

SACOSPORT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
COUNCIL ON SPORT

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1.

SEPTEMBER 1981.

A1.4.4.3 (NEW)

Editorial

This is the first issue of SACOSPORT, the official journal of the South African Council on Sport. It is the intention to publish an issue every quarter.

SACOSPORT will serve as a forum for news on non-racial sport and the views and opinions of its administrators and players. It will be our aim to put forward these views and the news in a forthright, positive manner. While we shall, from time to time, expose the fraud and sham that is multi-national sport we do not intend to become pre-occupied with it, SACOSPORT will be much more than a mere counter-puncher. It will endeavour to put the case for non-racial sport in a constructive manner. Those who are collaborating in the implementation of multi-national sport will receive their due attention without by any means providing them with undue publicity and credibility. We consider the airing of our own views as of paramount importance. The emphasis will be on the education of the non-racial sports-persons and keeping them informed of the situation as regards sport both here and overseas.

The need for a publication of this nature is illustrated by the extract which follows. It has been taken from "Growth", a journal published by the Corporation for Economic Development which claims that it is "a forum for intelligent, informed debate"(!) We quote: Legal restrictions on the actual practice of mixed sport in South Africa no longer exist. Two paragraphs later the writer realises that he has just been guilty of laying it on too thick and he repents as follows: "Obtaining an official permit, though a formality, is one of the few remaining controls over the practice of mixed sport." This is a prime example of the mis-information (to be kind) that is fed to the world by the media in South Africa. It cries out to be countered — SACOSPORT shall be ever-vigilant and attempt to do so.

We gain the impression from newspaper reports that emanate from New Zealand and the U.S.A. that people overseas are often better informed than many non-racial sportspersons of the true position in South Africa. SACOSPORT will attempt to remedy this state of affairs by publishing information and guidelines as well as expositions of SACOS policies for the benefit of those sportspersons who are committed to the attainment of a true democracy with equal rights and opportunities for all who participate in sport. The non-racial sportsperson must be well-informed and armed with facts (the true facts) if he is to wage the struggle for genuine non-racial sport successfully.

This is a pilot issue of SACOSPORT and if future issues are to be bigger and better we shall need the support of all the provincial councils of sport and our affiliates as well as well-wishers. We look forward to hearing from all. Send your views, news and opinions to The Editor, SACOSPORT, P.O. Box 159, Maraisburg 1700.

SACOS – A NEW FORMAT

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The fourth biennial general meeting of the South African Council on Sport held in Durban in May this year saw the birth of a "new" SACOS. The organisation and administration of the Council was revised and re-vitalised to meet new demands and to create machinery designed to carry out the intentions and policies of the Council more efficiently. The following are the office-bearers of Council:

Patrons: Mr. Abram Ordia, Mr. Samba Ramsamy, Mr. Lamine Ba.

President: Mr. Morgan Naidoo.

Vice-President: Mr. Frank van der Horst.

Secretary General: Mr. M.N. Pather.

The Secretariat: Finance: Dr. E. Vawda, *Minutes and Administration:* Mr. C. Clarke, *Publications:* Mr. R. Feldman.

Additional members of the Executive: Mr. D. Kali, Mr. E.S. Patel, Mr. H.C.C. Hendricks, Mr. K. Mackerdhuj.

The first meeting of the new Executive was held in Durban on the 12th July 1981. All members were present with the exception of Mr. E.S. Patel who apologised for his absence.

The all-day meeting produced much and among the objectives reached was the drawing up of a calendar of activities for the next three and a half years. The suggested programme to be ratified by the general meeting to be held in Paarl is as follows for the duration of the term of office of the present officials:

1981:	Sept.	12/13	Council Meeting. Paarl.
	Nov.	29	Executive Meeting. Durban.
1982:	Feb.	6	Fund Raising Dinner. Durban.
	Mar.	6/7	Council Meeting. Kimberley.
	Jun.	5/6	Executive Meeting. Durban
	Jun.	12/20	Soweto Day — Cancellation of fixtures. SACOS to issue pamphlet.
	Sept.	11/12	Council Meeting. Johannesburg.
	Oct.	8/9/10	Proposed Sports Festival. Cape Town.
	Nov.	27	National Sportsman of the Year. Port Elizabeth.
	Nov.	27/28	Executive Meeting. Port Elizabeth.
1983:	Feb.	5	Fund Raising Dinner. Durban.
	Mar.	19/20	Biennial General Meeting. Cape Town.

All the activities have one or more of the following as motivation: planning and administration, fund raising and participation at grass-roots level of sportspersons.

A new format has been designed for future SACOS conferences. In addition to the normal meeting procedures provision has been made for the reading of papers followed by a discussion involving delegates and observers. It is hoped to gain consensus or agreement on questions of principle so that policy can be formulated in accordance with the views of our members.

Various recommendations were suggested to be ratified by the general meeting i.e.: Annual subscriptions, capitation tax (to be increased to 25 cents per senior player and 5 cents per student) donations, a national win-a-car competition, a national sports festival, a national sportsperson of the year event, sale of diaries and post cards.

Other items of interest discussed were: general administration of SACOS, co-operations between provincial councils and code associations, demarcation of areas of jurisdiction for provincial councils of sport, meetings with university students, defence force personnel in Black schools, etc.

That's telling them!

The International Amateur Athletics Federation had the following to say in a letter to the South African Amateur Athletics Union on the occasion of its congress held in Rome recently when it was decided to enforce the expulsion of South Africa:

"After discussions with the council, we must inform you that we do not see that athletics or indeed any sport in general can be isolated from the existing laws of the country. We do not consider that truly equal opportunity to train and to participate in sport can occur in a country which discriminates generally on colour."

The letter added that the IAAF will now decide in consultation with the International Olympic Committee on "whether or not" a delegation should be sent to South Africa to review the situation.

INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

Look who's talking!

Not bitter about demos

was not bitter towards the anti-tour faction which stopped the match between the Springboks and Waikato in Hamilton, said the manager of the South African rugby team, Johan Claassen.

He said it was not his job to judge people. "We are here to play rugby and that's our principle aim — to play the game and make friends," he said at Press conference in New Plymouth.

"I think what we experienced last Saturday — that's history now — has been to me a mere awakening to the realities of the changing world where freedom, responsibility and accountability are very much absent," he said.

He paid tribute to the New Zealand Rugby Football Union for the fact that the tour was still on.

The Springboks beat Taranaki 34-9. About 28 000 people watched the game. There were about 100 demonstrators present but they did not hinder the game.

South African Press Association, July 29

Mere formality

The Government is to take the first steps towards the final removal of legislative barriers to the normalisation of sport in South Africa during the current session of Parliament.

But Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Sport and Recreation, said in an interview the steps were a "mere formality" as the hindrances to full mixed sport had already been suspended by umbrella permits granted where the law interfered with the autonomy of sporting bodies and sportsmen.

"The purpose of amending the legislation is to make it quite clear that Government does not intend to interfere in sport in South Africa."

Dr Viljoen said plans were being made to amend three laws — the Group Areas Act, the Black Urban Areas Act and the Liquor Licensing Act — while an announcement would be made soon on what would happen to the prohibitive provisions of the Separate Amenities Act.

Pretoria News, August 17

The Springbok rugby tour of New Zealand is barely weeks away and the team to make the disputed visit is scheduled to be announced this weekend.

But unlike the British footballers, who were welcomed and given an enthusiastic local reception, our 1981 Springboks can expect hostile, bitter and stormy scenes when they touch down in New Zealand.

And it will hardly be cheering for our Springboks to know that the Prime Minister of the country they will be in, has gone to great steps to show his displeasure at their presence and has done almost all in his power to block their visit.

This is the unhappy situation that has befallen South Africa's sportsmen. It is not entirely of their making, but they are made to suffer for the actions of others.

It is a sad, but harsh reality that it is not sport, but politics, which is influencing outside pressures and there is little the sports authorities can do to change the situation.

They are, admittedly, doing their best — albeit belatedly — to put their houses in order and to project their sports as being open and multiracial.

But their efforts are coming to nought because of the past performances of the policy-makers of the country.

The ball is in the politicians' court.

There it will stay unless the politicians show the way with profound and sweeping political change.

Kimberley Diamond Fields Advertiser June 25

"As others see us" . . .

The article which follows was published in the Daily Mirror on the 28th of July 1981. SACOSPORT found it of sufficient interest to reprint it as a whole. It was written by Mr. Denis Howell, M.P. for Birmingham Small Heath and former Minister for Sport.

Governments must act now to save world sport

NOBODY can now doubt that sport is being used by South Africa as an instrument to clothe their political regime with a fig-leaf of credibility.

In the past year or so no expense has been spared to tempt sports people to visit South Africa or to get South African teams into any country which will take them, whatever the cost to their hosts or international sport.

Some sports have been slow to discover that they are being used. Some individuals of note have been tempted by the prospect of high rewards and idyllic holidays.

Some governments have been slow to protect their sportsmen from the political manoeuvrings of a minority of sports who care nothing for the well-being of their sporting colleagues.

This is the background by which the present South African rugby tour of New Zealand must be judged. It is designed to embarrass New Zealand's sporting interests in the Commonwealth Games. It has created major problems for Australia, where the Commonwealth Games are to be held next year.

Dangers

In recent months Australia's sports administrators have travelled the world pointing out the dangers. When I saw their games representative he was in despair at the apathetic response from the British Government and the unsympathetic reception from our Sports Council.

The Commonwealth Games Federation, based in London, is active behind the scenes, but totally silent in public.

South Africa's tour in New Zealand has not only endangered the Commonwealth Games, but jeopardised the Olympics as well.

President Reagan was not deeply involved in his predecessor's campaign to stop the Moscow Olympics, a campaign in which some boycotting nations increased their trade with Russia at the very moment they were urging sacrifices upon their sportsmen.

But he must realise that the issue of South African Sport

cannot be dropped and pushed out of sight under the table, and he must act now if he wishes to protect the Los Angeles Olympics.

Nobody can condone violent actions which might stop sporting events, but the struggles to rid the world of racialism and apartheid go to the heart of millions of people throughout the world, and to civilised sports people everywhere.

Violence has many faces, and the violence of apartheid in sport is one. New Zealand's Government still has time to act, and should do so — not least because of the attitude of so many rugby administrators, who are furthering their own interests at the expense of the rest of sport.

In urging this course upon President Reagan and Prime Minister Muldoon I am asking them to act as my own government had to act to protect world sporting interests.

The Gleneagles Agreement of 1977, to which all Commonwealth countries subscribed, was vital in order to protect the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

Contrary to what has now been put about, that agreement does not sanction the freedom of South African teams to visit Commonwealth countries: quite the reverse.

No government, anywhere in the world, guarantees the right of admission into its country for anyone except its own nationals.

Governments which refuse such admission in order to protect the public interest of its collective sports have the same authority as that which the British government uses.

The Gleneagles agreement properly asserts that a free society cannot prevent any of its citizens leaving the country to pursue individual freedoms, but it calls on all its member nations to use every means to discourage or prevent sport involving South Africa.

The practical application of this policy is that governments must act now to save world sport.

This may be sad and unwelcome for New Zealand and the United States, but their governments are now in the front line. They have no alternative but to accept that fact.

Collection Number: AG3403

Collection Name: Non-racial Sports History Project

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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