

Chapter Fourteen

SPORT AND RECREATION

Background

NON-RACIAL SPORT in South Africa is non-existent and whatever non-racialism there is, is confined to either black or white. On the 17 September, 1970, the black-controlled non-racial sports organisations met at the Himalaya Hotel, Durban, to try and find effective and meaningful ways of promoting non-racial sport in this country. This was on the initiative of the South African Soccer Federation who had found their plans and schemes towards promotion of non-racialism thwarted by intervention from the Group Areas Staff of the S.A.P. In fact certain games had already been cancelled at various sports stadia.

The following were represented at this meeting:

- South African Soccer Federation;
- South African Amateur Swimming Federation;
- South African Amateur Athletic and Cycling Board of Control;
- South African Amateur Weightlifting and Bodybuilding Federation;
- South African Table Tennis Board;
- Southern Africa Lawn Tennis Union;
- S.A. Women's Hockey Union;
- S.A. Senior Schools Sports Association.

The organisation formed there was called 'The South African National Non-Racial Sports Organisation (SASPO). This organisation has pro-

duced a booklet, 'Problems Confronting our Sport'. One of the problems they deal with extensively is sponsorship. The pamphlet states that sponsors are unwilling to promote non-racial sport. It makes mention of the fact that racial sport (white) gets 20 times more sponsorship than black sport. The pamphlet states that SASPO decries this because, it maintains, these business houses are made financially viable by blacks who contribute more in so many ways.

It further argues that the only black sports that enjoy any particular favour are racial organisations like 'Bantu' football, tennis and cricket, 'Coloured' and 'Bantu' rugby and other 'Indian' codes. The author maintains that even with these 'non-white' racial organisations sponsorship is not extensive or satisfactory.

International Affiliation

At the SASPO Conference, all sporting organisations were urged to seek international recognition from their respective world governing bodies. The swimming federation has managed to 'persuade' FINA to send a fact-finding commission some time in 1973. The tennis fraternity has made attempts to gain international recognition, and they have put up a spirited battle against the decision of the Davis Cup Nations in allowing South Africa to participate. It is reported that after the secret Federation Cup 'trials' at KwaThema, Springs, SALTU sent in evidence to prove the mala fide intentions of the white body.

On the soccer field, there is ample evidence of Federation pressurising FIFA, the world body, to take a stand on the side of non-racial soccer, and that FIFA should recognise SASF and not FASA (Football Association of South Africa) as the only body that is promoting non-racialism in soccer and therefore the legitimate soccer body.

SASPO takes a very dim view of multi-national tournaments because they feel multi-national tournaments are meant to deceive the governing bodies and the outside world that all things are fine in South Africa. They decry mixed trials at any level except if they start at club level and regard them as a farce aimed at international consumption.

Facilities

A major problem facing black sport is lack of proper facilities. The non-racial organisation is aware of a total neglect for black sport and maintains that there is no truth in the pronouncements of the then Minister of Sport, Frank Waring, or the Prime Minister, John Vorster, about the existence of 'equal' facilities for all.

It cites the example of black golfers who do not have a single championship-sized course anywhere in the country. Black golfers depend on the

'charity handed out to our golfers' by white golf clubs for their annual events. Soccer, tennis, rugby, cricket and a host of other codes suffer the same fate. Police are known to have put pressure on municipalities to close down grounds, and whatever facilities there are, are subject to police intervention and interference by municipalities.

Victimisation of officers of non-racial sports bodies

Quote from Memorandum to the IOC: 'In order to silence and thwart non-racial bodies, officers and representatives of these bodies are being regularly victimised by the authorities'.

Examples

Mr George Singh - Attorney-at-law and veteran sports administrator, founder and secretary of the South African Soccer Federation, was banned in 1965 for five years. He was barred from attending any gathering where there were more than two persons, confined to Durban and had his passport withdrawn. He couldn't make any press statements - therefore he was silenced.

Mr Norman Middleton - president of SASF was convicted and fined for quoting Mr George Singh. Recently his passport arrived two months after he was due to leave for overseas.

