



IMPACT REPORT 2019

Statistics and Financials for year ended March 2019



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“As Coach Rassie said, our responsibility was to bring hope to our country in our Rugby World Cup campaign. Hope is what the Players’ Fund gives on a daily basis, by providing better opportunities to our teammates who are badly hurt on the field. As the Springboks, we are very proud of this organisation and thank you for the time you have taken to find out more.” – Siya Kolisi

”

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.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE - JEAN DE VILLIERS



As a former Springbok captain, I am immensely proud of our national team who, for the third time successfully lifted the Webb Ellis Trophy last year. What a tournament it was and what an achievement for our team playing at the highest level. It certainly shone a bright ray of hope onto our rainbow nation at a time when it was most needed.

As you can see from our logo above, this is a significant milestone year for Rugby's Caring Hands, and on anyone's birthday calendar for that matter. Forty years is no mean feat and I know that my deputy Hanyani Shimange joins me in taking the opportunity to sincerely thank the members on our board who selflessly give of their time, professional input and expertise to help us steer this ship.

It has been just over a year since I stepped into the large shoes of our former chairman, Morné du Plessis and as I reflect over this past year, I do so with an attitude of humility, gratitude and absolute respect.

It has been a privilege for me to witness first hand and most importantly, to be in the breakers, when ideas and strategies

are debated, concern and care plans for recipients are discussed, while being aware of costs, and keeping the welfare of our 107 recipients foremost in all that we do.

One thing that has stood out for me, is the support that we receive from many loyal sponsors both new and old. We see them more as partners and valued members of our family, and appreciate their presence as they walk alongside us each step of the way, always willing to hear us out and provide extra assistance if needed. We are grateful for their commitment to us and we realise that we could not function at the level that we do, year after year without their help.

New partnerships remain a focus for us going forward and to support our sustainability efforts, we humbly appeal to corporates and individuals who are aligned with our values to come on board and join us in continuing to be impactful in the lives of the brave young rugby players whose world as they knew it, significantly changed by this game that we so love.

Yours in rugby

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean de Villiers".

Jean de Villiers

Chairman, Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund

AN OVERVIEW FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER - GAIL BAERECKE



If I had to describe 2019, the words and phrases that first come to mind are fast and furious, challenging, lots of ups and downs, and even manic at times. These all sound slightly negative but when included alongside all the positive experiences (such as the exciting and great opportunities, new friends and partners, new business, heightened awareness of our cause, renewed energy, youthful leadership and additional networks), you can see how they are completely cancelled out. I felt it was a significant year of change, of how we do business, of nurturing important relationships, of witnessing the incredible strength of the human spirit as exhibited time and time again by our recipients, while keeping abreast of political, economic and global happenings. To top it all, we won the Rugby World Cup and claimed our rightful position as a sporting nation to be reckoned with. What a magnificent year it was!

Last year was also a year of preparing us to acknowledge that 2020 is a very significant milestone year - the 40th year since the Players' Fund was formed after the tragic death of Chris Burger in August of 1980. For a non-profit organisation to keep running efficiently and successfully for four decades takes a gigantic team effort from each of the key roleplayers involved with the Players' Fund and I would like to take the time to recognise and acknowledge each of these valuable cogs in this well-oiled machine.

I would like to start with our dynamic Board of Trustees, both past and present, who have served selflessly, sharing their areas of business expertise, giving generously of their time with no financial remuneration. Many are former Springboks who play an important role as leaders and influencers and who give back to the magnificent game of rugby long after their final test whistle has blown. I would like to champion the past staff members - Lynne Allan, Razaan Jakoet,

Alex Band, Alison Williams, Eleanor Williams, Nick Sheard, Kirsten Burgess, Laura Edge, Eleanor Kloppers and Kim McBain - all who have been absolute stalwarts in steering the Fund forward, being a compassionate and listening ear to the recipients in their times of need. Our current "home base" team of Tori Gardner (Marketing Manager) and Aashia Hendricks (General & Financial Administrator) are no exceptions and my sincere thanks goes to them for their support and incredibly hard work, commitment and energy. We have had the privilege of working closely with Jeanette Clark, a business consultant, for the past two years. What she has brought to the table has also been immense. She is one super-organised lady who is plan-driven with positive outputs as her end goal. We love working with her and she is, without a doubt, having a positive impact on us and how we work. We are grateful for her guidance and insight.

We are proud to have an extensive list of names and companies on our thank you page further on in this report. This demonstrates the depth of the support that we so generously receive from rugby administrators, sponsors, corporate South Africa, individuals, recipients and their families, international organisations and various loyal service providers. All are part of our #SupportSquad and without them we would not be able to fulfil our duties as Rugby's Caring Hands.

Thank you for being part of our team!

Yours in rugby,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Baerecke'.

Gail Baerecke

General Manager, Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund

RECIPIENT STORY:

IB Foster registers for his PhD

After completing his master's degree in Environmental Management at the University of Pretoria in 2018, IB embarked on a PhD in an agriculture-oriented field. He is currently waiting for approval of his study proposal and will then get to work on his research and data collection which he sees taking a further three years.

