

SAOF

President's Report

G.R. Morrison
4 February 2012

A Hectic Start

The new committee had a baptism of fire having to deal with the SGM and approval of the SAOF financials. There were a few glitches around our needing to learn the protocols involved in such meetings. Simultaneously SRSA was driving us hard to complete a Willing, Ready, Able assessment of our sports capacity to embrace the first-wave roll-out of the SA Coach Framework.

The new members to the SAOF management committee had to hit the road running, whilst for the members who stayed on for another term there was no let-up as the year drew to a close.

There was some welcome relief at the beginning of the new year as the highly successful Big Five O event allowed us to get in some high-quality orienteering. The SAOF wishes to congratulate the organisers and all the volunteers for their selfless contribution to an event that has inspired the local orienteering community.

Looking to the Future

With that behind us it is time to look forward to the rest of the year and beyond.

The SAOF's vision is "*Development Growth Excellence*"

Without *Growth* in the number of participants and *Development* of systems to generate greater capacity and know-how within the Orienteering community we have no chance of achieving *Excellence*. This philosophy is embedded in our strategy, which is embodied in our Expansion Plan.

This strategy is reinforced by the SASCOC-driven, LTPD project and the new SRSA / SASCOC lead SA Coaching Framework initiative that the SAOF has resolved to participate in. We are going to have to adapt our plans to accommodate this undertaking. However, at its core this initiative is going to drive our capacity building effort in the coaching arena. Hence it is well aligned to our goals.

Compliance with legislation like the Safety in Sport and Recreation Act are increasingly required. As such there is a need to continue to drive improved adherence to the requirements of the Act by our clubs, e.g. Risk Assessment, visible Emergency Plan, etc. We need to look at entrenching this behaviour by developing an education and accreditation system for event organisers. This is also important to ensure that the events hosted under the banner of the SAOF are covered by the umbrella of our *Event Liability Insurance*.

Building Capacity

There are a number of areas in which we need to build capacity that will enable both the expansion of the sport, but also the sustainability as orienteering takes root in new areas.

- We need to look at plans to increase the number of good quality local mappers. There is no quick fix. A realistic 5-10 year plan is required.
- We need to develop an Event Advisor education & accreditation system. Something along the lines of 3 SAOF levels with a transition to the IOF WRE level.
- We need more coaches at all levels. This will be driven by our “signing up” to the SA Coach Framework. We are exploring collaboration with British Orienteering to achieve this.
- We need to increase our ability to develop orienteering in new areas. We need to further develop our Expansion Plan such that it is sustainable and exportable.

All these things are easy to state, but challenging to achieve. Our aim must be to develop realistic plans that are measurable in terms of their impact.

Governance

We need to move towards achieving the following:

- NPO Registration
- SARS Registration / Compliance

This will move us to be more compliant with legislation around organisations like “voluntary associations” and non-profit organisations.

In addition we need to improve our levels of good governance. We need to be systematic and prioritise how we improve our processes to become more professional.

Moving in this direction will better enable to raise funds from sources other than SRSA and the NLDTF and so become more sustainable.

Management

The management committee gives up valuable time to contribute to the growth and development of the sport in South Africa. As such we need to find ways to ensure that our efforts are productive and meaningful. We need to develop systems that free-up the management committee to be more effective. These include:

- Streamline the functioning of SAOF management committee,
- A clearer definition of member Roles & Responsibilities and how our activities are supported by our administration service.
- A well-run calendar that ensures we are well-prepared to meet important deadlines, e.g. grant reports, grant applications, etc.
- A Googledocs (or other) repository that is the store for all our important documentation. Not only will this provide an accessible, secure and backed-up store of materials important to the SAOF, but it will also provide a traceable record of our activities.
- We need to develop a culture of *Measuring our Impact*. This is the only way to evaluate the success of our efforts. It is also an important tool for stakeholder engagement and the sourcing of potential sponsors.

Finances

Last year's episode with our financials seems to indicate that we need to consider someone in the position of finance. With our handling large grants, and with our accounts likely to get more complicated if this continues, I'm sure this lead to great efficiency.

It will be preferable to prepare our financials as soon after our 30 June year-end as possible. I believe we need to move further in the direction of more professional, but also simpler and clearer financials that meet the required standards.

Duncan Eriksson appears to have been a good find and I believe we should further build on our relationship with him. I also believe that we shouldn't necessarily be looking for a "freebie" through friends, as I believe this can be interpreted negatively.

We need to start to have a discussion on increasing membership levies for 2013. This has not been done in some time. Should we do this we need to present our case at the AGM this year.

We also need to take a resolution, or make a proposal at the AGM to explicitly state which events attract levies & EMIT hire. It appears that previous understanding was that this should only be for log events. Events such as the Big Five O and the Cape events in support of the Big Five O, as well as other similar events need to be explicitly included.

Projects for 2012 and beyond

We need to critically review our current Expansion Plan and update this plan to form the basis of our next Funding Application to SRSA and the NLDTF.

I suggest that we set up a specific meeting, including project managers like Lisa and Peter to learn from their experiences over the past 6 months and to devise improved implementation plans. This would form an integral part of any grant applications, i.e. SRSA and Lottery.

It will be important to include feedback from various interactions with SRSA and others in this planning session.

SRSA

We have an improved relationship with SRSA through our participation in the LTPD project and our engagement with them in the subsequent SA Coach Framework initiative. Lisa and I had a meeting with our liaison officer, Doris Mashishi, which was very positive. One difficulty that we face is that our 2011 grant is required to be spent by the end of March 2012, although we have yet to receive the second half of our grant! Although we were informed by both Doris and Rohini (see below) to spend the money on equipment as it would reflect badly on us to have unspent money, I would rather spend the money where we said we would and have the carry-over taken off of our 2012 grant. After all we are still developing capacity to spend these sums of money in an effective and sustainable manner.

Lisa and I also had a meeting with Rohini Naidoo (Director – School Sport, SRSA). She has a very positive attitude toward orienteering. She has a vast array of contacts that can be useful, e.g. SA Military, Provinces, SRSA, etc. However, we can become quickly overwhelmed by the possibilities that sound promising. There is a need for our backers to have a deeper appreciation of the challenges facing orienteering. Through our Expansion plan we are seeking ways to overcome these “barriers to entry” and “barriers to export”.

Communication with our Community

We need to explore ways to ensure better communication with our community. The SAOF, after all is there to serve the Orienteering community. Avenues to explore are:

- More regular updates to the website
- A quarterly newsletter with links to fuller articles on the website (e.g. Richard's example)

- A specific communication regarding the Coach Framework; the WRA assessment & resolution we've undertaken. This could be linked to an update on the exploration being undertaken with BOF.
- Expansion Plan update – Lisa's efforts & Peter's efforts. Quarterly updates?
- SAOF Comment on the Big 5 O – our endorsement and measurements we'd like to track.
- the SAOF wiki has been killed. The site came under repeated attack from hackers. A large investment of time or money would have been required to fix it. Instead it was decided to shut it down.

Glossary

NLDTF	National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
WRE	World Ranking Event
PDI	Previously Disadvantaged Individuals
SRSA	Sport and Recreation South Africa
SASCOC	South African Sport Confederation and Olympic Committee
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WOC	World Orienteering Championships
JWOC	Junior World Orienteering Championships
WRA	Willing, Ready, Able