



**IMPACT REPORT 2020/21**  
2020/21 Financial year end and 2021 calendar of events

*The Power of Hope and Impact*





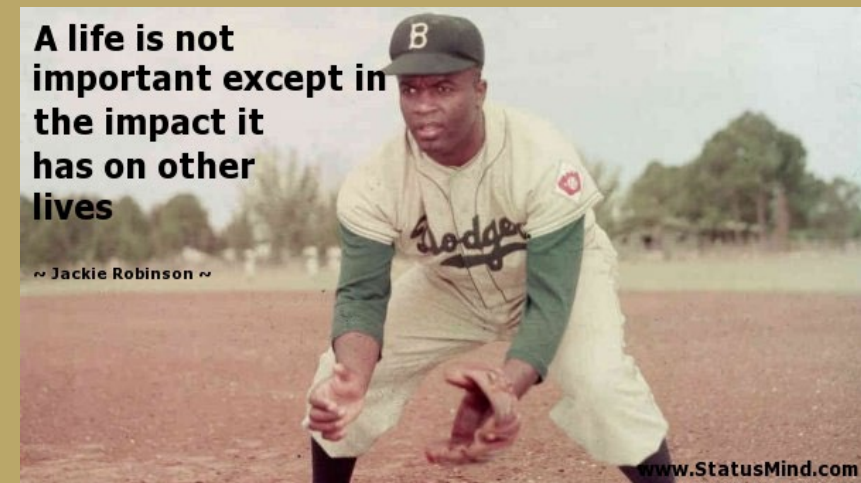
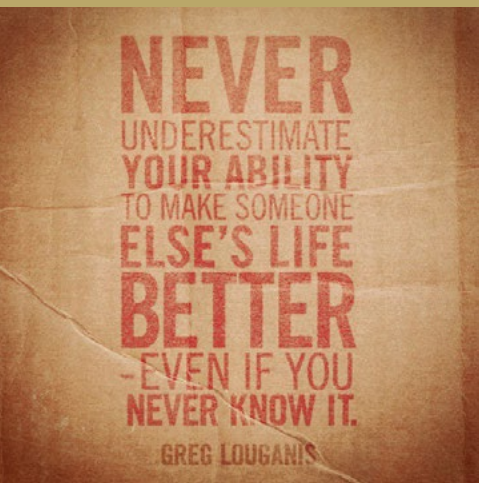


## What is the power of hope?

Hope lays dormant until its amazing strength is beckoned, supplying a sheer belief that you will overcome, you will persevere and you will endure anything and everything that comes your way. Hope is the belief that circumstances will get better.

## What is the power of impact?

Making the most of your opportunities to build others up  
You don't need to be big or bold to impact those around you. By recognising your ability to be a positive influence, you unlock your power to change lives for the better.



## Quotes from Five Recipients of what the Players' Fund means to them



After my injury in 1995, I had no hope of continuing with my life, but the Chris Burger Fund came to my rescue and they have been the good Samaritan in my life since then. They made my plight easier and allowed me to live my life to the fullest with no boundaries. The Players' Fund means a lot to me I respect them as they are the one's that makes sure I don't suffer. If it was not for the CB/PJ Fund I would struggle and live a miserable life".

### **Zingisa Magalela (48)**

Port Elizabeth



"I want to say thanks.... and share my gratitude for everything the Players' Fund does for all the recipients and their families. Not only the financial support, but the emotional support which actually far exceeds anything else. Thank you to everybody involved at the Fund, their unconditional devotion. You are the heroes in our eyes!"

### **George Visser (59)**

Mossel Bay



" I have been a recipient of the Players' Fund for 25 years now and have had their support all this time. Only the determined effort and continuous hard work of all those involved in managing the funds' affairs could have made this possible. Even though misfortune qualifies one to be a recipient of the fund, fortune is found in the fund's existence and the assistance it provides".

### **Jannie Louw (45)**

Pretoria



"If it were not for the Players' Fund, I would not have managed to finish my schooling after my injury, I would not have a wheelchair accessible room in my family home which allows me my privacy. I would not be able to afford the transport costs to get me to Tygerberg hospital or Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre for my important medical appointments. My mobility equipment in the form of three wheelchairs, 1 motorized, 1 manual and 1 shower/toilet chair would be beyond my reach as would the essential medical supplies from YMS. I hope that my words do justice and show my immense appreciation for what the Players' Fund means to me and my family. I don't know what we would've done without them".

### **Donavan Botha (29)**

Montagu



"Without the Players' Fund my life would have been very difficult. It has been a life saver, a friend, warm caring hands and as a result has changed my future for the better. The Fund has enabled me to be independent, to take charge of my disability, to be responsible for my own health and to live life to the fullest".

### **Vuyo Mashologo (35)**

Port Elizabeth

# *Vision, Mission and Values*

## **VISION:**

Our vision is to be an internationally recognised organisation that supports the recovery and improves the quality of life of rugby players in South Africa who suffer serious injuries on the field, 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.

# Contents



1	Chairman's Report – Jean De Villiers	11	Injury report
2	General Managers' Report – Gail Baerecke	12	2021 in numbers
3	Recipient Story – Hannes de Jager	13 – 15	Events & fund raising activities
4	The Team - Board of Trustees and Staff	16	Recipient story – Anthony Kasirivu
5	In Memoriam	17	Thank you
6 – 7	What we do	18	Get involved
8 – 10	BokSmart Programme	19	Beyond the pandemic / Enhancing our impact



## Chairman's Report – Jean de Villiers



Writing a chairman's report for 2020 was tough, this one for 2021 is even tougher!