He lives in Tuksdorp which is a "community style living environment" for students within the university campus in Pretoria which he loves, as everything is really close for him. He is able to navigate his way around the entire campus in his powered wheelchair, as the university has worked hard on ensuring inclusivity of students living with disabilities.

IB (31) has two carers who live with him, namely Fish and Katlego. They alternate their weeks to care for him and see to all his domestic and health needs. This enables him to live independently and to further his studies.

IB is from Ottosdal in the North West Province and was in his grade 12 year at Lichtenburg High School when he sustained his injury in 2006.

The Players' Fund family might have a Doctor of Philosophy in the not too distant future.



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

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.

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.

RECIPIENT STORY:

A proud day for Aubrey Saal

Becoming gainfully employed for those who are differently-abled is notoriously difficult in South Africa and is very dependent on companies and organisations that are innovative and care enough to think out of the box. These companies create work opportunities by identifying the need and then partnering with a training service provider, such as DYNA Training in this case. This is what Engen did by offering learnership bursaries to a number of young adults in and around Cape Town who were keen to study and upskill themselves.

DYNA (Develop Your Natural Ability), a training organisation accredited with the Services SETA, gently took under their wings the intense training of 20 young differently-abled adults from previously disadvantaged communities and in October 2018 these individuals were enrolled into the NQF Level 4 Management Leadership course.

It was an extremely proud moment for Players' Fund recipient Aubrey Saal when he received his certificate at a graduation ceremony held at the Engen Head Office in Cape Town on Thursday, 10 October 2019. Gail Baerecke, Players' Fund General Manager, was there to witness his pride and acknowledge his hard work and commitment to his year's studies. He will go on to study further and has enrolled for NQF Level 5 Management Leadership which he started at the beginning of 2020.

Aubrey (32) originally comes from Springbok in the Northern Cape, where he sustained a disabling spinal cord injury in 2010 whilst playing rugby for his local club. He moved to Cape Town a number of years ago to follow his dream of studying further and being closer to work opportunities. Aubrey is a shining example of what can be done if you, firstly, believe in yourself and, secondly, when those around you see your potential and believe in your ability too. Well done Aubrey!



WE ASKED OUR TRUSTEES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FUND



CLINT READHEAD

For as long as I can remember I have always loved rugby and with that had a connection to the safety aspect of the game. When I was at high school, I always took the responsibility of doing the team warm-up before the match; and even back then I knew it was important to make sure you also did a proper warm-up of your neck. I had my first taste of the Players' Fund in 1995 and since then have been closely associated through all my professional roles. I currently sit on the board as an SA Rugby representative and am immensely proud of the support we are able to provide to players around the country whose lives are changed through injury.



JEAN DE VILLIERS

As a player, when you see life-changing spinal injuries occur in rugby, you very quickly come to the realisation that rugby can be taken away from you at any point. This luckily does not happen that often, but the need is still there for every single player that goes through that to get the best help they can to transition into their new life.

The Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund as an organisation provides those caring hands of rugby that gives assistance to these players. Being a trustee and, giving back to the game that gave me so much, is a fantastic way to contribute to the sport in a positive way.



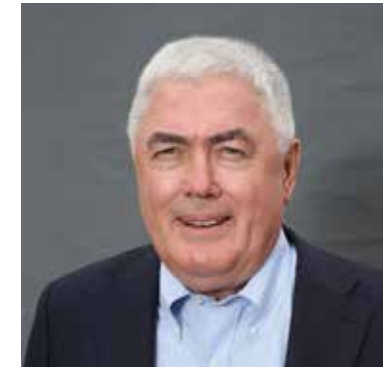
HANYANI SHIMANGE

When I was playing, I saw all the hard work and effort that was put into looking after players that had suffered catastrophic injuries. Being closer to the Players' Fund has given me the opportunity to give back to the game that has given me so much. I can't stress the importance of the Players' Fund in South African rugby enough. It offers injured players the opportunity to develop a purpose, to inspire and to provide hope.



MORNÉ DU PLESSIS

The Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund had given me the privilege of being able to give back in a small way all that I have enjoyed as a rugby player. It has also been a continuous inspiration to witness the will of the human spirit to tackle disadvantage and adversity.



FRIKKIE NAUDÉ

Chris Burger's death had a huge impact on us fellow players. When Morné announced in 1980 that we will start a Fund to care for future spinal injured players, I immediately agreed. Spinal injuries bring a lot of sadness – first the realisation that you will never be able to play rugby again and then the news that you will be in a wheelchair for the rest of your life. The brave smile of a spinal injured player on a first visit to him in hospital when he was stable and sitting in the wheelchair will, however, stay with me for the rest of my life. In times like this I was happy that I joined the Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund to care, to contribute and experience this.

WE ASKED OUR TRUSTEES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FUND continued



FC SMIT

Being involved with the Fund and working alongside friends from the rugby world keeps me connected to the sport that I spent so many years playing. It is a privilege to be able to give back in a small way.



TIAAN STRAUSS

It is important for me to be able to put back into the sport that has created many opportunities in my life. In South Africa, we know that there are many people who are not able to meet their basic needs, then they face even more challenges with their injuries, which is why the Players' Fund is so important. The Players' Fund sets an example that we hope many will follow - if we can support one another in any way possible, our nation will be stronger.



