

SAPF Honorary Members

"... being held in high esteem by the membership of this organization, and in recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service to Powerlifting"

Sarel de Bruin

Oom Sarel, as he is affectionately known, was the face of South African Powerlifting in the early days and highly respected by all. Sarel was totally dedicated to the sport, to the extent that he has a powerlifting gym at his house in Pretoria where many early powerlifting competitions took place. Sarel started out as a weightlifter in 1954 ultimately being instrumental and a founder of Powerlifting in South Africa in 1976. He went on to become President of the South African Amateur Powerlifting Union (SAAPU) in 1980 and retired in 1990. When SA Powerlifting was accepted back into the IPF around 1993 Sarel headed up the federation jointly with Alan Ferguson. He dedicated himself fully to the SAPF, being involved with three World Championships hosted in South Africa. He was awarded Honorary Membership of the SAPF when he stepped down as president, an event that was commemorated more recently when he was presented with his award by IPF President Gaston Parage.



Sarel de Bruin (right) receiving his Honorary Membership award from IPF President Gaston Parage and Alan Ferguson

Addendum: Oom Sarel passed away on 11 July 2020. The Powerlifting community mourns the loss of a great man.

Alan Ferguson

Alan Ferguson is South Africa's most decorated Powerlifter, as the recipient of the SA Presidential Sports Award (awarded by President Thabo Mbeki) as well as being inducted into the IPF Hall of Fame. During a very successful lifting career, Alan was IPF World Master 2 Champion three times, twice winning the World Master 2 Best Lifter Award. He set six World Master Records in the 100kg, 110kg and 125kg weight divisions. This is in addition to numerous National awards and records. He is one of very few sportsmen to be awarded both Springbok and Protea colours.

Alan was Vice President of the IPF, and the IPF board member for Africa for many years. He was President of the African Powerlifting Federation, as well as President of the SAPF. As an International Category 1 IPF Referee, Alan has officiated in over 30 World Championships, and every African Powerlifting Championships that has been held. Alan was awarded Honorary Membership of the SAPF when he stepped down as President.

Alan helped to grow African Powerlifting from one member to 16 member nations, and it is safe to say that he has been instrumental in shaping powerlifting across our continent, a legacy which will endure way into the future.



Alan Ferguson- World record squat 315kg – Prague, Czech Republic, Nov 1997



Alan Ferguson as VP of the IPF giving the opening speech for Powerlifting at the World Games in Taiwan



Alan Ferguson receiving his Honorary Membership award from Heather Leighton

October 2019

Gail McKenzie-Kerr

Gail McKenzie-Kerr is the epitome of someone who leads by serving. Gail has, in all her years of service to Powerlifting, managed to keep our Federation in good standing with SASCOC and Sports and Recreation, producing all the necessary documentation to comply with government regulations on an ongoing basis. A past Acting President of SA Powerlifting, Gail continues to serve as Treasurer and manages the Development Programmes. Under Gail's guidance, our Development programmes have facilitated access to powerlifting for hundreds of disadvantaged lifters, and no one is prouder than Gail when the result of these efforts is Protea Colours, or National and International medals being awarded.

The Honorary Membership award is a token of how much Gail is appreciated and valued by every member of South African Powerlifting.

March 2020

Johan (Hannie) Smith

Hannie is the current President of the SAPF, and has also held the position of Technical Committee Chairman of the IPF since 2011, and IPF EC member since 2015. Hannie's involvement in Powerlifting started as a lifter, and he is still active as a coach, referee, meet director and administrator. His position as IPF TC Chairman takes Hannie to all corners of the globe, assessing new IPF competition venues, overseeing and running competitions and accrediting new referees, as well as heading up the IPF Rule Group which maintains the IPF Technical Rules.

Hannie has been instrumental in South Africa being awarded the bids to host IPF World Championships, giving many SA lifters without the means to travel the opportunity to compete internationally.

In 2020, Hannie was awarded the IPF's highest honour when he was inducted into the IPF Hall of Fame.

By presenting Hannie with the SAPF Honorary Membership Award, the SAPF acknowledges Hannie's immense contribution to Powerlifting in South Africa.



Andre Ludik

Andre has been connected to Powerlifting since 1988, and has been involved as a lifter, referee, coach, meet director and administrator. He has held numerous SA titles and SA records, and has represented South Africa as a lifter, as Team SA manager and Team SA Coach for various international events.

Andre is a past Vice President of SA Powerlifting, and currently heads up the Coaching and Referee portfolios of the SAPF. He has also contributed to the advancement of ParaPowerlifting in South Africa as a coach, manager and referee, and is an EC member of the Commonwealth Powerlifting Federation.

We award Andre Ludik the Honorary Membership of the SAPF in recognition and appreciation of his contribution to Powerlifting.





Hannie Smith and Andre Ludik with their SAPF Honorary Membership Awards

March 2021