

PRESIDENT and CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2015/16

Progress in the implementation of South African Sailing's (SAS) Strategy continued to be made in the past year.

The Strategy remains to: -

- I. Professionalise the management and administration of all aspects of the sport including appointing a CEO of SAS.
- II. Ensure access to water for both our coastal and inland clubs. The coastal clubs have a common nexus with the national port authority and the inland clubs are dependent on their good relationships with, inter alia, the Department of Water Affairs.
- III. Exponentially grow the base of sailing by providing access to yachting to a widely diverse spread of South Africans with a special focus on our schools.
- IV. Transforming our sport with an infusion of women, ethnic diversity and disabled sailors.
- V. Target Elite Performances at the top end of the sport globally with success in the Olympics, World Sailing World Cup and World Championships, Volvo Ocean Race, premier keelboat events on the international circuit and Youth World Championships, as examples.

Notable events that fulfil the Strategy in 2015/16 include: -

1. Professionalise SAS- A detailed job description was issued and the role of SAS CEO widely advertised. There has been an engagement with some 20 prospective candidates and 13 formal interviews were conducted. A great positive that came out of the process was that a number of very strong individuals contributed some great ideas for the future of the sport. Although not successful as candidates SAS looks forward to their future involvement in the organisation of sailing in other areas. The process will be concluded in the near future. It is important to note that if a candidate fulfilling all the very demanding requirements of the role is not identified then the appointment will be held over.

In the area of Race Management, SAS National Judges have been asked to re-qualify in terms of World Sailing's current rules to further enhance standards.

Lucy de Freitas has been employed during the year to bolster our training initiatives.

2. Access to Water- SAS convened a meeting of the Commodores of all coastal yacht clubs and made itself available to work closely with a number of them on lease extension issues. Access to water remains a red light area and one or two of our clubs are seriously imperilled.
3. Grow the Base- Four road trailers each with three dinghies and a tender have been deployed in the North Region, Kwa Zulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape with initial outreach programs taking place. District co-ordinators are currently being appointed to effectively staff this project.

Twenty-eight new boats have been commissioned for the all-important schools and universities team race series to be established. Seven boats will be located in each of the four main sailing regions but will be available on request elsewhere. Following a countrywide invitation for tender Performance Craft was selected as the boat builder. This is potentially the most exciting project to come out of SAS in recent times.

The SAS membership has increased from 6,500 to 8,672 members.

Enabling sailing for life across all sailing disciplines for all South Africans

Philip Baum (President) | Michael Robinson (Vice-President) | Peter Hall (WC Councillor) (Chairman) |
Anton Ellens (KZN Councillor) | Andrew Finn (EC Councillor) | Hylton Hale (Keelboats) |
Saths Moodley (Transformation) | Arthur Rosslee (Kiteboards) (Rob Willcox NR Councillor) |
Sean Wiseman (Treasurer) | Colin Whitehead (Multihulls) |

4. Transformation- Sailing schools such as Durban's Sail Africa Cape Town's Zeekoevlei Sailing Centre, Izivunguvungu Race Ahead and Royal Cape Yacht Club's Sailing Academy amongst others continue to do fantastic work. The Zeekoevlei Sailing Centre won a special award from LOTTO for best administered sports body of any sport in the Western Cape.
5. A SAS Councillor focussed on Transformation was appointed. Saths Moodley kicked off this all important portfolio with a number of fact finding and vision sharing meetings around the country. A key recommendation of SASCOC (the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee) in the wake of the Minister of Sport taking four of the so called Big Five sporting codes to task for a lack of transformation was that each federation should have a Transformation Councillor. Happily, SAS had already taken the initiative. Please see below the section entitled Transformation.
6. Elite Performances- Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson joined Stefano Marcia in qualifying for the Rio Olympic Games by claiming an Olympic slot at the 470 World Championships in Haifa, Israel. This is the first time there has been an increase in sailings' Olympic representation since 2000. These athletes carry the hope of all South Africans as they compete at the time of writing in Rio.