The amazing work that this organization has done over more than 40 years, has been under severe threat due to a vastly different financial landscape, along with many other challenges that were thrown our way due to the impact of the pandemic.

In reflection, one significant factor that is even more evident now, is the importance of "our people" which make up our family, the Rugby's Caring Hands family. I would like to make mention of them and thank them for banding together and believing that we could and would pull through.

Firstly, those who we serve, our 101 recipients, many who still love and loyally follow the game of rugby, despite running onto the field, being seriously injured and not being able to walk again. What champions they are!

I would like to then focus on our 15 trustees who serve on our board, giving freely of their very valuable time, to strategise, provide input, find solutions and use their networks to ensure a sustainable organisation that is relevant and will be present in future years to come. Thank you team!

Then the powerhouse - our small management staff who not only captain this ship, but they ensure it moves forward and upwards through both fair and stormy weather. They have our recipients interests at heart and pride themselves

in being just a phone call away. What a pleasure it is to work with them!

We care deeply about all "our people" and I am extremely grateful for the role that each of them plays. Sadly, we lost a few along the way during 2021 which you can read about further on in the impact report. Gone but not forgotten!

In 2021, we also said goodbye to Tori Gardner - our Marketing Manager. She moved on to a new leadership position also within the non-profit sector. We would like to thank her for her selfless contribution to our organisation over seven and a half years and wish her all the very best with this exciting new phase of her life. No doubt she'll be missed!

Lastly, our family would be incomplete if I were not to highlight our loyal #supportsquads. These important stalwarts many whom faced their own difficulties, are our sponsors, donors, foundations, companies, individuals and the greater rugby community who continued to help us. Thank you for believing in our cause!

Like many charities, businesses and individuals, we have taken a few mean punches in the last few years, we have fended off a few close call knockouts and we will keep fighting so as to always be in a position to support our recipients, make the game of rugby safer and also keep telling the stories of hope of our heroes, *our people!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean de Villiers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

## General Managers' Report – Gail Baerecke



### THE POWER OF IMPACT AND HOPE

Instead of reviewing the past year in this report, I have decided to look at our key role in rugby, who we help, how we do the helping and what this help ultimately achieves....in other words, what is our IMPACT and how does this bring HOPE to these brave young men and women.

Life changing rugby injuries when they happen, are devastating and often irreversible, leading to varied loss of mobility, and dependence on others for good health & wellbeing for the rest of time. Adjusting to a “new normal” following a disabling injury, takes time and patience and an acquired understanding of how the loss of body functionality and abilities affects day to day living.

***Our IMPACT as an organisation is to partner our brave former rugby players so that together we can tackle the many obstacles they will be faced with.***

By regular visits to the many varied and different homes of our 101 recipients throughout South Africa, we are able to better understand the environment they live in, their family circumstances, and their equipment and accessibility needs. This provides the opportunity to discuss and plan their hopes, dreams and direction for the future.

***By being at the coalface of their lives, our IMPACT is finding personalised solutions for each individual as they journey ahead as a person living with a disability. Their futures are as important as ours!***

Soon after their life changing injury, we strive to create a bond with our recipients. They become life members of the Players' Fund family as well as the extended rugby community in South Africa. We have found that this creates a strong sense of belonging and helps them to plan for the next 5, 10 or 15+ years through new eyes and with a sense of hope.

***Our IMPACT is by tapping into our extensive rugby and business networks for the direct benefit of our recipients.***

We have learnt from our recipients that they are

as much partners of ours as we are of theirs. Their strength of character and resilience has time and time again shone through especially in the past two years. This has made us realise that these brave young men & women whose lives have been compromised are heavily invested in our team.

***Our IMPACT on their lives has in return IMPACTED and reaffirmed our commitment to being in business for another 40 years.***

With so many of the nation's non-profits on shaky financial footing, due to dwindling income as a result of the pandemic, with a collective effort we have strived to build a stronger, more durable and effective organization. We have reviewed what we do and how we do it. We have changed methods of fundraising and feel in time that these will show positive results. Diversifying our funding income from a number of different sources and sponsors has also become key to sustainability.

We are listening and learning from our donors by finding out what they need from us. Working on maintaining good relationships and creating new ones has become a daily part of our work. Regular interesting communication via newsletters, active social media platforms, and various publication has included the many wonderful stories of the lives of our recipients.

***The IMPACT of the pandemic has resulted in worthwhile reflection, reimagining, and regrouping for Rugby's Caring Hands.***

My final thought with all the above in mind, is to appeal to you the reader to take action and help us to build a stronger, more durable, sustainable and more effective organization. Please help us steer this ship through the storm. Maybe take some time to ask yourself, what you as a rugby enthusiast, small business owner, CSI manager, large corporate, foundation, high net worth individual or investor can do by becoming part of our #supportsquads. GIVE SMART so that we can continue to deliver by making a difference to the difficult lives of our fallen heroes by Committing to being part of a dynamic team that operates by a clear set of values:

- Caring
- Stable
- Approachable
- Dependable
- Transparent
- Accountable

“You cannot get through a single day without having an IMPACT on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make” Jane Goodall.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'G Baerecke'.



## RECIPIENT STORY:

### *Hannes de Jager*

Hannes (50) from Bloemfontein, has been in a wheelchair for almost 25 years following a rugby injury in March 1997 at the age of 25 whilst playing for the SA National Defence Force. He continues to work for the SANDF where he has served proudly since 1991 and was recently promoted from Captain to Major.

With his love for animals, especially dogs, in 2016 he joined the Jack Russel Terrier Club of SA and began competing with his dogs Yster (smooth coat Jack Russel) and Tornado (broken coat Jack Russel), often travelling to competitions both in Bloemfontein and Dewestdorp.

