

DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2018

The 2017/18 Triathlon season has been an exciting one with many new opportunities.

GRASS ROOTS

In July 2017 Tri Zim attended the World Olympic Day held in Epworth to promote our sport at grass root level. Martin Mbofana and Donald Zhara assisted me in manning our stand. During the off season Carol Pakenham had spent many hours designing display boards of the history of Triathlon in Zimbabwe. We used these and leaflets in Shona and English to help promote Triathlon and Aquathlon.

The interest at our stand was good but we realized when done again this August we should promote Duathlon in this particular area.

Triathlon Zimbabwe was invited to assist with the management of Triathlon events in Northern Zambia and Mel Barnes represented us and by all reports it was a great success and she did us proud with her Technical experience.

PROVINCIAL

In September Shaun Shelton, Carol Pakenham and I went to Bulawayo to assist with the running of their event in Ncema. We had the same show stand as used in Epworth.

The attendance at this event was very exciting to see. Some important connections were made and as a result of this we now have Falcon College attending our races in Harare.

The Penhalonga and Troutbeck events were successful as usual. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bonaqua for their support and the use of their gazebo at all of these functions.

COACHES

In November Gideon Benade and I were very fortunate and privileged to be invited by the ITU to attend a Level 1 and 2 ITU coaches course in South Korea. Hopefully this year we will have the same opportunity to qualify more coaches.

AQUATHLON

After an extremely successful first season of Aquathlon we expected the next season to be even bigger and better. Initially support was slow with mainly Arundel, St Michaels and HIS participating. It was good to see Gateway Senior School start participating regularly in the series.

I asked the coaches from these 4 schools to assist with officiating on the day. They were all keen to help which put less pressure on Tri Zim. At first this went well but as the schools sporting activities increased the coaches became less able to assist.

This season saw the first Inter House Aquathlon being organized by HIS. Tri Zim went to support this event and it was exciting to see the number of athletes competing which will hopefully increase the number of athletes at our next season. It has also been good to see some of the HIS Aquathlon athletes start to cross over and compete in Triathlon instead.

It is still crucial to try to introduce Aquathlon to more schools to help create more exciting competition for the schools already participating. Arundel and Gateway Senior plan to host a fun Aquathlon in the third term whereby they will invite and introduce new schools to the sport of Aquathlon.

Towards the end of our season I went to Chitungwiza with the 'Heroes' Team to try and promote Aquathlon. I am waiting to hear back from the school to see if we are able to hold an event there.

YOG

With the impending YOG this year our athletes have been exposed to exciting opportunities and memories which will no doubt remain with them forever. Matt Denslow, Marcel Paulser, Mikayla Colegrave and Andie Kuipers were part of the 2018 YOG squad.

In November these athletes were invited to a YOG camp in Agadir Morocco lead by top ITU coaches. Unfortunately Matt was unable to travel but the other 3 learnt so much, met new friends from all over Africa and were exposed to a new country and culture.

Yara Hanssen, the ZOC Young Ambassador for the 2018 YOG came to one of our events to watch our YOG squad race and shared her experiences of the 2010 YOG with them where she won a medal for Zimbabwe in Equestrian.

These 4 athletes travelled once again to Rabat Morocco for their qualifier which coincided with African Champs. In order to qualify we needed to be in the top 3 Nations across the line in the boys and girls event. We unfortunately were 4th Nation across the line in both events so Zimbabwe Triathlon will not be present at the next YOG. Our athletes raced well but as forewarned last year North Africa has become a force to be reckoned with.

These 4 athletes have had exciting opportunities and adventures leading up to the Games and as a result of their performance at Africa Champs Matt and Andie have been invited and co-funded by the ITU and ATU to attend a Development camp in Brive France this month. If the general public were aware of these opportunities I am sure we could entice more to partake in our sport.

WADA (WORLD ANTI DOPING AGENCY)

Awareness of this important topic is crucial as more of our athletes are starting to compete internationally where drug testing is being practiced more often. Dr Austin Jeans presented a very interesting, eye opening presentation on 'Drugs in Sport' at Troutbeck at our National Championships which was well attended.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Tri Zim and Schweppes Zimbabwe persevered once again in trying to promote the Corporate Challenge. It was once again a slow start to the season but towards the end it was exciting to see The 7th Day Adventist and Lafarge teams participating and challenging Schweppes.

I feel next season will be different as we have been requested by interested Corporates that it is easier to have more frequent events for this category as this will create more interest and continuity.

It would be nice to have more gyms partake in this challenge as this has to be a key market for us.

FUTURE PLANS

- TZ have plans this year of holding a Triathlon Awareness day where anyone can come and 'Try a Tri' in a fun and social environment. For this to be successful publicity needs to be extensive and the date needs to be looked at very carefully.
- We have been invited to host a mini Triathlon at Borrowdale Brooke and this we should use to include and introduce residents and also Heritage school to our sport.
- I would like to see the Athlete's Commission this year organize and host a Triathlon whereby the athletes themselves come up with ideas of what they think would be fun and would hopefully attract new comers.
- Holding a Level 1 Coaching course is still on the cards for this season so we can further develop our sport into the schools.
- Holding a Level 1 Technical course is also planned to bring in new officials to help us manage the sport.
- As mentioned in last year's report safeguarding our athletes is paramount. Codes of Conduct are in the process of being reviewed.

2017 AND 2018 TOURS

2017

SA CHAMPS	20 athletes	6 medals	1 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze
AFRICA CHAMPS	4 athletes		

2018

SA CHAMPS	14 athletes	4 medals	1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze
AFRICA CHAMPS	7 athletes	3 medals	1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze

PAMELA FULTON

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION