



sport & recreation
Department:
Sport and Recreation South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

President's Report 2018

Introduction:

Throughout my first year I've been constantly reminded about the diversity of our sport. There is not a single Federation in South Africa, besides ours, that is home to over 7 different disciplines. The Cambridge English Dictionary definition of diverse is as follows: 'including many different types of people or things'. Working together with the many different disciplines daily, I can assure you the people in our disciplines are not diverse; every single one of them has a passion for paddling and water.

There is an upward trend of members volunteering to assist in the running of events, clubs and Unions. This is very exciting. New ideas, new energy and new innovative events can only mean that our sport will progress forward and attract more people to our diverse offering. I keep urging the Unions to re-visit their calendars and event offerings and make changes as this is absolutely vital as we move forward. It is very invigorating chatting to event organisers that have been innovative with their events, or have created new events for our calendar. There is certainly a hype being created with these changes.

The membership numbers have been positive this past season, with Gauteng showing a huge growth in Junior numbers. Participant numbers during the current races-to-date have been increasing year upon year. In saying this, I am sure that the economic climate in our country is playing its part in the amount of events our paddlers are competing in. As I write this, rain seems to be falling all over our country.. This rain is much needed and welcomed by all of us as we watch dam levels get topped up throughout South Africa.

We are now a few months away from the launch of our new administration system. I am certain we are all looking forward to a more streamlined and easy to use system. The Board certainly do feel that this will have a positive impact on our administration of the sport as the process is simplified for everyone. The developers are hard at work.

The Board received many compliments throughout the year on the social media presentation of our sport. The coverage that was shared through our Channels covered all of our teams that participated in the numerous events around the world and it was fantastic. Sincere thanks to all that contributed to make this happen and be assured that this will get even better as we move forward.

International Competitions:

It was a busy year for our National/Federation Teams; we had paddlers participating in the following events and/or tours:

1. World Cup Sprints - Hungary and Germany



2. World Cup Marathon - Portugal
3. Youth Olympic Games Qualifier - Spain
4. Canoe Polo European Tour
5. World Series Surfski
6. Waveski World Championships - Spain
7. Junior and U23 World Championships Sprint - Bulgaria
8. World Championships Sprints - Portugal
9. World Championships Marathon - Portugal
10. Youth Olympic Games - Argentina

Outstanding Achievements:

Senior World Sprint Championships, Montemor-o-Velho, Portugal, August 2018

Bronze Medal: Bridgitte Hartley - K1 Women's 1000m

World Marathon Championships, Prado Vila Verde, Portugal, September 2018

Gold Medal: Andy Birkett - K1 Men
 Andy Birkett and Hank McGregor - K2 Men

Bronze Medal: Jasper Mocke - K1 Men
 Nic Notten - U23 Men
 Hamish Mackenzie and Dave Evans - K2 Junior Men

SA Sports Awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Lee McGregor

Development:

Thank you to all our coaches, development officers, mentors and everyone who contributes to development in some form. Without your involvement, our projects would not have the impact that they do. Across the country we have award winning projects as lives have been changed and continue to be changed daily.

Restructuring has taken place and safety was placed as a number one priority. Learn to Swim programmes are now being implemented where possible. All paddlers were tested for swimming proficiency and those that could not swim are currently in these programmes that assist them to become water safe. We will continue along this path and all potential paddlers will now undergo this compulsory step before they continue in our diverse range of offered programmes.

Our sincerest thanks to the Department of Sport and Recreation as well as The National Lotteries Commission for their continued financial support for our programmes. These programmes and the coaches employed to run them are financed through their invaluable support.



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To those businesses who also assist with funding, thank you, your continuous support is vital.

Last but certainly not least, Janet Simpkins. Your drive, passion and professional approach to Development in our Country does not go unnoticed. We are indebted to you as without your vision and control of our programmes we certainly would not be in the position we are today. You are the glue that holds our programmes together - THANK YOU!

Federation Administration:

Finances:

The role of Walter Ulrich in the Federation at present cannot be underestimated. A tight ship is needed to keep a lid on any unnecessary spend as our previous funding model becomes more non-existent. Allocations are vital to the various disciplines as well as preparing financials for the Board and then the Audited Financials.

The Federation was audited for Good Governance this year and I am pleased to report we passed with flying colours.

Once again it must be highlighted that all of our received grants can only be allocated at present to transformation. Zero funding is received for High Performance.

Secretary General:

We can be extremely grateful that our Secretary General, Colin Simpkins, has a great sense of humour, as seen through his weekly *Copper's Corner*. Being our only full time employee, Colin is kept busy daily. One can be assured of that. This is a big ship to steer and one can just imagine Colin standing at the ship's wheel with a wry grin, eyes lit up ready for the next challenge to come his way. He may need to stand on his toes to see over the wheel though. Challenges are indeed aplenty - from each discipline, paddlers, Unions, the Board, Confederation of African Canoeing, the International Canoeing Federation, SAMSA, Department of Sport and Recreation, the National Lotteries Commission, kit suppliers and shipping companies. The list is truly endless. Colin, thank you. I know I have put you under extreme pressure at times but your work does not go unnoticed and the Board is extremely thankful.

General:

I want to pay tribute to the various coaches around South Africa, across all disciplines. The majority of you are volunteers with a passion to lead and teach. The amount of hours that you spend beside and in the water is unbelievable, from beginners through to our World Champions. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Often you are the glue that holds our sport together. Sharing your experience to better everyone.

The administrators in the clubs, Unions, at the various races, the technical officials, timing personnel, safety marshalls and Chairs and committees at all levels - each one of you provided and continue to provide your



time and expertise and this breathes life into hundreds of events annually. NSRI, your services not only in the Ocean but in the river and dams at our events is invaluable, thank you.

I am certainly looking forward to another year, progress is happening, momentum is gaining and smiles are a plenty. I thank you all for your continued support.

Kim Pople
President Canoeing South Africa