Together he and Yster have bagged a 2nd and 3rd place so far and it is no surprise considering Yster's breeding line. Yster's father – Foxcreek Rigter was the Supreme - Nationals 2019 Champion and Yster looks exactly like him.

The other champion in his life is his dedicated carer Mothelesi, the man who has been by his side now for 22 years. Hannes says "I have so many challenges as all people with physical disabilities do, but having found this 1 in a million person to care for all my needs, has cut my challenges by half. Thank you my dear friend Mothelesi for being by my side for so long."

Should you wish to follow him on Facebook and see how he is progressing with his hobby, please use the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/johannes.dejager>



# The Team - Board of Trustees and Staff



**Jean De Villiers**  
(Chairman)



**Hanyani Shimange**  
Vice Chairman



**Morné du Plessis**  
Founder of the Players' Fund



**Frikkie Naudé**  
Trustee



**Jowa Abrahams**  
Trustee



**Joel Krige**  
Trustee



**Wayne Fyvie**  
Trustee



**John Smit**  
Trustee



**Clint Readhead**  
Trustee



**Anton Engelbrecht**  
Trustee



**Tiaan Strauss**  
Trustee



**FC Smit**  
Trustee



**Khaya Mayedwa**  
Trustee



**Phatho Zondi**  
Trustee



**Neil Strybis**  
Hon Financial Advisor



**Gail Baerecke**  
General Manager



**Aashia Hendricks**  
General & Financial Administrator

*In Memoriam – Those involved in the Fund who passed away in 2021*



**Marius Bezuidenhout**

Recipient

02.07.1972 - 07.02.2021



**Dr Ismail Jakoet**

Former Trustee

20.08.1948 – 25.05.2021



**Dan Lombard**

Recipient

15.02.1990 – 12.06.2021



**Andre Mostert**

Recipient

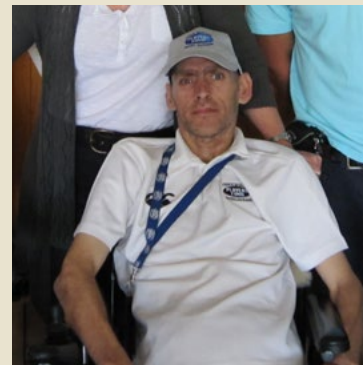
13.10.1963 – 18.07.2021



**Andries Roux**

Recipient

11.02.1968 – 01.08.2021



**Clifford Lotter**

Recipient

22.03.1970 – 07.11.2021



**Ian Jacobs**

Recipient

27.12.1968 – 03.12.2021

## What we Do

We are 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 the family are assessed, and we step in to assist where necessary.

\*These injuries include, but are not exclusively confined to:

- Spinal cord injuries with irreversible damage, resulting in dependence on mobility devices such as wheelchairs and walking-aids

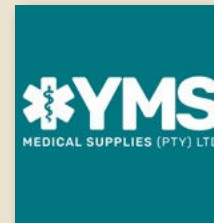
- Head injuries that impair normal day-to-day functioning (inability to work/walk/talk etc.)
- Other life-changing injuries that may lead to visual impairment, irreparable damage or loss.

Prior to discharge from hospital and in consultation with the rehabilitation team, we assess the needs of the recipient and begin to provide support across eight pillars. Below are examples of care that can be identified within each of these pillars.



### Provision of Equipment

In the 2020/2021 financial year, we purchased 4 new wheelchairs for our recipients, plus replaced 20 sets of wheelchair batteries and facilitated the repairs of 21 wheelchairs. Their wheels are their independence and being in good working order essential to their wheelbeing.



### Medical Consumable Allocations

Through a partnership with YMS + a courier service ensures the consumables are delivered door to door. This is a value-added service for those with mobility impairments. Regular orders on these lists are linen savers, urinary catheters, vitamins and dressings.



### Modification to Homes

Before returning home from hospital or in the event of a relocation, we work together with local builders and suppliers to ensure that the recipient's homes are wheelchair friendly and safe. Most wheelchair accessibility challenges involve obstacles such as a few or a flight of steps into a house, different levels within a house, as well as bathrooms and toilets which traditionally are not user friendly for wheelchairs.



### Secondary Rehabilitation

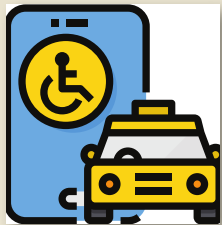
The importance of ongoing daily exercise for the physical and mental wellbeing of our recipients has become increasingly evident. By partnering with health professionals who specialise in rehabilitation and contributing to the costs of their expertise, we are able to encourage recipients to participate in regular physical activity. We have been able to develop a strong network of gyms and rehabilitation centres where there are professional trainers, well equipped to deal with spinal cord injuries. In total, two of our recipients were able to exercise safely in these environments in the past year. Here they are encouraged to set achievable goals, push their own boundaries, with each small gain improving their functionality and independence.

## What we Do (continued)



### *Financial Support*

Where possible and appropriate, the Assistance Committee of the Fund approves the payment of a monthly subsistence allowance to recipients who are unable to support themselves. Financial support also extends to cover the rent of assisted-living facilities for those who cannot be cared for at home.



### *Transport Facilitation*

Wherever possible, we assist our recipients with transport for when urgent medical attention is required, for clinical appointments, or to reach academic institutions for their studies. In the absence of reliable transport for people living with disabilities, this is not always an easy task and it can be costly. Often our recipients are forced to purchase space in a private vehicle for their wheelchair, themselves and a carer. In 2020/21 financial year, we contributed R65 560 towards transportation costs for our recipients, either using informal taxis or contributions to petrol for family or friends' vehicles.



