

Recap 25th anniversary SJTAZ on October 19th 2024

25 years of teacher Tine Slager

25 years of tennis in Reigersbos

25 years in which more than 1000 children have had tennis lessons

25 years is a wonderful anniversary that we can be very proud of. SJTAZ has been training for more than 25 years at the Richard Krajicek Playground in Reigersbos. And the foundation relies on a number of committed volunteers, some of whom have been involved since the beginning. This anniversary called for a party, which we celebrated on Saturday 19 October in the Gaasperdam Sports Hall, our home base during the winter season. The day started early with decorating the sports hall and the sports café, with the help of a number of parents. Then the sports festival started in the sports hall. Parents and children enjoyed sports, exercise, and having fun in the various disciplines together. They played tennis, football, ball games, and did athletics. What stands out is the fanaticism (especially among parents), the fun, helping each other/taking the smaller kids into account, heartwarming to see.

Also heartwarming was the celebration that took place afterwards in the sports café of Sporthal Gaasperdam. More than 60 guests, including many SJTAZ kids and parents, had lunch together, chatted and listened to the speeches of great speakers. Hans Adama van Scheltema, chairman of SJTAZ, surprised Tine with the presentation of an Achievement Award for her work at SJTAZ. Treasurer Ton Steenkist thanked former board member Peter Schenk for his dedication and many years of involvement with SJTAZ. Leslie Barrow, SJTZ coordinator a.i. and trainer, presented the program. After everyone had eaten well, he introduced a number of speakers. It started with Kwame Agyapong-Ntra, better known as 'Master Kwame' who took us along in his inspiring story about how it all started back then. Kwame is grateful for Tine Slager and explained what playing tennis at the age of 11 has impacted his life.

Chris Kaper, regional manager at the Richard Krajicek Foundation, complimented Tine and SJTAZ foundation for creating role models like Kwame, and the fact that SJTAZ is still standing strong after all these years. He presented Tine with an official certificate on behalf of Richard Krajicek for her efforts. Mariette Verbruggen, board member of the KNLTB, also thanked Tine for her efforts, which go much further than teaching tennis. It is also about creating equal opportunities and inclusion. On behalf of the KNLTB, Tine was presented with the bronze federation pin.

Finally, Tine was surprised by Princess, Princess and Joan, who presented a unique and exclusive copy of the SJTAZ Magazine. A glossy with stories, memories and interviews of various people who have or had a relationship with SJTAZ. During the celebration, the guests present were (behind the scenes) working on a real work of art, where attendees could put a fingerprint on canvas in the form of a tree. This work of art (thank you Franny van Breugel) was presented to Tine by David and Mofe. Finally, team SJTAZ was put in the spotlight and thanked for their loyal efforts.

It was a beautiful day. Sporty in the morning, heartwarming in the afternoon. We see this combination in the work of SJTAZ. It is about the love for tennis, and for the kids.

The back of Kwame's shirt said:

'Set your goals high, and don't give up till you get there'

We won't.

Enjoy the photos and videos!

Team SJTAZ