies, health check-ups, hospital appointments etc.

PERSONAL CARE

Apart from the other pillars of support outlined, one of the main objectives of the Fund is to ensure quality of life for all our recipients. This is done through a wide range of service offerings and assistance such as caregiver training, hosting Enable Workshops, home visits, offering wheelchair-accessible rugby suites, providing annual gifts and more.

RECIPIENT STORY:

Quenton Steele

Quenton was injured on 17 March 1998 at the age of 30 whilst playing for False Bay Rugby Club, when his eldest son was just 13 months old. The level of his injury was such that 24 hour nursing care is required for him to live a normal life. Imagine... You are confined to a chair. All you can move is your head. You breathe with the aid of a ventilator.

Despite this devastating injury he has shown incredible courage and determination and is now a captain in the South African Navy at Simonstown in Cape Town. He is the breadwinner for his family of four.



RESEARCH PROJECT

Over the last few years the Players' Fund has been following the topical re-search project conducted by Marelise Badenhorst. The in-depth analysis for her PhD (through the Vrije University in the Netherlands and partly funded by the NRF South Africa Desmond Tutu Doctoral Programme) has involved most of the Fund's recipients and their injury stories.

This infographic clearly illustrates the findings of her published paper: "In a blink of an eye your life can change": Experiences of players sustaining a rugby-related acute spinal cord injury.

RUGBY-RELATED SPINAL CORD INJURY: *The player's perspective*

Badenhorst M, Verhagen E, Lambert MI, et al.

'In a blink of an eye your life can change': experiences of players sustaining a rugby-related acute spinal cord injury. *Injury Prevention* Published Online First: 05 July 2018. doi: 10.1136/injuryprev-2018-042871



Though rare, rugby injuries are sometimes catastrophic and life - changing!

Previous studies have investigated injury mechanisms, the effectiveness of prevention programmes and immediate medical management of catastrophic injuries.

In this study, we took an insider's view of the player's own experience of the mechanism of injury, the factors they considered to contribute to their injury and the symptoms they experienced when sustaining an acute spinal cord injury on the rugby field.

Understanding the context around the injury can give us in-depth information that may help us to minimise risk



Injury incident

"He got the ball and I tried to tackle him and hold him up, but my neck was in the wrong place and we both fell with all our weight on my neck and I tried not to, but he was stronger than me..."

Factors related to the injury incident:

Scrum-related injuries

- Not ready for impact, or not properly aligned before impact
- Multiple scrum collapses

The ball carrier

- Limited peripheral vision, unaware of impact
- More than one tackler

The tackler

- Ball-carrier changing direction at the last minute
- Incorrect tackle technique



Contributing factors

"The hooker got a red card and had to go off the field. I was a flank but they moved me to hooker and 10 minutes after that, I broke my neck. I had never played hooker before"

Contributing factors:

Aggression and foul-play

- Being marked or wanted to "take the opposition out", intention to do harm

Excessive pressure to perform

- Leading to risk taking behaviour

Unaccustomed playing positions

- Especially in scrum, inexperienced in position

'Weekend warrior'

- Unconditioned, unprepared
- Insufficient coaching
- Stopped playing, but was asked to "stand in"



Signs and symptoms

"...when they got off me I was lying on my stomach. The ball was still under my chest, I was shouting... and I said to my friends just put my legs down, my legs are in the air! And they said: no man - your legs are on the ground!"

Signs & symptoms of spinal cord injury:

Sudden inability to move

Intense burning, pins & needles

Impairment of the senses

Disrupted feeling of the position of one's body parts

- Players asked teammates to move their limbs or put them down, felt as if they are floating in the air / bent in awkward positions.

Pain

- Some described excruciating pain, others reported no pain

Generally alert & breathing normally

- Which might mask the seriousness of the injury



- Safe and effective technique is crucial.
- Coaches have influence over the selection, training and behaviour of players and have a responsibility for their welfare.
- Coaches, teammates and referees are often the first ones to reach the injured player, especially in the community - early recognition is important for safe and efficient management.

For these players, their lives indeed changed within the blink of an eye - their experiences should remind us that even one such injury, is one too many.

BOKSMART PROGRAMME

The general manager of the Players' Fund currently has a seat on the management committee of the Boksmart National Rugby Safety Programme (as an operation member) and serves as the serious injury case manager (SICM).