### *Partnering Education and Skills Development Journeys*

Our focus is the holistic health and well-being of our recipients and to remain at their sides throughout their individual journeys. In 2021, this area of focus was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are however proud of one of our youngest recipients who matriculated in 2021 and was accepted for a degree at the University of Pretoria in 2022.



### *Personal Care*

One of our goals is to try to improve the quality of life of our recipients, which means taking care of their essential needs as well as the softer touches that remind them that they are part of a community that will never forget them...

In 2021, while the world was quiet we designed and produced an information folder for each of our recipients which we called the #supportpack. This folder contains important and useful information and tips on the maintenance of optimal health and wellbeing which is essential for their longevity. An overview of how the Players' Fund works and who makes up the team was also provided.

# BokSmart Programme

## An intro looking back since 2009 and the impact the programme has had on rugby safety

- Since we launched in July of 2009, BokSmart has made huge footprints within the South African Rugby structures and has become entrenched as an integral part of its existence.
- Minimum medical standards for matches have been put in place.
- Field safety standard guidelines have been developed.
- Regulations have been developed ranging from age-banding to compulsory rugby safety training, to concussion management, to anti-doping, and the like.
- Modified amateur scrum laws were developed and implemented, which had a dramatic effect on lowering catastrophic scrum-related injuries
- We are currently busy with the development of our seventh cycle of BokSmart training, which will roll out in 2022. The country's coaches and referees have had 6 rounds of exposure to the BokSmart messaging.
- We have moved from face-to-face courses to a hybrid model, and now will function mainly online, and via the MyBokSmart Learning Management System (LMS), which will be in operation from 2022.
- With this move to mainly online, we will extend our reach significantly and will hopefully over time show the dividends of this, by lowering catastrophic injuries and events in South African Rugby even further.
- Due to COVID-19 and very little and sometimes NO rugby being played, it would be misleading to show changes relative to where we started, if we included data from 2020 and 2021.
- Therefore, when analysing the patterns of injury up until 2019, we showed a 63% reduction in all ASCI

at Schools' rugby regardless of severity, and a 52% reduction in *permanent catastrophic* ASCI in Club Rugby, during the pre-post period analysis.

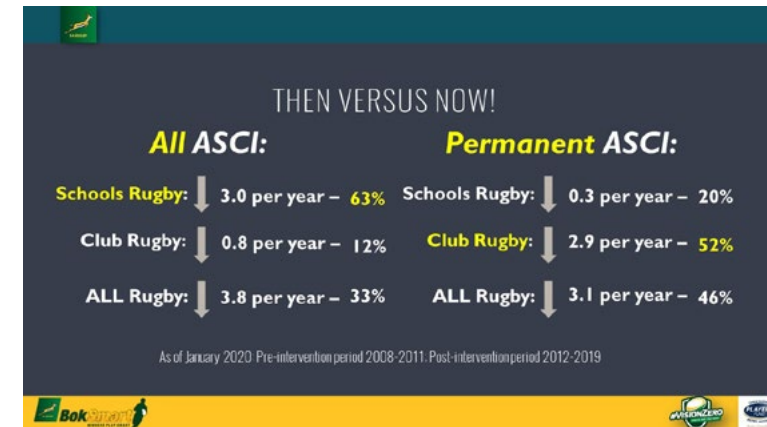
- BokSmart has over time become synonymous with Rugby being played within South Africa, and all stakeholders in the game are aware of the brand and its association with setting the required rugby safety standards.

## A short summary of the new online presence

- With COVID-19, things had to change quite drastically, and with adversity also comes opportunity.
- SportsCap generously joined hands with us and offered their time and expertise in trying to move our efforts on catastrophic injury prevention online!
- They are now the *Official Software Partner of BokSmart*.



- Forming part of this exciting adventure, we have built a BokSmart Certification Software Ecosystem or BCSE, which allows for BokSmart to extend its reach online to more than just coaches and referees.
- It now has the potential to reach Schools, Clubs, Players, Parents, and Medical Support Staff too.
- This has huge potential for increasing the efficacy (*the degree in which the programme can reduce catastrophic injuries and events*), and effectiveness



(*the degree to which the programme works in the real-world setting*), of the BokSmart national rugby safety programme.

- Various Applications (Apps) are available within this Software Ecosystem, such as MyBokSmart, the BokSmart Certification Checker, the online BokSmart 6 Course, Identity Provider (IDP), Course Creator, security layered Common Data Service (CDS), BokSmart Certification System, various Application Programming Interface (API) linkages, and the newly 'being developed' MyBokSmart Learning Management System (LMS), which is an upgrade of MyBokSmart and should be ready for use in 2022.
- BokSmart 7 is currently in process of development and construction, mainly using an online model. This will become available on the MyBokSmart Learning Management System (LMS) mid-2022.
- Much of 2021 has been dedicated to this course's and the LMS development.

## Boksmart Programme (continued)

### Short concussion focus

- Concussion remains a high priority topic for the BokSmart programme, and forms one of the cornerstones of our education.
- All coaches and referees have to undergo BokSmart training every two years to remain certified as a coach or to be able to officiate.
- Each course provides the latest information on concussion identification, treatment, and management, to these end-users.
- Each participant on the course upon completion, is provided with a digital concussion guide to use on field-side to assist them in their concussion decision-making.
- Also, SARU has created an online Blue Card concussion system for logging and reporting these concussion incidents (<https://sarugby.online/bluecard>).
- Once the player and his/her family's information has been logged, they are emailed pertinent information on best practice management of the involved player, to ensure a safer return to rugby approach, which includes a stand-down period and accessing appropriate medical care.
- The logged individuals are provided with access to a 'Blue Card' Medical Doctor network, supplied by Sports Concussion SA, should they wish to utilise this. (<http://www.sportsconcussion.co.za/medical-team/>). These medical doctors are all familiar with rugby's protocols and appropriate concussion management.
- From the data we have collected so far, 53% of the Blue Card reports are logged by match officials, 22% by medical doctors, and 15% by coaches.
- The tackler dominates the Blue Card events by contributing to 58% of the cases, followed by

collisions at 20% and rucks at 12%.