Mr M.N. Pather - President of the South African Amateur Swimming Federation, was dismissed from his place of employment in June, 1972. He had just published his Federation's application for membership to FINA.

Officials of non-racial bodies throughout South Africa are being regularly visited and quizzed by members of the Security Branch.

Passports - Sportsmen of non-racial organisations have been refused passports time and again. The non-racial South African Table Tennis Board, which is a member of the International Table Tennis Board, has repeatedly been refused passports for its players and officials. Several people have suffered a similar fate even for private visits.

Conclusion

In their list of frustrations the non-racial organisation cites the lack of publicity as a major drawback. It says the white-controlled news-media and the radio are not prepared to make any substantial coverage, and if the radio makes any commentary it is usually African soccer and boxing.

One other thorny issue is the separation of black groups. They maintain that it is bad enough for sportsmen to be split into black and white groups, but becomes a little absurd separating black from black. They claim that in an attempt to keep an eye on them, the authorities send in police to their sports meetings. But in spite of all this the non-racial organisation believes it is going to win in the end.

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Background

The South African Soccer Federation caters for both professional and amateur soccer. In 1951 the SASF was launched though the first seeds were sown in 1948 by Mr A.J. Albertyn. Several meetings were held between then and 1951 and the first officials of the Federation were:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | S.L. Singh |
| Vice-President | Adv. A. Christopher E.G. Rooks and R. Ngcobo |
| Hon. Secretary | George Singh |
| Hon. Treasurer | A. Harry Naidoo |

The initial pattern was inter-race matches comprising Indians, Africans and Coloureds. As the years went on inter-race sport lost favour and in 1962 the structure of the Federation changed. From racially composed units it changed to non-racial provincial affiliations and the Head Office was in Cape Town. The Cape Town office experienced difficulties arising from 'home and away' system of play and the fact that professionalism was making steady progress thus affecting amateur soccer. Another problem was the non-availability of grounds to non-racial bodies in the Transvaal.

In 1964 Headquarters went to Durban and Norman Middleton was elected President - and has been president to date. The last tournament to be staged in Cape Town was in 1968 when there was a triple-tie for the Kajee Cup. This year the Kajee Cup tournament was held in Johannesburg.

Life members of the Federation are S.L. Singh, George Singh, E.G. Rooks, R.A.V. Ngcobo, H.C. Maggot and Dan Twala. The patron-in-chief is Chief Gatsha M. Buthelezi.

Structure and Composition

The SASF is made up of 8 provincial units that control their own district associations. The Federation meets bi-ennially, the Conference taking place two days before the start of the Kaje Cup tournament. Tournaments are held from centre to centre and at each meeting an affiliated unit is allowed two delegates.

Federation is administered by a Cabinet consisting of :

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Norman Middleton |
| Vice President | R.K. Naidoo |
| Secretary | Dharam Ramlall |
| Ass. Secretary | A. Hulley |
| Treasurer | S.K. Chetty |

and a delegate from each of the 8 affiliated units, a member of the Referees Association and a representative of the professional league.

*Affiliated Units**(a) Amateur*

See Table on Page 195

(b) Professional

To the professional league is affiliated at the moment 9 teams, but there is provision for three more teams. Teams presently affiliated are:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Glenville | |
| (League and Cup Champions) | Cape Town |
| Cape Town Spurs | Cape Town |
| Maritzburg City | Pietermaritzburg |
| Lincoln City | Pietermaritzburg |
| Aces United | Durban |

| Provincial Unit | Centre | Associations | Teams | Grounds |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| W. Province Soccer Board | Cape Town | 10 | 1 133 | 62 |
| E. Province Soccer Board | Port Elizabeth | 2 | 100 | 5 |
| Border Soccer Board | East London | 2 | 29 | 2 |
| Tvl. Soccer Board | Johannesburg | 6 | 610 | 27 |
| Griqualand West Soccer Union | Kimberley | 1 Senior 1 Junior | 52 Senior 50 Junior | 3 |
| Griqualand East Soccer Board | Kokstad | 2 | 24 | 2 |
| Northern Natal Soccer Board | Dundee | 8 | 135 | 11 |
| Southern Natal Soccer Board | Durban | 12 | 313 | 25 |