Other notable achievements include: -

- a) Organising the first African Continental qualifying regatta on African waters for the International 470 class. This event was preceded by the Cape Town Classic qualifying regatta such were the number of interested crews from South Africa who wanted to compete.
- b) Organising the first ever World Sailing Race Management Clinic in the country. This was conducted by Jurgen Cluytmans, Vice Chairman of the Equipment Committee at the Rio Olympics.
- c) In addition to Jurgen Cluytmans, SAS hosted Nino Shmueli, Principal Race Officer of the Rio Olympics, Kamen Fillyov, an International Judge, and Stanislav Kassarov, President of the International 470 Class, at the time of the African Selection regatta. This is an indication of the level of support SAS enjoys from the international sailing fraternity for our efforts in growing the sport at home and on the Continent.
- d) SAS also organised a World Sailing Emerging Nations program involving 16 participants, six of which were coaches and the balance of ten were youth sailors from five countries.

Two major topics have been spotlighted in the year under review- Transformation and the payment of SAS fees.

A. TRANSFORMATION

Recent pronouncements by the Minister of Sport and Recreation, the Honourable Fikile Mbalula, on the state of transformation of four of the so called "Big Five" sporting confederations of the country was a clarion call to action for SAS.

An audit conducted by SASCOC, on behalf of the Department, of the transformation targets set by the federations themselves revealed enormous gaps in performance. Government sanction was swift and exacting. Inter alia, these codes are precluded from hosting international events in the country including bidding to host the next Rugby World Cup. No doubt the remaining 49 sporting codes will be scrutinised in turn.

It is critical to understand that transformation has three key pillars; race, gender and disability and SAS has a lot of work to do in all these areas. The challenge is to see this as an opportunity rather than a threat. Sailing will not become the force it can be without growing radically.

Sailing has a long way to go. Whilst some notable and encouraging success has been achieved by the likes of the aforementioned organisations introducing sailors of colour to our sport, it is clear that given the demographics and the size of the South African population we are only scratching the surface. When it comes to the challenging dimensions of the racial composition of our yacht clubs and the representivity of administrative structures and race officials we fail the benchmarks completely. These are the more challenging areas. Success here would be path finding for a country struggling to come to terms with its past. And succeed we must.

As already indicated one of the key recommendations flowing from the 'Big Five' review was that each sporting code should appoint a dedicated transformation official on the national body. Happily, as we have said, SAS had identified this need more than a year before in its Strategy review and had already made such an appointment. Furthermore, each Regional Council will be appointing a dedicated transformation person. In turn, all Clubs are being challenged

to make such appointments to their Club Executives. Without a dedicated resource completely focussed on this critical matter change will not occur. As the old business adage has it, “What you don’t measure you don’t achieve”.

Mindful of transformation examination of our founding document, the SAS Constitution, finds it to be woefully and indefensively inadequate to the challenges of the day. A root and branch review of the Constitution is underway led by Philips Daniels, a Senior Counsel at the Johannesburg Bar. This is also resulting in a re-appraisal of the democracy of the current election processes. The linkages between National, Regional, District, Class and Functional responsibilities will be clearly described and accountabilities clearly stated.

Transformation is the right thing to do. It is a national imperative. As sailors, we all know, how life transforming the sport can be. To deny a generation of youth the opportunities and benefits that come from sailing is a country denied. All of our well being is dependent on an integrated society. Transformation will not only benefit the recipients of the new opportunities it will liberate the advantaged both through the process of engagement and the funding that will flow from public and private sources.

B. SAS FEES

Another material issue being addressed by Council has been the questioning by some of the need to pay the SAS annual membership fee particularly in the case of non-racing sailors and social members of clubs.

It needs to be said that all sporting activity falls under the legislative jurisdiction of the Department of Sport and Recreation. A number of other government departments have a legislative interest in our affairs, for example, when it comes to hosting events involving more than 100 members of the public. Dealings with SASCOC and the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) are legislatively required to be handled on the bases of a unitary federation. In addition, there are many stakeholders, such as landlords, where it pays to approach an issue as a collective rather than as an individual club.