JOHN SMIT

Being a part of the Players' Fund is one way of giving back to the game that gave me so much. Being a part of the process alongside players that have been injured by the game, has given me a chance to see how their attitudes never, ever waiver from celebrating the amazing part that rugby plays in their lives. We perform a small role on that pathway which optimizes all that is good in the game. Through the Fund, I also have the ability to make someone's journey through great challenges, just a little easier, while also nurturing their love for this game that has been able to give us so much.



WAYNE FYVIE

The Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund is close to my heart for two reasons; the first is that rugby has given me so much and I really feel that it is my duty to give back. The work of the Fund aligns to my purpose in life, which is the second reason I joined the Fund, and that is to add value to people's lives in order to produce sustainable results.



ANTON ENGELBRECHT

I am honoured to be part of rugby's caring family and share my journey and experience since my injury in 1988. I strive to play an ambassador's role as a trustee to ensure the sustainability of the Players' Fund. I find personal gratification to impart my knowledge and energy to all that are affected by the impact from a game we love so much.

WE ASKED OUR TRUSTEES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FUND continued



JOEL KRIGE

Ten years ago, Judge Pat Tebbutt tapped me on the shoulder at a lecture and said he was getting on in years (he was in his 80s at that stage) and wanted to pass the baton on. He asked me if I would serve as the honorary Legal Trustee of the Fund and I gratefully accepted the honour. I was raised in a family that has a deep rooted history in the game of rugby and this was an opportunity to nurture the game for others. It is a privilege to be able to give back to the sport I have loved since first running out "kaalvoet" for the under-10 team.



KHAYA MAYEDWA

It is such a gratifying experience to be involved in this noble cause. It is exciting to make a significant contribution in the lives of players whose lives were changed whilst playing the game.



NEIL STRYBIS

Being able to offer such necessary support to our recipients following their injuries is both gratifying and fulfilling. Understanding the circumstances and scenarios in which they live is humbling and I'm glad the Fund is able to make a difference.



JOWA ABRAHAMS

As a former player myself I have seen how easily one can get injured in the game. I have suffered many injuries during and as a result of playing for so long, but thankfully none of them serious. Over the years I have seen many of my compatriots suffer very serious injuries and it is important to be able to give them the support they need. The Players' Fund is an outstanding organisation which is essential for supporting the less fortunate among us.



PHATHO ZONDI

As someone who has been involved in various facets of the game of rugby (supporter, team doctor, various advisory committees), the Players' Fund appealed to me because it represents an often overlooked but crucial aspect of the game - when things don't work out as planned. The Fund steps in at what could be the worst moment in an athlete's life, and has a mission to create an environment of trust, care and hope such that athletes emerge from these experiences with a sense of purpose and belonging. It is always an inspiration to witness individuals thrive despite various challenges. There is true meaning in being part of such a journey.

IN MEMORIAM – Those involved in the Fund that passed away in 2019



CHESTER WILLIAMS
TRUSTEE
08.08.1970 – 06.09.2019



SHAWN RAMOS
RECIPIENT
23.01.1986 – 14.03.2019



IAN HORROCKS
RECIPIENT
06.02.1978 – 05.08.2019



GARY BELL
RECIPIENT
25.04.1967 – 10.10.2019



MBONELI MAJIBA
RECIPIENT
05.01.1975 – 05.02.2019

WHAT WE DO

We are alerted of serious and life-altering injuries* through the BokSmart reporting progress. 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 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 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 ON EQUIPMENT

Once returning home from hospital after the acute medical phase of recovery, we partner recipients to ensure they have all they need to lead lives as independently as possible. In the case of Martin Brink, we have provided pressure-care cushions and a bed long enough for his tall frame and a mattress which is able to relieve pressure and aid comfort.



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. In August 2019, Ollie Terblanche from George had his bathroom adapted to allow him to move freely in the new home that he and his wife had recently moved in to.



MEDICAL CONSUMABLE ALLOCATIONS

Through a partnership with YMS Medical Supplies in Cape Town we are able to assist all recipients, on a national basis, with medical consumables throughout the year. Regular orders on these lists are linen savers, urinary catheters, vitamins and dressings.



SECONDARY REHABILITATION

The importance of exercise for the physical and mental wellbeing of our recipients has become increasingly evident. By partnering with health professionals and contributing to the costs thereof, we are able to encourage recipients to participate in regular activity.

In the case of Koben Hofmeyr, in the second year since his injury he committed to an intense two-week training programme at the Walking with Brandon Rehabilitation and Beyond Centre in Cape Town. The results of this focused approach have seen him able to tackle challenges he would have previously thought impossible, like tractor-tyre flips from standing and spending 24 hours without touching his wheelchair.

WHAT WE DO



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Where possible and appropriate, the Assistance Committee of the Fund approves the payment of a monthly subsistence allowance to desperate recipients. This help extends to cover the rent of assisted-living facilities for recipients, such as in the case of Sicelo Ngubo. In 2019, once it was established that returning home was not viable, he was flown from Cape Town to the Cleary Park Cheshire Home in PE, which was closer to his family. The team of supporters helping with this transfer included staff from the Western Cape Rehab Centre, Hilary Bolton from the Cheshire Home and Tori Gardner from the Fund.