- The tackle event, and especially the tackler role, remains a primary focus of intervention.

### Number of coaches & referees trained and BokSmart certified

- Since 16th March 2020, most standard BokSmart operational activities, were shut down indefinitely due to COVID-19, as a direct result of not much, if any, rugby being played in the amateur settings.
- **164823** people have gone through BokSmart training since we launched in July 2009; some with multiple exposures.
- A total of **13849** coaches and referees have been captured on the BokSmart Certification System during the 6th cycle of BokSmart Training so far, with **5783** certifications (42%) and **8066** re-certifications (58%).
- From what has been captured via [MyBokSmart](#) on the new BokSmart Certification System and on the BCSE, as of 30 November 2021, there have been **2168** Certifications this year, and 44 face-to-face courses presented, with 909 (41.8%) face-to-face certification completions.
- The Online BokSmart 6 course has **1267** completions, which accounts for 58.2% of Certifications so far this year. There are also 5312 people registered on MyBokSmart as of the same date, with participants at various stages of course completion.

### Injury stats i.e: ASCI + TBI + Cardiac events

- Due to the COVID-19 shortened year of rugby, we had two confirmed serious/catastrophic events in 2021, both in Club rugby.
  - 1 Cardiovascular event (CV)

- 1 Cardiovascular event due to an enlarged heart.
- The player unfortunately passed away.
  - 1 Acute Spinal Cord Injury (ASCI)
  - 'Near Miss' ASCI (tackle-related).
  - Fortunately, this player had no spinal cord entrapment or neurological fallout.

### Number of scientific papers & reports published and a summary of what they addressed

- In 2021, we published 6 scientific articles/reports in peer-reviewed, credible, local and international, medical and scientific journals.
- Each article had its own focus area, with topics ranging from off-field concussion screening to COVID-19 transmission risk in contact sports, to tackle and ball carry techniques and their association with injuries, to injury surveillance studies in both amateur junior female rugby players and in professional adult male players within South African Rugby tournaments.
- These analyses and publications were mainly for monitoring injury trends and patterns, and ultimately for use in guiding more focused prevention strategies.

### 1. Expansion of cognitive testing for off-field concussion screening in elite rugby players: A cohort study

Gordon Ward Fuller, Andrew Gardner, Ross Tucker, Marc Douglas, Clint Readhead, Warren McDonald, Ian Murphy, Marcelo Saco, Martin Raftery, Èanna Falvey

Published: June 11, 2021 - ORIGINAL RESEARCH | Volume 24, Issue 12, P1204-1210, December 01, 2021

## Boksmart Programme (continued)

### 2. Team Sport Risk Exposure Framework-2 (TS-REF-2) to identify sports activities and contacts at increased SARS-CoV-2 transmission risk during the COVID-19 pandemic

Jones B, Phillips G, Beggs C, et al

British Journal of Sports Medicine Published Online First: 29 June 2021. DOI: 10.1136/bjsports-2021-104225

### 3. The South African Rugby Injury and Illness Surveillance and Prevention Project (SARIISPP): SARU Girls' Youth Week Injury Surveillance Report 2019

Paul, L., Readhead, C., Viljoen, W., & Lambert, M. (2021)

South African Journal of Sports Medicine, 33(1). <https://doi.org/10.17159/2078-516X/2021/v33i1a12487>

### 4. The Vodacom Super Rugby Unlocked and Carling Currie Cup Injury Surveillance Report 2020/21

Starling, L., Readhead, C., Viljoen, W., Paul, L. and Lambert, M. (2021)

S Afr J Sports Med 2021;33:1-39. DOI: 10.17159/2078-516X/2021/v33i1a11849

### 5. Tackler and ball-carrier technique during moderate and severe injuries (≥8 days lost) compared with player-matched and team-matched injury-free controls in Elite Rugby Union

Vincent Meintjes, Pip Forshaw, Steve den Hollander, Lindsay Starling, Michael Ian Lambert, Wayne Viljoen, Clint Readhead, Sharief Hendricks (2021)

Br J Sports Med 2021;0:1–10. Published Online First: 13 July 2021. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2020-103759

### 6. Medical care and first aid: an interassociation consensus framework for organised non-elite sport during the COVID-19 pandemic

Lisa Hodgson, Gemma Phillips, Robin Terence Siggers, Sanjay Sharma, Michael Papadakis, Clint Readhead, Charlotte M Cowie, Andrew Massey, Richard Weiler, Prabhat Mathema, Jo Larkin, Jonathan Gordon, John Maclean, Michael Rossiter, Niall Elliott, Jonathan Hanson, Simon Spencer, Rod Jaques, Jon Patricios (2021)

BrJ Sports Med 2021;0:1–12. Published Online First: 22 February 2021. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2020-103622

