**LESSONS LEARNT FROM GNTM 2016 PRIZE GIVING**

1. **Venue**

Advantages of Silver Lakes Dros

1. Venue is for free
2. Professional, helpful management that acted as events managers.
3. Can host large numbers.

Disadvantages of Silver Lakes Dros

1. The veranda venue needs two screens because it is long and narrow.
2. Veranda can only house 100 guests.
3. **Audio Visual**
4. It was privilege to partner with Hatfield Christian Church because they took full responsibility for the entire Audio Visual arrangements.
5. Hiring Audio visual equipment and a sound engineer is very expensive. Although I approached many companies for quotes, very few were prepared to quote.

1. **Guest Speaker**

In spite of having extensive help with a power presentation I had to read large part of the speech. Fortunately I had a laser to point on the screen which saved five minutes of speaking time. The notes on the presentation were not underlined or spaced. Fortunately I prepared cue cards that were highlighted. The speech was difficult for power point because 66% of the slides were tables. The people at the back could not read on the screen which made explanations difficult. I realized the problem and asked everyone to bring copies of the players ITN Calculation which I continually referred to. I forgot to buy water so my mouth became very dry while speaking.

1. **Prize-giving presentation**

JP van Loggenberg had more scope to help with the presentation of prizes. Andre Nieuwoudt provided photographs of all the players and their medals which filled most of the screen. The wording was greatly simplified because it was difficult to read on the screen. It made the talking short and sweet. JP’s animations worked well. The family stories I told were appreciated because they were supported by an artist’s pictures. The presentation lasted 25 minutes and ended 15 minutes earlier than expected.

1. **Finances**

Financing a prize giving is a challenge because the fixed expenses are high and to make attendance affordable for everyone is a limiting factor. I relied on donations and charging extra for certificates, medals, trophies, photographs, frames and postage. Although there was a lot of goodwill among service providers I tried to pay everyone a fair wage within budget. Had I not obtained Hatfield Christian Churches Audio Visual teams help I would have been financially sunk. Next time the first thing we get is an audio visual team. Then you can see what the fixed costs will be.

1. **Website**

The problem with the website is new actions have to be done by the webmaster that I can’t pay what his time is worth. The result is he can only do GNTM work when there is not better paying work. The webmaster also lives from one clients crisis to the next so often can’t finish website work because of all the interruptions. For that reason Andre could not finish the Prize-giving pages, which included a profile on each player that was promised weeks in advance. The photographer will provide electronic photos which we will post in the players profile. We will see the player and their family.

1. **Medals and Certificates**

Babara Botes redesigned the logo to improve the medals. She designed the certificates and entered the different ladder positions. She worked methodically and did not make mistakes. Her greatest achievement was the artist’s impressions of the family stories. The players loved their medals.

1. **Tennis Bursary**

The 2016 Tennis Bursary fell flat when the winner was unable to attend the prize-giving which was the initial reason the prize giving. The objective of the illustration of the ITN Rating Calculation was to show anyone who practices can win the tennis bursary. This year’s prize winner practised 100% more than their closest rival.

1. **Evangelist**

Andre Cillie lives, prays and speaks the word of God with power. He is a great encourager and partner of GNTM.

1. **Food**

Although I wanted a buffet meal the overwhelming demand was for pizzas which was a logistical challenge for the Dros which they successfully overcame. I received many compliments that the pizza’s were tasty. In future the number of guests will decide whether we will be able to have pizza’s again.

1. **Master of Ceremonies**

Everybody complimented me on my hired waistcoat, tie and top hat which rounded off the photographs of prize winners.

1. **Communication**

As usual there were many e-mails but I believe they were effective as many families heeded their messages.

1. **Goodwill and support**

GNTM has a lot of goodwill from service providers and tennis families. The greatest example of this was that many tennis families could not read the screen and no-one complained. Most service providers were willing to work for free and were paid by donations that tennis families made. Service providers who did charge asked GNTM below market rate.

1. **Administration**

In future the plan is that each players ITN Calculation and update of 7 ladders be programmed. That will mean that as soon as the result of the match is entered on the website database the player can see the results on all 7 ladders on the website within minutes. At present it is done by hand in EXCEL spreadsheets that is extremely time-consuming.

1. **Services**

GNTM was blessed by everyone who served it and will use their services again. As Trophy and Gift did far more than was expected of them and I could not pay for the new logo design they become the preferred supplier in future.

**Conclusion**

It was a blessed evening and only four people could not come out of the 102 paid guests.