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Berea United | Durban |
| Manning Rangers | Durban |
| Verulam Suburbs | Verulam |
| Bluebells United | Johannesburg. |

These teams play matches at Curries Fountain (Durban), Northdale Stadium (Pietermaritzburg) and Athlone Stadium (Cape Town). Due to lack of enclosed grounds in the Transvaal teams like Bluebells United have had to incur heavy financial losses as a result of playing almost all their matches away from home. Of late they have been using the Queenspark grounds in Vrededorp. Should suitable enclosed ground be found there will be inclusion of two more teams from the Transvaal. Cape Town United has been included for the 1973 season.

SASF Professional League runs the league and the Mainstay Cup tournament. There is also the pre-season Champion of Champions series.

Policy

The SASF has a non-racial stand, which means that teams and clubs are open to anybody irrespective of race or colour, and this obtains at all levels. Their stand on teams from South Africa is that they must be chosen on merit, and they reject multi-national tournaments because they maintain these are mere tokens and are geared towards deceiving the international world. SASF believes that FASA (Football Association of S.A.) is a farce, it bars Africans from most FASA - controlled grounds even as spectators, and that the 'Bantu' Association (South African Bantu Football Association) represents a minority of Africans as most Africans do not subscribe to this separation. 'Bantu' officials do not control soccer but are mere officials and it is the white body that controls almost all facets of 'Bantu' soccer.

In a memorandum accompanying application for membership to FIFA, they laid down their non-racial stand and even pointed out that FASA is not non-racial, citing the example of Smiley Moosa (alias Arthur Williams) who played for Berea Park, but was later discovered to be black and therefore not qualified for white soccer.

To date the only international links that exist are local players going overseas for trials with other teams in the English, Scottish or American Leagues.

SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION

Background

Born on the 6 April, 1966, and was termed South African Amateur Swimming Federation. Preliminary meetings were held in Cape Town and on the 3 January, 1965, representatives from the Eastern Province, Griqualand West, Western Cape, and Natal, agreed to start working towards realising this goal of amalgamation. Then in April 1966 at a meeting in Asherville, at the David Landau Community Centre, the goal was realised and Mr A.W. Paulse was elected president. Mr Eric Barlow was elected Secretary and Messrs. A.L. van Breda and R. Abrahams filled the posts of treasurer and records-clerk respectively. In 1969 headquarters were taken to Natal (Durban) and Morgan Naidoo was elected President.

Structure and Composition

There are 5 units viz.:

Eastern Cape Amateur Swimming Association, Griqualand West Amateur Swimming Union, Amateur Swimming Union of Natal, Transvaal Amateur Swimming Union, Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association and two associate affiliates in the South African Senior Schools Sports Association and the South African Primary School Sports Association. The President of the federation is Mr Morgan Naidoo.

Policy

According to the Constitution, membership is non-racial and 'any person, irrespective of race, creed or colour may join and enjoy full benefits of membership'. Federation has no ties with the all-white South African Amateur Swimming Union. SAASF has applied to FINA for recognition and a FINA commission is coming out in 1973 to investigate the position. At present SAASF is contemplating affiliation to CANA (African Amateur Swimming Confederation), and already there has been favourable response from the Continental body.

This federation believes in non-racial selection of teams and maintains that teams coming into this country should play against non-racial teams. It states that the 'non-whites' in the so-called S.A. Non-White Olympic Committee serve there because they are officials of a few racially composed sports bodies, and accept subservience.

SOUTHERN AFRICA LAWN TENNIS UNION

Background

The Southern Africa Lawn Tennis Union is one of two national tennis organisations in the black world, the other being the South African National Lawn Tennis Union, which is mainly an African tennis body, and which is affiliated to the South African Lawn Tennis Union, the white body. Southern Africa is non-racial, and plans to have it formed were hatched in 1957, and only came to fruition in 1963 when the first tournament was held in Cape Town. David Samaai was crowned men's singles champion and Dhiraj runner-up. Samaai has won this trophy 4 times and Dhiraj 3 times.