#### BokSmart logo/s



Figure 1: On light backgrounds



Figure 2: On dark backgrounds

- Any other pearls of information that would be of interest to our diverse readership
- The secret to successful results in this field is building sustainable relationships with people who are like-minded and who share the same vision.
- Serious and catastrophic injury prevention is a team effort, and without these people who selflessly provide assistance, from financial support through to value in kind contribution of time and skills, it is very difficult to have any impact.
- The fact that we have shown such positive results in a relatively short period of time is testimony to the buy-in and support from all of these role players and also to those coaches, referees, medical staff, clubs, schools, and administrators who operate at the coalface.
- Even with these relationships in place, one still has to use a *multi-pronged approach* to attack this problem!
  - USE the evidence – You cannot fix what you do not know is broken, so we set up a robust Research system
  - Be SMART with your Funds – We prioritize that which is critical to our success and have built sustainable relationships
  - EDUCATE and increase the knowledge base of your key role players – We focus on those who CONTROL the players
  - ATTACK the space and fill in the gaps – One solution does not fit all, so we use diverse interventions!
  - ENGAGE with your key stakeholders and end-users – We try continuously to evolve and stay relevant
  - EMPOWER your stakeholders – We provide them with practical TOOLS that enhance implementation and adoption
  - Set yourself strong GOALS – We started #VisionZero – One is one too many!



## *Injury Report*

2021 was a most unusual rugby playing season, with COVID protocols dictating when and where rugby could be played. As a result of drastically reduced game time at all levels of the game, the number of injuries was also favourable affected.

5 August:

Sadly a 25 year old player from False Bay RC in Cape Town passed away on the field following a cardiac arrest

4 September:

A 16 year old learner from Graeme College HS in Grahamstown dislocated his knee causing the disruption of both the nervous and circulatory system, resulting in an amputation of his leg through the knee joint. He was successfully fitted with a prosthesis (artificial leg) and is due to recommence G11 in the new year.

23 October:

A 23 year club player from Ashton United RC in Ashton in the Western Cape sustained a serious neck injury which required immediate surgery to relieve the dislocation and trapped spinal cord. He thankfully made a full recovery.



12 RECIPIENTS RECEIVED  
**SPECIAL**  
REGULAR SUPPORT  
DURING NATIONAL LOCKDOWN



1 RECIPIENTS  
MATRICULATED



1 RECIPIENT  
**GRADUATED**  
FROM UNIVERSITY WITH  
A LAW DEGREE



4 WHEELCHAIRS  
PURCHASED



21 WHEELCHAIRS  
**REPAIRED**



2 LAPTOPS  
PROVIDED  
FOR STUDY PURPOSES



20 SETS OF  
**BATTERIES**  
BOUGHT



6 CARE GIVER  
ALLOWANCES  
PAID MONTHLY



30 OTHER  
EQUIPMENT  
ITEMS PURCHASED

R65 560  
**PAID** TOWARDS  
TRANSPORT COSTS



142 OUT-PATIENT  
PHYSIO AND  
SECONDARY REHAB  
SESSIONS PROVIDED



7 RECIPIENTS  
LIVE IN HOMES FOR THE  
**PHYSICALLY**  
DISABLED



41 YEARS OF  
**SERVICE**  
TO RUGBY IN SOUTH AFRICA



## Events & Fundraising Activities

These were once again governed by COVID Protocols, with the traditional method of hosting fundraising events not available or extremely restrictive throughout 2021. With some innovative thinking and collaborative team work with other charities and organisations, a steady trickle of much needed money came in throughout another difficult fundraising year.

### Picnic @ Newlands

In February, SA Rugby Legends and the Players' Fund, hosted a "Picnic under the rugby posts at DHL Newlands", which was a delight for two lucky families who simulated running onto the pitch from the players tunnel, enjoyed the entire field to themselves all whilst savoring a delicious picnic. Two DHL Stormers players joined the more active guests for some ball passing and kicking skills.

### Wings for Life Virtual run

The 8th edition of this global charity run hosted by Red Bull took place on 9 May raises funds to aid research in the race to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

With live tracking and a virtual Catcher Car, the Wings For Life World Run App made it possible for all participate wherever they were in the world to run for those who can't.

Our recipient Furlo Theron together with friends and family, took part in this event in his home town of Abbotsdale just outside Cape Town. He completed 1.35 kms in his wheelchair before the virtual "catcher car" got him.

Please consider taking part in this well organised international event this year on the 8th May by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/en>

### Fundraising during the British & Irish Lions Tour

Is it on, is it off....this was the burning question weeks and days before this iconic rugby tour was due to kick off in July 2021. Thankfully it took place and was one for the history books, as no spectators were permitted in the stadia throughout South Africa.

For the duration of the tour, we teamed up with our close friends in the UK – The Matt Hampson Foundation and went online with Hambo's auction where a number of sought-after rugby memorabilia and experiences were on offer. The income from this helped during a few rather lean months.

Thank you to the Matt Hampson Foundation for reaching out to us in a time of need.

### Spring Day Book Launch

In celebration of the changing season and Women's Month, the Players' Fund hosted a fundraising High Tea on Spring Day for 50 ladies at the Stir Crazy Cooking School at the V & A Waterfront. This happy colourful occasion also doubled up as a book launch for The First Lady of Springbok Rugby – Annelee Murray. The guests, many whom were wives and partners of both past and current Springboks, were most entertained by the only male in the house – MC Jean de Villiers, whose quick wit and close relationship with Annelee over many years, made the interview session with Annelee so up front and personal. This was another example of how the rugby community stands together even long after the final whistle has blown.

Thank you to SuperSport, SA Rugby, BrightRock and Moët and Chandon for making this celebration possible and such a happy one.



## *Events & Fundraising Activities (continued)*

### **MTN Virtual mascot experience during the British & Irish Lions Tour**

During the British & Irish Lions Tour, MTN SA surprised six of our recipients with the invitation to be part of a special virtual mascot experience for the Springboks during the Castle Lager Lions Tour during the July/August test match season.

