

Bhumbas Masters Football Club wins Soweto's Masters League Preseason Tournament

By Viwe Mazwana

29 January 2025

On 26 January 2025, the Soweto Masters League (SML) hosted its preseason top 4 tournament in honour of the late George Arthur Mabunda. The curtain raiser for the season was played in Protea Glen, Ext 9, Soweto. It was won by the Bhumbas Masters Football Club.

The tournament is now in its fifth year. It brings together players aged 35 and above. United by their passion for football and commitment to giving back to the community, the Masters League from the biggest township in South Africa succeeded once again in efforts to give to those in dire need, not just displaying their skills and on-field passion.

This year's tournament honoured the late George Arthur Mabunda, who is the founder of the SML. All participating teams pooled their contributions, which were then used exclusively to fund the educational needs of Mabunda's children.

The SML is organised by a dedicated team of women and men. It is more than just a sports tournament, it's a platform for retired footballers to stay active and fit, connected, and engaged with their community. The league promotes a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood, with members supporting each other through initiatives like stokvels (a community-based savings schemes) and community networking.

On its website, the League states that, "The Soweto Masters League was formed in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood. To uplift local businesses, to improve social coherence, keep fit as well as improve individual health through football."

The 2025/2026 pre-season tournament with 4 teams competing for top honours saw Bhumbas emerge victorious, defeating Glenrich Masters Football Club 5-4 in a penalty shootout, after a 1-1 draw in regular time.

"We're proud to continue Arthur's legacy, who is the founder of Soweto Masters League and honour his memory through this tournament," said Lunga "Lele" Quma, Public Relations Officer of the SML.

"We're grateful for the support for our teams, sponsors, and community members who made this event possible," he added.

This tournament was about more than just winning, it was about bringing the community together, teamwork, and passion for football. Congratulations to organisers, all the players, coaches, and fans who made this tournament so special.

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