PARTNERING EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT JOURNEYS

Our focus is the holistic health and well-being of our recipients and to remain alongside them throughout their individual journeys. Jacques Hector was injured while playing for Cederberg Academy on the 26th of August, 2017, during his Grade 10 year. He returned to school shortly after his injury the following year at the Jan Kriel school in Kraaifontein. During his time there the Players' Fund paid for a facilitator which enabled Jacques to keep up with the demands of his new life, which proved fruitful when Jacques passed his matric at the end of 2019.



TRANSPORT FACILITATION

Wherever possible, we endeavour to assist our recipients in being able to travel where they need to go for medical attention, studies, health check-ups and hospital appointments. This is not always an easy task, however in the case of Jacques Hector, a local driver was contracted to ensure that he was taken from Citrusdal on a Sunday to Diep River for the school week and returned home at the end of the week.



PERSONAL CARE

Apart from the other pillars of support outlined, one of our main objectives is to ensure that the recipients enjoy a quality of life and feel a part of a community. This is done through a wide range of services and offerings with one being the extensive efforts taken by the team to ensure that those who were injured playing rugby can still enjoy being spectators at live rugby events – especially when the Springboks are playing.

In August Kim McBain accompanied Mawethu Mtutu and his wife Ntombekhaya from a small town outside East London to enjoy a rugby-filled weekend in Pretoria for the final test match of the Rugby Championships. Not only did the first-time fliers get to see the Springboks beat Argentina but enjoyed sharing a hotel with the team which was hugely exciting, leaving memories that will never be forgotten.

PROJECT HERO

Project Hero, sponsored by Canon SA, is a visual documentary of five rugby players in South Africa whose lives were changed by serious injuries on the field whilst playing at different levels of the game. Their stories of determination, hope, dignity and strength of the human spirit, illustrate heroic qualities which aim to inspire and showcase the impact that the Players' Fund has on their lives. In order to continue playing the role of Rugby's Caring Hands, we used this media campaign to appeal to the rugby-loving public to see the faces, hear the stories and choose our worthy cause for charitable giving. Stories and images were shared throughout 2019 which inspired some WOW moments, namely:

- the nomination of one of the recipients as a Spar Hero of the Week,
- another being nominated as one of the Daily Dispatch's Local Heroes, and
- a story focusing on one of the heroes which aired on KykNet's Kwela show.

On conclusion of the campaign, Project Hero recorded an "Advertising Value Estimate" of **R 1 292 811,24**.



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

13 561 COACHES AND REFEREES
TRAINED AND **BOKSMART**
CERTIFIED BETWEEN APRIL 2018 AND MARCH 2019



13 824 ATTENDEES
OVERALL AT THE
BOKSMART CYCLE 5
COURSES OVER THIS TIME PERIOD.



6 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS
and reports published in
local and international
medical journals.

INJURY STATISTICS

(BETWEEN APRIL 2018 AND MARCH 2019):

6 ACUTE SPINAL CORD INJURIES
(2 quadriplegics, 3 with neurodeficit remaining, 1 near miss)

5 CATASTROPHIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES
(3 fatal, 1 with residual effects, 1 near miss)



2 CARDIAC EVENTS
2 FATAL

INJURY REPORT

During the course of the 2019 rugby season, six players (five males & one female) sustained neck injuries which resulted initially in some damage to the spinal cord. As a result of good and timely management of these injuries on the field and in hospital, followed by restorative surgery and rehabilitation, we are thrilled to say that all are expected to make a full recovery. In this group of “near misses”, two of the six were playing at school level.

Early in the season club player Athembele Sali (21), from the Border region in the Eastern Cape, took a big knock to his head and tragically died as a result of a traumatic brain injury.

Sadly, we received two new members to the Players’ Fund following significant neck injuries with damage to their spinal cords. Both are quadriplegics and use powered wheelchairs. Sicelo Ngubo (32) was a migrant worker from the Eastern Cape but working and living in Op-Die-Berg, when he was injured during an Easter Tournament. After many months in hospital and rehabilitation, he was transferred in December to Port Elizabeth where he is being cared for at the Cleary Park Cheshire Home. He is fitting in well to his new environment.

In May, Dano Swart (18) was taking part in the Eastern Province Craven Week trials when he was seriously injured. He also spent an extended period in hospital and rehab as a result of complications. He is now settling in well at home with his family in Uitenhage and he returned to school at Brandwag HS in January 2020 so that he can finish his Grade 12.

We are hopeful that with the successful rollout of BokSmart 6 in late 2019, injury prevention protocols and the growing awareness of playing smart and safe rugby, serious injuries will continue on a downward trajectory.



OUR RUGBY ADVOCACY ROLE

Rapid Reduction Network

As joint custodians with SA Rugby of the National Rugby Safety Programme, BokSmart, we are keenly aware of the consequences of the 2015 Constitutional Court Judgement and subsequent legal precedence supporting the benchmark that four hours is the cut-off time for reduction of low-velocity cervical dislocation. Thereafter, the door potentially can be opened to serious medico-legal claims against a hospital, ER doctors and the applicable spinal consultant specialists.

Although not a common injury in rugby, when this injury does occur, time is everything. Successful reduction, within this period, can substantially increase the players' chances of a less severe disability or can even assist in ensuring a full recovery.

In the past year, from an advocacy perspective as well as wanting the best possible outcome for each injured player, the Players' Fund has met with colleagues, medical professionals and medical institutions both in the state and private sectors. The purpose being to identify certain hospitals to include in a preferred referral network, initially within the Western Cape for low-velocity cervical dislocations.

Ideally, each identified hospital on this network would be seen as a "Centre of Excellence", and would be appropriately equipped and staffed by medical personnel, specifically trained to handle these injuries.

Although not yet formalised, this proposal has become known as 'The Rapid Reduction Network' and successful implementation would require it to be rolled out nationally.



RECIPIENT STORY:

Alwyn Nel studies for his Master's degree in Law

In 2018 Alwyn graduated from the University of Bloemfontein (his home town) with a Law degree. As a person living with a disability, it took him a little longer than it normally would, seven years instead of five, but nevertheless equipped with huge doses of determination and full-on family support, he soldiered on and never gave up. This year, he registered for a Master's degree in Law which he is studying online through Bond University in Australia. This has been generously sponsored by a South African business and a friend of Alwyn's.

Bond University is Australia's first private not-for-profit university and is located in Robina, Gold Coast, Queensland. Since its opening in 1989, Bond University has primarily been a teaching-focused higher education institution featuring a three-semester-per-year timetable. His degree will be internationally and locally recognized and he feels will open more doors to his future which is firmly rooted in law.

Alwyn (30) was injured as a young 17-year-old school boy playing for Louis Botha Technical College in 2006. His "can do" attitude has stood him in good stead as he navigated his new life in a wheelchair.



2019 IN NUMBERS



CORE BUSINESS IMPACT FIGURES



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

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

Fundraising throughout 2019 included many firsts and we have been elated by the number of new partners that have chosen to support our cause.

We believe this is somewhat related to the heightened excitement surrounding rugby, brought on by the Rugby World Cup and South Africa's subsequent victory.

Some of the highlights of the fundraising and events calendar from the past year follow:

Riders 4 Rugby's Caring Hands – Volunteers take to the road

In January our general manager Gail joined a group of avid cyclists on a five-day tour of the Garden Route. In order to add her own motivation for this trek from J-Bay to Gordon's Bay, Gail decided to link her trip to a fundraising initiative. By activating a Givengain page, she called on her friends and family to pledge donations in support of her ride for the recipients of the Fund whom she has gotten to know and care for over the last 14 years. Gail managed to raise R8000 with this idea and was officially the first volunteer to successfully raise money in the Ride 4 Rugby's Caring Hands jersey.

The next champion to choose to support Rugby's Caring Hands was Friend of the Fund - Richard Feher, whose plan was to cycle the 94.7 Road Cycle race in Gauteng.

This was however not to be this year when Richard suffered a stroke and was unable to ride. This did not however stop him calling for donations in support of the Fund. We are pleased to confirm that Richard is healing well and it won't be long until he is back on his bike.

DHL Stormers Fundraising Dinner – R80K raised

The DHL Stormers fundraising dinner hosted at Kelvin Grove each year is a highlight on our calendar. At the 2019 edition of the event R80K was raised for our recipients.

MTN Springbok send-off event – #StrongerTogether - R147K raised

Two days before the Springboks departed for the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan, MTN hosted the formal farewell dinner for the Springboks at Montecasio. We were honoured to have been recognised as the official charity of the event with R147K being raised on the evening.

Women's Day Breakfasts – Sponsored by BrightRock - R56K raised

Following on from the successes of the past two Women's Day Breakfasts, two more events were held in 2019. Both events, in Cape Town and Johannesburg, were sponsored by our friends at BrightRock and a total of R56K was raised. These events are incredibly popular and provide the opportunity for the woman in rugby to truly shine.



FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

Rise Coffee with Purpose - R2 from every bag donated to the Players' Fund

Ollie Terblanche is a recipient of the Fund who was injured in 2015 while participating in the South Western Districts trials. In 2019 he and his wife Chanel launched Rise – Coffee with Purpose out of George in the Western Cape. A distinct and inspiring coffee brand which has been shaped around Ollie's incredible story overcoming his injury. Generously Ollie has committed to donating R2 from every bag of coffee sold to the Players' Fund. By the end of 2019, R3480 had already been collected with retailers throughout South Africa and Namibia stocking the brand of coffee, with purpose.

Audi East Rand Golf Day – R150K raised

The annual fundraising golf day by Audi East Rand hosted a full field of golfing and sporting enthusiasts who proved to be equally as generous with a total of R150K being raised on the day for the recipients of the Fund. This was the first time that the Players' Fund was the beneficiary of this event and we hope to build on this relationship going forward.

Ultimate Rugby Experience - Evening on the Couch - R7785 raised

The Ultimate Rugby Experience Museum at Nooitgedacht Village in Stellenbosch played host to Conversations on the Couch with Cato Louw, Jean de Villiers and Kyle Brown. The Players' Fund display box was also unveiled as a feature in the museum which pays tribute to the 39-year history of the Fund. R7785 was raised on the night thanks to the support from all involved, particularly the owner of the establishment – Theo Guestyn.

SANGORA - R50K raised

The South African National Golden Oldies Association hosts an annual Festival of Rugby. In 2019 this popular tournament brought 35 teams together from all over the country for three days of "aged" rugby. It was hosted at the Goodwood Rugby Club with the minimum age for players being 35. We have been privileged to have been selected as the charity of choice for two years. With a combined fundraising total of R50K which included a R25k donation from the tournament's sponsors - Fidelity ADT Security.



OUR LOYAL #SUPPORTSQUAD

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

– African Proverb

Rugby is a team game, commitment to the teammates whose lives were changed on the field after their injury relies equally as heavily on a team approach. This year we proudly highlight the following organisations who partner the Fund on our mission:

SA Rugby

As custodians of South African rugby we are grateful to be able to rely on the constant support of our national rugby union, who understands the duty of care bestowed on them. SA Rugby not only support us with an annual grant, but through the BokSmart programme they support the drive towards #VisionZero – an optimistic target of zero serious injuries within a season.

Tsogo Sun

For another year, we have been privileged to have Tsogo Sun Hotels providing recipients, staff and trustees with a home away from home when the duty of care calls. In August we were informed that our long-standing account manager Michelle Rixon would be resigning from Tsogo Sun as of the end of the year. Michelle and her husband will be opening a guest house in Jeffrey's Bay. We are sad to see Michelle go, but wish her all the very best on the very exciting next chapter for her and her family. We look forward to working with Ofentse Rapoo and her team going forward.

ER24 / Mediclinic

With the initiation of the Rapid Reduction Network, ER24 and Mediclinic have been instrumental in hearing the calls for action and actively participating in the initiative. Their corporate structures and resources were incredibly valuable when creating video content and communications to promote the concept.

CE Mobility

The national network of wheelchair and mobility equipment provision and maintenance has been paramount in enabling the efficient service that we are able to extend to our recipients. The generous discounts and national network of suppliers and genuine caring staff, makes the CE Mobility team a vital part of Rugby's Caring Hands.

QASA – Farewell to Ari and welcome to Raven

The QuadPara Association of SA strives to prevent spinal cord injury, as well as to protect and promote the interests of people with mobility impairments by formulating a national policy and strategy, to develop and ensure the full potential and quality of their lives. For over two decades close friend of the Fund Ari Seirlis was the CEO of QASA. In 2019, sadly due to medical reasons, Ari decided to take a step back, giving space for another close friend, Raven Bennie, to take over. We were sad to see Ari leave, but equally grateful that such a fine replacement was found in Raven.



OUR LOYAL #SUPPORTSQUAD continued

Chairman's Industry

Wheelchairs are like prized automotive vehicles which are even more valued by their users than one could imagine. The service and generous discounts extended by Chairman's Industry to us ensure that our recipients who utilise their services always leave as happy customers.

Ysterplaat Medical Services

With our national footprint, it is essential that all services offered are streamlined and efficient on a national basis. Each year all recipients are issued with an allocation which they are able to use, at YMS. Medical supplies and health care necessities are ordered and delivered in fantastic time to all of our recipients.

Jenny M Design

Essential graphic design needs are met by long-standing pro-bono designer Jenny Mitchell who has been helping us for many years. The clean and professional services have been used for the development of this Impact Report too.

BDO

Remaining transparent, accountable and stable requires the guidance and regular auditing of our finances. This service is generously sponsored and performed by BDO which sets the Fund apart from many other local charity organisations.

DHL South Africa

Communication from and to our 107 recipients is essential to ensure that no one is ever left to feel alone. Many of our recipients are not in postal areas and the regular services often don't suffice. Through annual

courier services provided by DHL South Africa, we have been able to continue this personal touch for our recipients and greatly contribute to a better quality of life through the items and annual gifts that we have been able to distribute through the DHL network.

MyPlayers Benevolent Fund

MyPlayers is the players' organisation for all the professional rugby players in South Africa. It is 100%-owned by the players who elect their own representatives, who throughout the year acknowledge a selection of charities to which the players collectively donate. We are so grateful and honoured to have been selected again in 2019 with the donation being handed over at the annual BrightRock Players' Choice Awards in Hyde Park.

Barney's Army

John Smit as a trustee of the Players' Fund and internationally recognised rugby personality has been instrumental in linking donors to the Players' Fund. In 2019 R100k was donated via Barney's Army, John's official charity.

Rugbytots South Africa

Rugbytots is the world's favourite play rugby programme, with specially structured classes allowing children between the ages of two and seven the opportunity to learn the principles of rugby in a safe and playful manner. The South African arm of this organisation has selected the Fund as their charity of choice. With the aim to encourage rugby players, from a young age, to care for those whose stories are different from their own, or whose lives were changed on the field doing something they love.



OUR LOYAL #SUPPORTSQUAD continued

Furlo Theron Benefit Fund

For the second year in a row, recipient of the Players' Fund, Furlo Theron from Abbotsdale, near Malmesbury in the Western Cape donated towards the Fund to which he has been affiliated with since his injury in 2016.

Matt Hampson visit

In January 2019 we were honoured to host the English rugby legend, Matt Hampson. He took on the rather daunting task of flying himself, his 100kg wheelchair and a number of his carers across the seas for a holiday in South Africa. He was faced with numerous accessibility challenges during his time here, however the memories of game drives, wine farms and typical SA hospitality outshone all the challenges. At a wonderful event hosted by Yonderhill Wine in Stellenbosch, Matt was invited to become an official friend of the Fund and very kindly donated £5000 to the Players' Fund by the Matt Hampson Foundation.

Porsche Loftus Day

This special group of people who love fast cars, rugby and philanthropy come together once a year to share in their passions of admiring Porsche cars from all over the region in the shadow of the iconic Loftus Versfeld Stadium. This year, Jzaun Dreyer, Koben Hofmeyr and Dyllan Benneckhe were invited to accept a cheque for R20k on behalf of the Fund from funds raised through the event.

Charles Glass Society

One will have to search hard to find a group of people who are more passionate about all sports than

the loyal members of the Charles Glass Society. They meet once a month in the grounds of the South African Breweries in Newlands and enjoy hearing the stories of local and international sporting and adventurous legends. We were grateful to have been nominated as a 2019 charity of choice with a donation of R25k being made in November.

Skål International Cape Town

Skål is a professional organisation of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship. The 2019 president of the Cape Town region, Michelle Andrew, selected us as the charity of choice, which linked us up with numerous individuals and organisations involved in the tourism industry who have all been incredibly generous with donating auction and raffle items throughout the year. This partnership helped us raise in the region of R50k in 2019.

African Bank

Thanks to a generous donation from the team at African Bank, Amos Mzimeli had a much-needed new powered wheelchair. This was shortly before Amos travelled to Japan and Thailand with his wife as a member of the JICA (Japanese International Collaboration Agency) contingent for training in social development and on strategies to improve inclusivity for people living with disabilities. We were proud to partner with African Bank in order to keep this community champion on the road so that he can continue to improve the lives of those living with disabilities in his area.



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	Carl Fourie	Felicity Whitely	Ina Paarman
Adrian Poulsen	Carmien Tea	Fidelity ADT Security	International Player Management
African Bank	Cato Louw	Flowers n' Foliage	Irene Meintjies
Allan Dunn	Chairman's Industries	Fox & Wolf	Jacob & Carla Schoeman
Altmann Allers	Charles Glass Society	FR Waring	Jana van der Merwe
Amanda Visser	Charles Oppelt	Friskie Naude	James Maclean
Amos Mzimeli	Citadel	Furlo Theron Benefit Fund	Jan Butcher
Andre Gouws	Claudel MacDonald	Gaby Conn	Janet Christy
Andre van Heerden	Clint Readhead	Gaby Nyakane	Jason Suter
Andy Colquhoun	Cobus Smit	Gail Steele	Jean de Villiers
Anne Lee Murray	Corder Tilney	Gallo Images	Jenny M Design
Aneta Shaw	Craig Barry	Gary Geyer	Jeremy Harris
Anton Engelbrecht	Dan Kriel	Gary Rom Hair Salons	JHC Consultancy
Ari Seirlis	Dave Hansen	Gary Rutstein	JJ Engelbrecht
Audi Centre East Rand	Deetlefs Wine Estate	George & Dale Rautenbach	Joel Krige
Barney Girnun - MSC Sports	Delaire Graff	George Visser	Joel Stransky
Barney's Army	Deli Spice	Gerhard van der Wath/DEP Belanger Trust	Johan De Beer
BDO	DHL Couriers	Gilbert South Africa	Johan van Wyk
Beverly Cearley	Diamond Works	Gilbert South Africa	John Smit
Beverly Commerford	Dr Nick Kruger	Glynis & Eric Newton	Jonathan Adams
Bio Oil South Africa	DSV Couriers	Golden Oldies Rugby Festival	Josh Enslin
Blue Bulls Rugby Union	Eammonn Delahunt	Hannes Truter	Jowa Abrahams
BokSmart	Edge for Men	Hanyani Shimange	Jurie Roux
Boschendal Estate	Elize Vermuelen	Hearts in Union	Justin Ford
Brian Spoittiswoode	Elma Smit	Heather Ridley	Kayleigh Karsten
BrightRock	ENCA	Henry Afrikaner	Kelvin Grove
Canon South Africa	Engelke Blomme	Hilary Bolton	Khaya Mayedwa
Cape Ability Tours	Ernst Scriba	Howard & Debra Cleland	Kirsten Smith
Cape Recife School	F C Smit	Howie Kahn	Koben Hofmeyr

THANK YOU

Kyle Brown
Kyle Brown
La Cuccina
Laureus SA
Leach Printers
Lee-Anne and Kayla Diab
Leslie Summers
Linda Jackson
Lindsay Brown
Lize Kruger + Karen Avenant
Lynn Ascham
Marelise Badenhorst
Mark Charlesworth
Matie FM 926
Matt & India Stevens
Matt Hampson Foundation
Matt Pearce
Max Baise
Mediclinic
Meloncino
Merle Matthews
Michael Smith
Michael Weaver
Michelle Rixon
Mike England
Mike Sterban
Mingon van Rooyen
Moditlo Private Game Reserve
Mojo Me
Morné du Plessis
MTN

MyPlayers
Neil Strybis
Nick Archibald
Nurture Health - Aurora Hospital
Ollie Terblanche - Rise Coffee Co
Olyfberg
Pecan Wood Golf Course
Peter Kluge
Peter Kluge
Phatho Zondi
Pierre van der Westhuizen
Pieter de Wet
Pieter-Steph du Toit
Players4Players
Players Choice Awards
Prestige Cosmetics
Purple Rayne Boutique Guest Lodge
Quenton Steele
RAM Couriers
Ramone Samuels
Ratcliffe Family
Rayaan Abrahams
RFU Injured Players' Foundation
Richard Feher
Rob Barnett-Harris
Rob van Vuuren
Robyn Peddie
Ronald Knott Craig
Rondebosch United Play School
Rosanna Richardson
Rugbytots SA

Rugbytots UK
Rusty Gullett
SA Golden Oldies Association
SA Metal
SA Rugby Legends Association
Sally Estcourt
Sally Williams Nougat
Sam Peddie
Siebert Kruger
Sikhumbuzo Notshe
Simon Bourchard - RugbyRocks.com
Siya Kolisi
Skål International Cape Town – Michelle
Andrew
Smit Marine
Sports Science Institute of SA
Springvale Primary School
Spur Corporation
Steed Richardson
Stellenbrau
Stellenbrau
Sumarie Redelinghuys
Suzanne Stevens
Tank Lanning
The Australian Rugby Union
The Commodore Hotel
The Commodore Hotel – Mr Newton
The Leisure Group
The Maiden Bridesmaids Dresses
The New Zealand Rugby Foundation
The Vineyard Hotel

Theo Geustyn
Three Cube Management
Tiaan Strauss
Tom Fair
Tsogo Sun
Tubby & Andrea Melidonis
Twiggy Earrings
Ultimate Rugby Experience Museum
Vernon Rudman
Virgin Active
Wahl Bartmann
Warren Whitely
Wayne Downing
Wayne Fyvie
Western Province Rugby Union
Wilderness Safaris
– Shayne Richardson-Bayly
Willy's Bee's Confectionery
Wind H Olivier
Wings4Life World Run – Red Bull
Yonderhill Wines
Ysterplaat Medical Services
Zeena Isaacs van Tonder
Zin Tashe
Zorgvliet Wine Estate
Zwartkop Golf Course

JOIN OUR #SUPPORTSQUAD

The Players' Fund is a 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 #SupportSquad in any of the following ways:

- **DONATE**
We have numerous ways to donate to our charity which include; EFT, SnapScan, Givengain and PayFast. Please visit our website www.playersfund.org.za or contact our office on contact@playersfund.org.za so that 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 18A 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.
- **END OF TAX YEAR**
As a public benefit organization, the Fund is able to issue a Section 18A certificate to donors for tax rebate purposes. Please inquire with our office should this be of interest, personally or from a company perspective.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

2019 was the year of stories, capturing and writing down the narrative of five of our recipients through Project Hero which Canon South Africa partnered us on. This project gave us the opportunity to share the inspiring journeys we at the Players' Fund encounter daily. This story-telling was incorporated into everything we did, which got people talking and asking questions.

The images and videos that were created through Project Hero encouraged conversation and shone a positive light where people don't always get the chance to look - on the daily life of a person living with a disability in SA. I'll never forget feeling a real sense of gratitude and honour when Amos Mzimeli invited myself and the photographic team into his home in the Soto village. We were deep in the rural heartlands of the Eastern Cape, surrounded by cattle, goats and pigs and yet felt completely comfortably alongside Amos and his welcoming family. I was also proud of the man who we had got to know and learn from during the day. Despite living with a disability, in a scenario which many might not consider to be optimal, it was evident that he is a family man, the head of the house and a strong force within the community - respected and adored. I will never forget that experience.

This project instilled a story-telling ethos into the Fund's communication strategy which we will continue to embrace in the future. We get to see the individuals' whose lives are changed. We get to know their families, become their family, and have front row seats to what bravery and strength is needed to 'pick one's self up' when the future you thought you had in front of you drastically changes.

Looking ahead to 2020, the year in which we will be commemorating 40 years of service to rugby, we are cognizant of the fact that Rugby's Caring Hands has functioned and remained stable and dependable while so much in the world around us has changed. This longevity has only been possible with thanks to the rugby community at large. We could not survive without the support from everyone who joins our team and we hope that by reading back over the past year, that the impact we have been able to make inspires you to keep supporting us.

Here's to a great year of recognising what is behind us and working hard so that what lies ahead of us is positive, impactful and able to make a difference in the lives of our 107 recipients.

Tori Gardner

Marketing Manager Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund





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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