Each of the chosen virtual mascots took part in this unique activation during each test match from the comfort of their homes. They were granted access to a two-way video platform roughly 45 minutes before kick-off. They experienced the pitch-side, and enjoyed an exclusive front-row-view of the warm-up and were even able to interact with the team captain and some of the players. To crown it all, they were taken virtually to the tunnel area to experience the thrilling adrenaline pumping feeling of the team running out onto the field. How awesome is that?

Thank you MTN SA for giving our brave young men an experience of a lifetime where memories were made.



## Events & Fundraising Activities (continued)

### National Wills Week

In September and together with the Law Society of SA, we went online and ran a campaign to encourage people to firstly make sure they had a current will in place, and secondly to consider updating their wills to include a codicil that will leave a monetary gift or item to the Payers' Fund.

This was done with the use of visual messages focussing on why you leave a legacy and the importance of supporting a cause that one believes in during National Wills Month.

### End of year Giving Appeal

From 15 November to 15 December, an appeal was launched online using the GivenGain, international online fundraising platform. A target was set at R100,000.00 and thanks to the generosity of many donors and sponsors, this target was surpassed and ended on R235,000.00. Thank you for hearing our call and responding in our time of need. This meant that each of our 103 recipients could receive a small Christmas cash gift from us to help them create some much-needed Christmas cheer after a particularly tough year.

### Players 4 Players - Barefoot Bowls Day

The iconic Kelvin Grove club in Newlands Cape Town played host to a fun family day of barefoot bowls in early December. The kiddies were entertained by Rugbytots Constantia who upskilled them on ball passing and finding the gap. Such a clever concept and all whilst having loads of fun.

With the kids sorted, the adults took to the bowling greens, all dressed in seasonal colours and found out what fun bowls can be, especially when the competition is run by a well organised Players 4 Players team who continue to host an annual fundraising event for the Players' Fund after 16 consecutive years.

### Kit2care

This fundraising initiative is ongoing and potentially a good source of regular income.

For this to take place and some ideas on how you might like to help us with this project - we accept, source or arrange rugby items (signed jerseys, rugby boots, signed balls), wonderful experiences or safari holidays, or anything "rugby related" and of value that we can sell on for fundraising purposes.

In 2021, three Lions rugby balls signed by the 6 past consecutive captains who lead the Springbok teams out during the British & Irish Lions Tours in 1968, 1974, 1980, 1997, 2009 and 2021 were successfully auctioned.

A further two rugby balls, one signed by the Springbok backs and the other by the Springbok forwards were also sold.

An amazing once in a lifetime photo opportunity was sold to a South African living in Wales. During the Springboks End of Year Tour to the UK, father and son got to sit with and be photographed with the entire Springbok team for their official test match photo. An experience that they won't forget for years to come!

We were also gifted with a magnum of sparkling wine in a presentation box which was signed by the entire Natal Rugby Team in 1990 when they won their first Currie Cup tournament, the same year the union celebrated its centenary. This was auctioned for a handsome amount, and one must conclude that the value was seen in the signatures and not the liquid contents after all these years. Thank you Carl Fourie for passing this onto us.



## RECIPIENT STORY:

### *Anthony Kasirivu*

Following a rugby injury in 2008 at the age of 22 whilst playing for the University of Johannesburg where he was studying at the time, Anthony completed a Marketing degree and then pursued a career in music and set about establishing a music production and publishing company.

His love for music started from as far back as his toddler days when he loved to watch people move to music. He feels that life is all about rhythm, either a rhythm that drives you or one that moves you.

In the past number of years, he has produced and composed library/production music, which is a broad spectrum of music genres and styles. His music labels are WE GO DEEP and THE BLISS BEYOND.

The music that he produces is used in a variety of ways such as adverts, media, corporate promos, TV as well as film productions. He has also landed a few corporate radio jingles and a local drama theme song. Internationally, he has worked with publishers who have distributed the music he makes for them.

As with most professions in the world, the pandemic has affected the TV and film industry enormously. In spite of difficult times, he has found the drive to push on, to do things differently and reinvent himself in order to survive.

“Like the music industry that I have chosen, the Players’ Fund chose me following my life changing and disabling rugby injury. They stepped in from day 1 and have remained close by for 12 years. Mobility equipment is expensive and unaffordable for most people and I am so grateful for their help with this. They are always just a phone call away and I feel that I am part of their team. It’s like a partnership. I feel honoured to be part of this amazing organisation”.