Her role is primarily to gather detailed information on seriously injured rugby players and then to notify SA Rugby and the various rugby unions of the injuries that are life-changing or disabling, life-threatening and occasionally fatal. She liaises with the families of the injured player to assess their immediate needs and provide support and assistance. With the injured players' consent, the in-depth injury details are then analysed by the BokSmart team, who look for injury trends and high-risk areas. These are then included as learnings in the BokSmart programme, which is updated every two years.

By the end of the first roll-out of BokSmart in 2011, permanent catastrophic injuries at club level reduced by just over half, and all spinal cord injuries by roughly 65% or the equivalent of three a year. All changes in regulations and interventions were based on extensive research done through the BokSmart programme in collaboration with the Players' Fund and the Cape Town University Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM).



BOKSMART IN NUMBERS

15 099 COACHES AND REFEREES
WERE **BOKSMART**
CERTIFIED BETWEEN APRIL 2017 AND MARCH 2018



8 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS were published in both local and international science, medical and sports journals. The topics covered ranged from illegal tackles, mental disorders, time loss injuries, tackle techniques, VisionZero and catastrophic injury incidence rates.

INJURY STATISTICS

(BETWEEN APRIL 2017 AND MARCH 2018):

8 ACUTE SPINAL CORD INJURIES
(2 fatal, 3 near misses, 1 with neuro-deficits remaining, 2 quadriplegics)

3 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
(2 fatal, 1 with residual effects)



1 CARDIAC FATALITY
DURING THAT PERIOD

INJURY REPORT

In the 2018, five incidents of traumatic brain/head injuries dominated the reporting for this rugby season, sadly with three of them being fatalities.

Acute cardiac events resulted in the deaths of two players during and just after rugby matches played. A young learner from East London, Able Maqashalala (16) suffered a suspected cardiac event causing a lack of oxygen to his brain resulting in profound brain damage.

Two young school boys sustained acute spinal cord injuries – Jacques Hector (17) from Citrusdal and Koben Hofmeyr (15) from Louis Trichardt – going forward both will be recipients of the Players' Fund as their injuries were disabling in nature.

Gershwin Fortune (25), from Belville sadly lost his right leg at knee-level due to a complicated fracture of the tibia (shin bone).

Phillip Potgieter (24), from Nelspruit was one of the lucky ones who survived a serious neck fracture, miraculously with no damage to the spinal cord.

Lastly, the injury success stories this season that require special mention of, are players Jonathan Adams (25) John Booysen (39) and Viantee Davids (29) from Belville, Worcester and Saldanah respectively. All three sustained spinal cord damage during rugby matches. Immediately after each injury, they were managed according to the BokSmart Serious Injury Protocol. They were transferred timeously to a medical facility that had experience with handling their injuries and as a result most of the damage was reversed and they all walked out of hospital following the appropriate treatment received. They may never play rugby again, but they will not be requiring wheelchairs for mobility.



2018 IN NUMBERS

ESTABLISHED
38
YEARS AGO

ACTED AS RUGBY'S CARING HANDS
FOR OVER **500**
SERIOUSLY INJURED RUGBY PLAYERS
SINCE 1980



CURRENTLY ACTIVELY
SUPPORTING
108
RECIPIENTS



SUPPORT IS OFFERED TO
RUGBY PLAYERS
FROM **ALL 9**
PROVINCES
OF **SOUTH AFRICA**

NUMBER OF
STAFF MEMBERS
3



15 NUMBER OF **TRUSTEES**
OVERSEEING THE PLAYERS' FUND
(INCLUDING AN HONORARY FINANCIAL ADVISOR)



NUMBER OF **FORMER**
SPRINGBOK CAPTAINS
SITTING ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES **4**

R77 811 TOTAL MONTHLY
SUBSISTENCE PAID
TO THOSE RECIPIENTS LIVING IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

R27 000 
RAISED AT RUGBY'S CARING HANDS
WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

