

2011 ISAF Worlds - South African campaigners

With just on 20 weeks to go, here's a look at what our South African sailors selected by SAS to compete in this year's ISAF World Championships in Perth, are up to in terms of their preparation and training:



Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson (470s)

Since January 2009, Asenathi and Roger have been training under the guidance and support of Izivungu, RaceAhead and SAS High Performance towards a 2012 Olympic campaign. In 2010, Asenathi represented South Africa at the ISAF Youth Worlds and the 420 World Championships, and did our country proud with a 9th place overall at the world championship. In March 2011, the two of them left for Europe to start their 2012 470 and Laser SB3 training in earnest. Thanks to RaceAhead and their sponsors MUSTO, MACS Shipping, Laser Performance & Southern Ropes, they were able to compete in the Laser SB3 World Championships in Torquay (16-20 May) with fellow South Africans Marlon Jones and Wadi Xayimpi where they finished a credible 7th place out of 103, winning the final race. From there, Asenathi and Roger went to Holland to start sailing the European Olympic circuit on 470s. Getting to grips with racing the highly technical 470 at an Olympic level is widely regarded as one of the toughest challenges in the sport of sailing. They have trained with top 470 teams and coaches in between competing at the Delta Lloyd regatta in Medemblik, Holland (23-29 May); Sail for Gold, Weymouth UK (4-12 June); Kiel Week, Germany (17-26 June) and next up the 470 Europeans, Helsinki (5-15 July). "The primary issue that we need to solve at this stage is speed. We are working at it as hard as we can, but it is going to take some time. We're going to have to take some tough results and try to keep focused on learning at this stage." says Roger Hudson, "We've had so much goodwill from so many people, from

competitors, coaches, other teams, the 470 class and others. Many of them have offered help and all of this is extremely encouraging."

Asenathi and Roger have been entered into the Olympic Test Event in Weymouth in August. Until then, they continue to train on the 470 with top teams and coaches in the UK and will be sailing the 11 Meter Class World Championships in Norway later in July with Rudy McNeill. They plan to return to South Africa for a rest after the Test Event and will continue training on 470s in Cape Town during October. In November, they plan to be in Australia to continue their training, and possibly compete in Sail Melbourne (6-12 Nov) as a lead up to the ISAF Worlds in Perth on 3 - 11 December.



Rudy McNeill (Laser)

Rudy joined the SAS High performance development squad training camp in Cape Town at the end of February. He left for Europe in June to take part in the European Olympic circuit on Lasers. Rudy sailed the Sail for Gold, Weymouth UK (4-12 June) where most of the 2012 Olympic laser campaigners are based for the next year training. Sail for Gold had over 1,000 competitors from 60 nations competing. Rudy found it hard to jump into such a large competitive fleet (124 entries) for the first time in his sailing career and did not make the gold fleet. He finished 26th out of 62 boats in the silver fleet. Rudy went on to Kiel Week, Germany (17-26 June) where he competed against 102 top sailors. Another strong wind regatta, but with determination and new skills learnt, Rudy managed to finish 47th in the Gold fleet.

Rudy will be sailing with Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson in the 11 meter Class World Championships in Norway at the end of July, after which he's going to compete in the Europa Cup and the Hungarian Laser Nationals before joining the Italian team for a week or two of intense training.

Photo RSA_470 attached: Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson, photo by Andreas Lindlahr
Photo Scan1 - Rudy McNeill