Administration and Affiliates

The highest decision-making body is the Council, made up of Cabinet and a member each from the affiliated units. The president of the Union is Mr M.K. Naidoo.

Affiliates

Border Tennis Union
 Boland Lawn Tennis Union
 Eastern Province Tennis Board
 Griqualand West Tennis Union
 Northern Natal Lawn Tennis Union
 Northern Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union
 Southern Natal Lawn Tennis Union
 Southern Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union
 South Western Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union
 Western Province Lawn Tennis Association
 Western Transvaal Lawn Tennis Union

Activities

Application to ILTF for membership was first lodged in 1969, and the battle is still raging. The Secretary of the ILTF, Basil Reay, came to South Africa to see things for himself. To the Southern Africa L.T.U. 'mixed trials' are a farce, because, they maintain, these are meant to appease international demands and ease pressure on the white South African L.T. Union. The trials held in Springs were not welcome because of the inadequacy of facilities for blacks. Southern Africa runs a number of tournaments like the Natal Winter Open, the Border Championships,

Eastern Province and Western Province Championships. Their premier tourney is the South African Championship, held in rotation from centre to centre. Promising youngsters are given added incentive by being offered coaching by top class players and also by being sent overseas for experience. The present champion, Alwyn Solomon, is an example.

Like all non-racial bodies, funds are hard to come by.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

Composition and Affiliation

The National body controlling golf is the South African Golf Association. Its Executive is composed of: President - Mr Louis Nelson; Secretary - Mr S. Maduramuthoo; Treasurer - Mr Lionel Thuys, and 6 committee members.

There are 6 units affiliated to SAGA and they are: Transvaal Non-European Golf Association; Western Province Golf Association; Griqualand; Border; Orange Free State; Natal Golf Association.

Tournaments

The South African Golf Association runs the South African Open which incorporates the Gary Player Classic. This is a professional-amateur event. Members of the Durban Golf Club are banned from playing in this tournament. The reason is understood to be the fact that the Durban Golf Club is not affiliated to the South African Golf Association which is seeking affiliation to the white body.

At provincial level there are several tournaments, e.g.: the Natal Open. Again members of the Durban Golf Club are barred from participating in this tournament for the same reason as with the National body. The President of the Natal body is also president of the National body. Other tournaments are the Western Province Open, the Transvaal Open, the Orange Free State Open, and the Griqualand Open.

All these tournaments are run by amateur bodies. Professional tournaments presently are: Coca-Cola 750 - organised by the Natal Professional Golfers' Association; Louis Luyt Classic - organised by the Transvaal Professional Golfers' Association; Oris Watch Stroke Play - organised by the Transvaal Professional Golfers' Association.

Activities

The national body (amateur) is trying to seek affiliation to the white

body and this has led the Durban Golf Club to sever all relationships with the South African Golf Association. It is further understood that the national president has been suspended through a Supreme Court order; the suspension is from the Durban Golf Club.

The Durban Golf Club advised its professionals to form a Professional Golfers Association. This body was called the Natal Professional Golfers Association. In the Transvaal, a similar body was formed, out of which two bodies arose, the other being the South African Professional Golf Players Association. The national president of this body is Martin Jacobs. This group is still in the process of preparing a constitution.

The Transvaal Union controls 36 clubs and about 524 players. They staged the Transvaal Open at Ohenimuri Country Club, and Ellerines sponsored the tournament. Other fixtures are Golfers Memorial, Transvaal Fourball Betterball, 'The World' Club event, Viking-Stableford and the Transvaal Invitation.

Facilities

There are very few championship-sized courses for blacks, and even those that exist are in bad shape. There are only two 18-hole courses, in Cape Town and Umlazi. The Durban Golf Club runs a much better course though it plays only 9 holes.

Most championships are played on white courses though white clubs are not often happy to have blacks use some of their facilities.