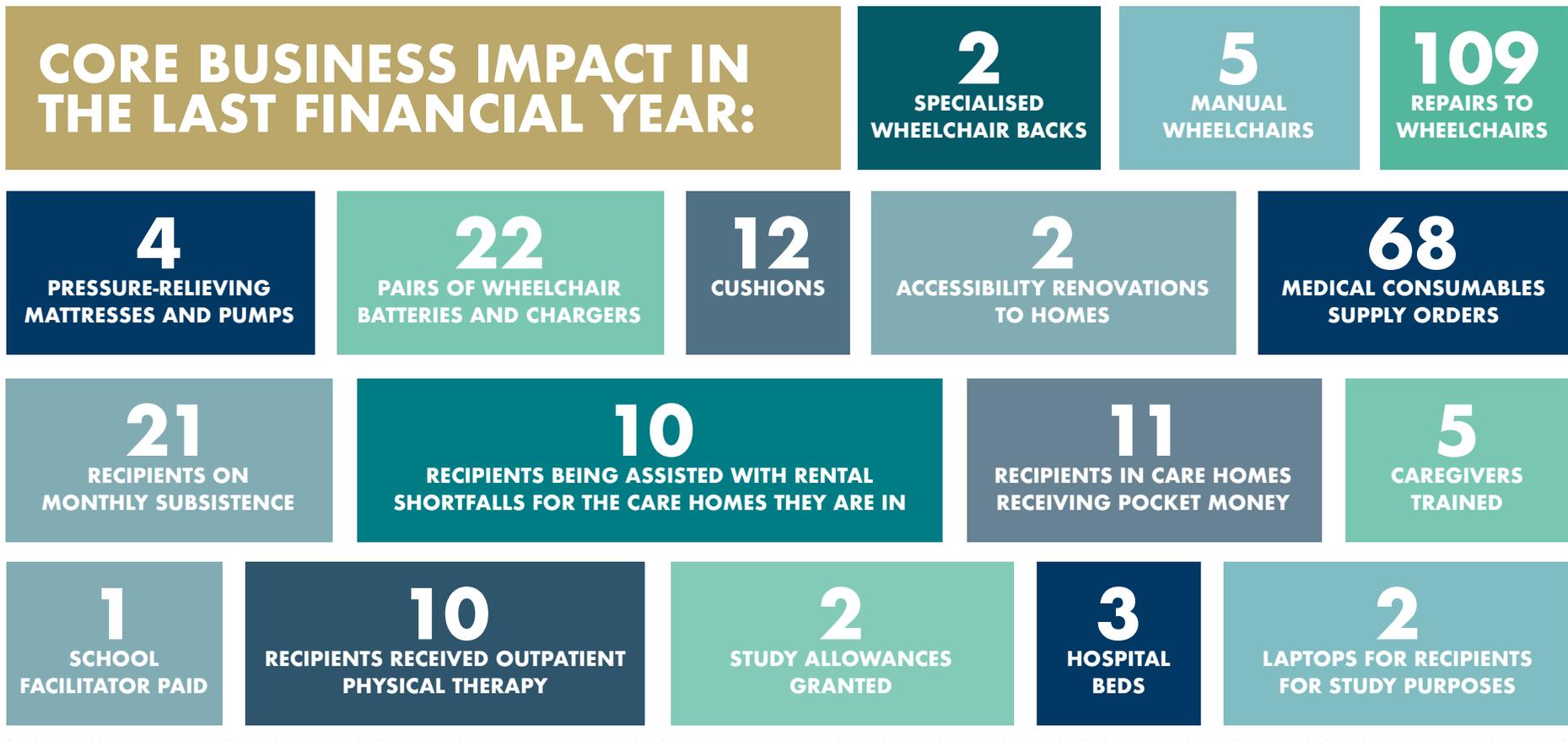
R200 000 RAISED BY THE
PLAYERS 4 PLAYERS ORGANISATION
AT THEIR ANNUAL FORMAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

R65 000 RAISED THROUGH THE **2018 VODACOM**
SUPERRUGBY MATCH DAY ACTIVATIONS
AT DHL NEWLANDS AND LOFTUS VERSFELD

MILESTONE REACHED **R1 MILLION**
RAISED BY THE **KELVIN GROVE SPORTS CLUB** IN **14 YEARS**

R133 000 RAISED THROUGH THE **BLUE BULLS**
NETWORKS FOR LOCAL RECIPIENTS

R120 000 DONATED TO THE PLAYERS' FUND BY THE
GOLDEN LIONS RUGBY UNION



FUNDRAISING STATUS AND EVENTS

Rugby's Caring Hands cannot make an impact standing alone. We rely on many partners in order to meet the needs of our recipients.

Fundraising throughout the year has included many firsts and continuously new avenues for sustainable funding are being researched and evaluated.

Unfortunately the Players' Fund had to inform its loyal support squad that the decision had to be taken to cancel the annual fundraising event with the Springboks. The event was scheduled for 1 October 2018.

Due to sponsorship rights considerations and sensitivities the Fund was not able to negotiate a favourable rights package for the event sponsor in time. So, the difficult decision was taken to cancel the event, rather than incur the risk to host a below-par tribute to our injured players.

Our men in the green and gold are showing growth and confidence on the rugby field and we know their support for our injured players remains unwavering. For this we will always be very grateful.

Some of the fundraising and event highlights from the past year included:

Lifa Hlongwa's Story – a crowd-funding initiative

By sharing Lifa's story of strength and determination through a CrowdFunding site, we were able to raise R64 000.

Recipient visit to the Jewish Museum in Cape Town

A trip out to the South African Jewish museum in Cape Town was planned in May 2018 as a way to explore something new and get the local recipients together. Not only were the recipients very grateful for the cultural experience and opportunity to learn about the Jewish community in South Africa, but the staff at the museum were warm and caring and remarked how honoured they were to have this particular group to visit.

12 May – SuperRugby Match Day activations

Digital and match day presences promoting awareness and donations at DHL Newlands and Loftus Versveld. R65 000 raised.

Rugby's Caring Hands Women's Day Breakfast

A tribute to all the women behind the scenes who join us in playing the role of Rugby's Caring Hands. Hosted at Kelvin Grove on 8 August 2018. R27 000 raised.



OUR LOYAL #SUPPORTSQUAD

We can't play the role of Rugby's Caring Hands independently. In order to really create an impact on the lives of our recipients, we rely on the rugby network of caring individuals and organisations that partner us on the way.

Listed below are a few of the many whose help goes such a long way and means the world to us.

SA Rugby: As the official charity of the Springboks we are provided with an annual grant paid quarterly. This support has been in place since 2000 and helps cover 60% of the Fund's expenses.

Tsogo Sun: Annual value in kind enables us to travel around the country to visit recipients, attend meetings and use "bed nights" for raffles and auctions.

DSV Couriers: Thanks to a call from our friends at SA Rugby Legends, DSV couriers were able to help us avoid incurring massive courier costs when transporting two hospital beds to the Eastern Cape for two of our recipients.

Rugbytots: In 2018 the Players' Fund was identified as the charity of choice for the South African arm of the international rugby play programme for children aged 2 to 7. This was initiated with the first ever use of #Ride4RugbysCaringHands as a team of 10 participated in the Lormar Karoo Endurance MTB stage ride. They raised R10 000 through this campaign.

Blue Bulls Rugby Union: Through an annual fundraising luncheon and ongoing appeals to their sponsors, R133 000 was raised for our local recipients. A wheelchair accessible suite has also been made available for rugby enthusiasts with disabilities. Tickets and catering are sponsored by the Blue Bulls Rugby Union for all match days. Outgoing CEO, Barend van Graan, has been a dedicated activist for our cause and we wish him health and happiness as he enters his retirement.

Western Province Rugby Union: Our physical neighbours (from our offices in Newlands) have kindly provided us with the use of a suite for rugby enthusiasts with physical disabilities as well as match day tickets for all who attend. We manage this suite (301 in the Danie Craven Stand) with regular visitors enjoying a comfortable environment with warm hospitality.

Walking with Brandon Foundation: Together with the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, this programme has established itself as a major change-maker in the lives of people living with neurological damage. It provides an integrated, holistic treatment package and it is currently comprised of two sub-programmes being Neurological Rehabilitation and a Peer Support programme. To date ten of our beneficiaries have undergone training with the expert staff at this facility, with huge mental and physical improvements being noticed.



OUR LOYAL #SUPPORTSQUAD continued

DEP Belanger Trust: The Players' Fund received a generous donation of R30,000 from this Clanwilliam-based family plant nursery, which provides local and national farmers with fruit trees and rooibos plants.

ER24: An Emergency Medical Service provider who operates the BokSmart SpineLine on 0800 678 678. This is a dedicated emergency helpline solely for potential serious concussion, head, neck and spine injuries sustained during a rugby match or practice. This service ensures that transportation to the most appropriate hospital is done timeously and without delay, especially where time is of the essence.

Golden Oldies Rugby Festival: We were honoured to have been chosen as the charity of choice for the 2018 Golden Oldies Rugby Festival that took place in Mar-gate. While many of the players who were involved in the event are in their 'latter' years of playing the game, they still chose to recognise the fallen heroes of the game. A total of R25 970 was raised.

Kelvin Grove: Through an annual dinner with the DHL Stormers, bowls days and luncheons before Springbok test matches, this local Cape Town sports club has managed to raise over R1 million for us over 14 years. A remarkable feat showing a long-term commitment which we are honoured to have been the recipients of.

Life Health Care: Sometimes all it takes is a phone call. In the instance of this private health care provider, the Life Entabeni Hospital in KZN quickly met the needs of Lifa Hlongwa when he was discharged from

hospital and offered 12 weeks of rehabilitation which was largely responsible for the positive progress he has made since his injury.

Lionel Johnson Memorial Golf Day: This Golf Day is held each year in July on the anniversary of the British Open, when more than 20 different Zimbabwean and South African schools gather in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to battle out historic rivalry and reaffirm ageless camaraderie. The Players' Fund is one of three charities that received R10,000.00 from the proceeds of this event this year.

Nurture Health Care: This is a group of physical rehabilitation, recovery and wellness hospitals whose generosity extends to the Players' Fund should there be a rugby player who sustains an acute spinal cord injury or head injury in the Eastern Cape. They not only offer 12 – 16 weeks of intense rehabilitation at their Aurora Hospital in Port Elizabeth for an injured player annually, but this year also very kindly provided three months of complimentary accommodation at their Newlands Hospital for a KZN-based recipient of the Fund who took part in a three-month exercise rehabilitation programme in Cape Town.

Players4Players: This group of four former UCT rugby players have been raising money for us for over 10 years. In 2017 they hit the jackpot of raising R200K at a formal dinner which was hosted at Kelvin Grove. They are considered the largest independent, single event fundraisers for Rugby's Caring Hands and can really throw a great party to support our recipients.



THANK YOU

When it comes to charitable giving, the generosity of those listed below who give with confidence, has a direct impact on our sustainability, be it a once off donation, their valuable time, a grant, a sponsorship agreement, value in kind, discounts, product or expertise and advice.

adidas	Heart FM	• Individual Porsche owners
Allan Dunn	H Olivier	• Stutgard Restorations
Anne Lee Murray	Du Toit Huysamen Estate	Quadriplegic and Paraplegic Charitable Trust of South Africa
Ari Seirlis	Johan de Beer	Quaggas Barbarians
Assupol	Kelvin Grove	Rachel Kolisi
Barbarian's Charitable Trust	Kings Academy/ BLS Logistics	Red Bull South Africa
Blue Bulls Rugby Union	Kirsti Lyall	Rene Naylor
BrightRock	Kloovenburg Olive and Wine Estate	Rugbytots South Africa
British and Irish Lions	KZN Former Players Foundation	Robertson Wacky Wine Weekend – Bowls Day
CE Mobility	Legends Sport	SANGORA (South African Golden Oldies Rugby Association)
Charles Glass Society	Leisure Group	Sharks Rugby Union
Chris Moir	Life Health Care	SA Rugby
Dave Hansen	Lionel Johnson Memorial Golf Day	SA Rugby Legends Association
Dave Orton	Marelise Badenhorst	Signarama Claremont
Debbie Greeff	Matt Hampson Foundation	Sports Science Institute of SA
DEP Belanger Trust	Matthew Pearce	Standard Bank
Delaire Graff Estate	Max Baise	Steed Richardson
DHL	MyPlayers Benevolent Fund	Stellenbosch Academy of Sport
DSV Couriers	Nurture Health Care	Tank Lanning
Elma Smit	Old School Group	Tiber Bonvec
ER24	Players4Players	Tori Gardner
Gail Baerecke	Phatho Zondi	Tsogo Sun
Gita Carrol	Porsche Loftus Versfeld Day Organising Committee	Walking with Brandon Foundation
Golden Lions Rugby Union	• Porsche Club of South Africa Central	Western Province Rugby Union
Golden Oldies Rugby Festival	• Porsche Centre Pretoria	Vodacom
Green Office	• Blue Bulls Company	Wayne Fyvie
Jenny Mitchell Design	• Exclusive Conversions	Willemien du Toit
Joey Lugt	• CCP Expel	Yonderhill Wines
Hartenberg Wine Estate	• Studio 88 Photography	
Heather Riddley	• 356 Owners Group	

JOIN OUR SUPPORT SQUAD

The Players' Fund is registered non-profit (003-140) and public benefit (930012744) organisation. To honour the position of being recognised as the official charity of SA Rugby an annual grant is bestowed to the Fund. The rest of the annual budget is funded entirely by voluntary donations and fundraising activities.