## Thank You

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

Adele Joynt	Euan Keir	Koben Hofmeyr	Peer Luel
Adine Friedman	Eugene Roux	Koos Smit	Piet Geldenhuys
Agile	EXP Agency	Laureus Sports for Good Foundation	Players' Fund Board of Trustees
Alan Dunn	Formosa La Feet	Leigh de Necker	Players4Players
Angus Taylor	Francois Pienaar	Lindi Mitchell	Porche Loftus Committee
Anneke Boshoff	Furlo Theron Benefit Trust	Lindsay de kock	QASA
Annelize Hofmeyr	Gail Baerecke	Lions Rugby Club	Raven Benny
Ari Seirlis	Gary Blackbeard	Lizette Cornelissen	Rise Coffee
Attie Winter	Gary Owen	Lydia Calitz	RugbyTots
BDO	George Visser	Marelise Badenhorst	SA National Golden Oldies Rugby Association
Bev Commerford	Gerhard Smal	Mariesa Nock	SARPA
Blood, Sweat & Polony	GivenGain	Martin Rieker	SA Rugby
BokSmart	Graeme Meintjes	Matt Hampson Foundation	SA Rugby Legends
Brendan O'Hagan	Graham Combrinck	Maura Sanderoff	Shonee Cornelissen
Brightrock	Harry Bell	Max Baise	Stephanie Miller
Bryan Hall	Heather Ridley	Michael Allin	Stir Crazy Cooking
Burger & Wallace Construction	Hennie Goosen	Michael du Toit	Stuart Proudfoot
Candice Rowe	Hollywoodbets	Michiel Basson	Sue Ochse
CE Mobility	Instant Gifts	Moet 'n Chandon	SuperSport
Chairman's Industry	Jako Calitz	Monene Murray	Terry Winship
Chrisna Basson	Jarrid Murcia	Monika Heyes	Tersia Viljoen
Citadel	Jason Voight	MTN	The Ball Family Foundation
Cyndi Starr	JD de Beer	MyPlayers	Tinkwe
Dawie van Heerden	Jenny Mitchell Designs	Natalie Saunders	Tom Fair
Declan McLaggan	JH Consultancy	Nicholas Young	YMS
Delilah Nosworthy	Jo-Ann Joffe	Niekkie Viljoen	
Dragon Web	Joel Klotnick	Nova Human Capital	
Duane Vermeulen	Jonathan Palmer	Ollie Terblanche	
ER24	Julie Fischer	Patrick Lemmers	

## Get Involved – We would love to have you as part of our #supportsquads!

There are a number of ways that you can make a difference by providing **hope** and making a significant **impact** on those whom we serve.

The Players' Fund is committed to providing support services for its recipients, and raise awareness about rugby safety where playing winning, smart rugby is paramount. If you believe in the work we do – any donation will help us continue this critical work.

### • Donate

There are many ways to donate and your donation helps support us with sustainability.

Your donation could be a once off or monthly recurring giving.

### • EFT

Account name: Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund

Bank: FNB

Account: 62880005618

Branch Code: 250655

Swift code: FIRZAJJ

### • Snapscan

### • Zapper

• **GivenGain** – worldwide fundraising platform

• **Payfast** – for safe and secure online donations

<http://payf.st/6xzmp>

Most donations will qualify for a section 18a certificate for tax rebate purposes.

<https://playersfund.org.za/get-involved/>

### • Do what you love and include us in your journey

*Sportsmen and women:*

When you take part in a competitive sporting event, be it

road cycling (cycling icon), mountain biking (MTB icon), running (running icon) or swimming (swimming icon), you'll not only have the experience of a lifetime doing what you love, but you can also support the Players' Fund by registering your event on the Players' Funds international fundraising platform called GivenGain. Here you will be provided with plenty of useful tips on how to market and gather support for your campaign from friends and family using your own social media elements.

### Adventurers:

The world has become smaller in the past two years as a result of travel restrictions. Now with country borders opening, plan an adventure such as hiking up Kilimanjaro, swimming the English Channel, walking the Camino de Santiago or cycling in Europe. There are so many exciting things to do which you can link to a fundraising campaign for the Players' Fund.

### • Corporate opportunities

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.

Through sponsorship of our events and PBO activities, we can offer logo placement, publicity opportunities, hospitality services and benefit packages to suit your corporate needs.

**EMAIL US**



### • Leave a gift in your will

If you are a former rugby player, or rugby enthusiasts, then this is an important option for you to consider. By allocating a sum of money, a percentage of your estate or an asset in your will to leave a lasting legacy to the Players' Fund. 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.

You will need to decide what type of gift you would like to leave and secondly ensure that you use the correct wording when drawing up or updating a will.

Or you may decide to update your will using a codicil. Below are the different types that you can download depending on your preference:

#### Residuary Legacy

<https://playersfund.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CODICIL-Residuary-Legacy-1.pdf>

#### Monetary Legacy

<https://playersfund.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CODICIL-Monetary-Legacy-1.pdf>

#### Asset Legacy

<https://playersfund.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CODICIL-Asset-Legacy-1.pdf>

### • Newsletter

Click on the link below should you wish to sign up for six newsletters a year.

<https://playersfund.org.za/newsletter-signup/>



## *Beyond the Pandemic / Enhancing our Impact*

With a very different landscape after two years of the pandemic, we found ourselves deeply vulnerable and having to reset plans, rewire our brains as to how we do things, reimagine the future, rethink how we operated, all whilst staying relevant and there for our seriously injured former rugby players whom we serve.

A tall order one would say, but the reality was and still is, we have to accept the changes and hit Ctrl Alt Delete in order for our essential charity to thrive again in a new world. We had to reemerge fit for purpose, be creative adaptors and problem explorers. It became apparent that taking risks was safer than doing nothing, if we were to define what our future was to be.

We have been at the drawing board for a while now, negotiating all options available to us and although not complete, a plan is in place for us to rollout and realign. So do watch the space as we evolve, look for exponential opportunities and find the hero inside of ourselves.

On a lighter note, we have so much to look forward to in 2022. Rugby at all levels of the game is back. As the official charity of the Springboks, we are proud to play host nation when they face Wales in three test matches in the Castle Lager Incoming Series in July. This will be followed by the All Blacks and Argentina in the Castle Lager Rugby Championships in August and September. The cherry on the top has to be the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022, to be hosted in Cape Town in September followed by the Springboks finishing the season with an end-of-year tour to the UK in November.

To end, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our country, especially during the toughest of times. You lifted our communities, provided us with resilience and upheld our values. I am proud to share this report with you, as a reflection of our combined efforts with all of you. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2022.



Gail Baerecke  
GM Players' Fund





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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