The DNA of SAS is that all activities should be devolved to the Clubs and individuals wherever possible. SAS does not want to control or interfere. SAS only gets involved where the leadership can facilitate an outcome otherwise not possible on an individual basis or where by its activity, it can pass on or create intellectual property, so called Knowledge Management. Most of these activities, such as access to water and safety, also benefit the non-racing sailor.

As for the social members of clubs they benefit from the ambience and excitement of an active, healthy club. The alternatives are to frequent the “watering holes” of more expensive commercial establishments or a “ kroeg” with less salubrious surroundings to entertain friends and family.

Unabashedly, the SAS fee modestly set makes it possible for all classes of membership to enjoy the attractions of a sport that caters for all categories of sailing enthusiast.

The SAS leadership holds itself available to engage with any members, individually or collectively, or the clubs to give a full account of the organisations activities and discuss the fee structure.

South Africa continues to perform exceptionally well at an international level in all disciplines of sailing. The inclusion of Sailing in the South African Olympic team for the Laser and 470 classes is the cumulation of four years of campaigning by the South African team and we look forward to this inspiring a new generation of sailors in the future.

The achievements of South African sailors internationally include: -

Olympic Classes

1. Stefano Marcia, Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson competing in the 2016 Rio Olympics.
2. Asenathi Jim and Roger Hudson won the inaugural African 470 Championship hosted by South Africa in January 2016, qualified for the Medal Race in the Sailing World Cup event in Miami (9th Overall), finished 11th overall in the 2016 470 World Championships with a historic win in the 5th race.
3. Sibusiso Sizatu and Alex Burger finished 2nd in the 470 African Championships in January 2016 with Brevan Thompson and Alexander Ham finishing in 3rd place.
4. Graeme Willcox and Andrew Tarboton campaigned in the 49er class that included a race win in the silver fleet in the 49er World Championships in November 2015.

Other Dinghy One-Design Classes

1. A South African team of Tammy Holden, Sanmarie Fourie, Benji Daniel, Chad Stevenson, Michaela Robinson, Jenna Bailes, Nic Faraday, Wade Ashton, Megan van der Walt, Marcello Marcia, Brandon Witjenburg, and Todd Fisher competed the 2015 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships in December 2015 with South Africa finishing 23rd nation.

Multihull

1. In the Hobie class Garth Loudon won the Hobie European Grand Master Championships.
2. William and Lucinda Edwards finished 3rd in the 2016 Hobie Masters Worlds and 6th in the World Championships in China in June 2016.

Kitesurfing

1. The Virgin Kitesurfing Armada was held in Cape Town in January 2016 and a new world record of 415 competitors took part in the one-mile dash from Dolphin Beach to Doodles.

Keelboats

1. Mike Bartholomew's Tokolosh finished 3rd on handicap in the JP Morgan Round the Island Race in the UK in July 2016 with over 1,500 yachts competing.
2. Eddie de Villiers and his SA team on Hi Fidelity won the Volcano Race for non maxi IRC class yachts in May 2016 in Italy

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all those who contributed to South African sailing in 2015/16 be it internationally, nationally or at a provincial or club level. Our thanks are expressed to members of Council and SAS Regional structures for hard work and commitment. A special thanks is due to the full time staff of the SAS Secretariat. They are the frontline of the organisation and with their energy and enthusiasm represent a positive interface with the community at large.

The real heroes are the sailors, racing and recreational, those who make all the clubs function, the judges and race management officials who on a purely voluntary basis make it happen on the water and all the pioneers already engaged in transformation of the sport. A heroic thank you is expressed for your inspirational contributions.

Let's all remember sailing is our sport. SAS is our organisation. We make of it what we put into it. And all contributions are most welcome.

Philip Baum

Peter Hall

PRESIDENT

CHAIRMAN

12 August 2016