As players continue to sustain serious and life-altering injuries, it is vital that we continue to strive for sustainability and necessary growth. We are looking to increase our activity and grant-giving so that we can help as many people as possible. But we can't do it alone – we need your help. Become part of our support squad in any of the following ways:

- **DONATE**
We have numerous ways to donate to our charity which include; EFT, SnapScan, Zapper, Givengain and PayFast. Please visit our website <https://www.playersfund.org.za/get-involved/> or contact our office on contact@playersfund.org.za so we can assist you.
- **MOBILIZE YOUR RUGBY COMMUNITY**
If you are involved in rugby and looking to give back to the game, get in contact with our team to see how we can work together for the love of the game.
- **CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES AND DONATIONS**
As a registered Non-Profit Organisation and Public Benefit Organisation with Section 18 A approval we are able to provide tax incentives on donations made. Whether your company is looking to launch a new product, strengthen brand identity, or just build team relationships, a charity partnership with us can help meet your marketing, client, staff and corporate social investment (CSI) objectives through a wide range of opportunities.
- **FUNDRAISING EVENTS**
If you would like to help raise money to assist Rugby's Caring Hands, we welcome your support. Please download a copy of our Authority to Fundraise Form, complete and return to events@playersfund.org.za or fax to (021) 659 5653. With this information we'll be able to recognise the event and assist where possible. Thank you in advance for your support of the Players' Fund.
- **LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL**
If you care about our cause and are considering investing this can also be done through a bequest in your will – exempting it from estate duty.



RECIPIENT STORY:

Amos Mzimela

On 20 May 1990 at the age of 18, Amos was playing flank for his school rugby team in Mooiplaas when a bad tackle resulted in him being seriously injured and left a paraplegic. Coming from a rural community meant that returning to school presented huge challenges.

However, Amos was, and still is, a determined man and in 2000 graduated from the MSC College with flying colours in a Computer Training course. He achieved over 80% for most of his subjects and has kept up his love for Information Technology.

Fast forward a few years and Amos is married with three children, including a set of twins. He has been determined not to rely on his disability grant and monthly subsistence from the Players' Fund and over the years has had many projects that have kept him busy and motivated.

His deep passion and latest project has been the establishment of a Community Centre in his home village – Soto (near HagaHaga) in the Eastern Cape. Each day this centre provides a safe and positive environment for 30 disabled people from the community. If the centre was not available these people would be locked up at home and often the victims of malice due to their inability to defend themselves. While at the centre Amos and the team teach beadwork. Beautiful pieces are created and sold to create an income.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

Sitting down and reflecting on the year behind us has been exciting.

The field of play that we find ourselves in requires a dynamic and enthusiastic approach as we balance between the world of rugby who supports us, and the worlds of those living with a disability who depend on us. We are the link between the two, ensuring that no rugby player ever feels like they have been forgotten.

The events and initiatives that we look back on in 2017/18 have been as a result of the forging of exciting new relationships both in South Africa and abroad. New partnerships allowed for a creative space to search for new, innovative ways to make the Fund more sustainable. While long standing friends and partners like SA Rugby, Tsogo Sun, the Matt Hampson Foundation in the UK, Players 4 Players and Kelvin Grove have also been steadfast in their loyalty to the Fund, enthusiastically tackling the combined responsibility that we have as Rugby's Caring Hands.

By partnering our recipients on their journey, we have the opportunity to really get to know them on a personal level and on a regular basis find ourselves in awe of their outlook on life. This sparked an exciting project which allows our recipients' stories to be told. The 2019 Players' Fund Project Hero sponsored by Canon SA is a visual documentary of the lives of five recipients, who have volunteered a window into their lives to share their stories of hope, dignity and the strength of the human spirit. Although five recipients were chosen for this project, these characteristics can be seen in all 108 of our recipients and we encourage you to look out for #ProjectHero in the coming months.

Without the loyal support squad that we regularly turn to, we would not be able to have the positive impact in the lives of our recipients who need us. So, to all those who have partnered us over the last year, we hope this report makes you proud - as you have made it possible. If this is the first time you have seen the tremendous IMPACT being made here and want to be a part of it – let's talk.

Thank you.

Tori Gardner
Marketing Manager





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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

