



MANICA

Grupo Desportivo de Manica ~ NEWSLETTER Volume 17 ~ Manica ~ Mozambique

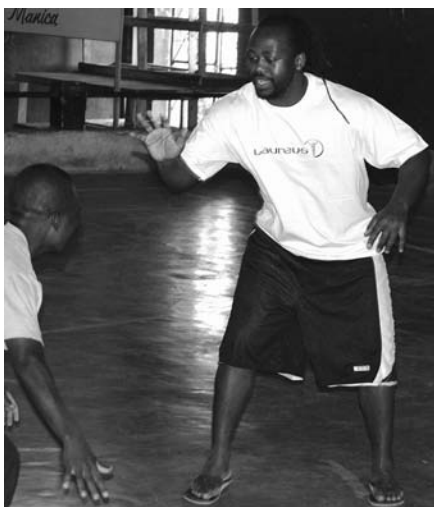
SPORT FOR GOOD!

The friends and supporters of the Manica program know very well that over the years we have constantly strived to use sport as a vehicle to make a positive social impact in the lives of Manica youths.

We are now very pleased to announce that the **LAUREUS Sport for Good Foundation** has approved us as one of their official global projects and solidified their commitment with a R200 000,00 donation!

Furthermore, we were fortunate to receive Mr Emmanuel Madonda (Global Projects Co-coordinator) from the London office during April '08. The site visit from Mr Madonda was not only motivational and insightful, but also very productive in that Mr Madonda shared his expertise and gave very pertinent (and challenging!) suggestions.

We look forward to cementing our partnership with **Laureus Sport for Good**, since they are able to enhance our program on various levels and will surely contribute to our capacity building and help us to derive maximum social benefit from our various programs. This is affirmed by the words of Mr Madonda: "It's not just about getting kids to play, we must use the forum of sport as foundation to do training, enhance peer mentoring and we must facilitate the transfer of life-skills."



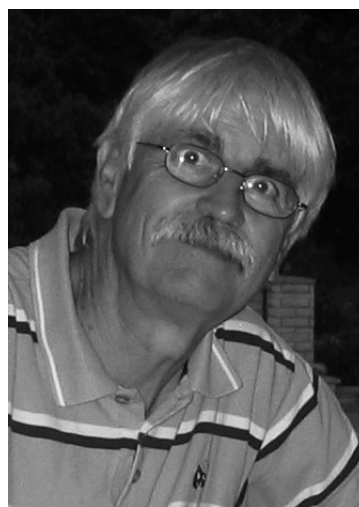
Emmanuel Madonda



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

Art for AIDS

The Canadian based Art for Aids International signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Johannesburg at a gala-event on 22 February 2008. The event was a significant achievement, present to sign the MOU were: Prof Roy Marcus (Chairperson of UJ Council); the CEO of Art for Aids International, Hendrikus Bervoets; Sandra Balsdon (President); Prof Ihron Rensburg (Vice Chancellor and Principal of UJ) and Mr Kerry Swift (UJ Executive Director: Advancement).



Hendrikus Bervoets

The morning after the signing (and all the accompanied pleasantries) the Canadian delegation headed for Mozambique. What some people call excitement, others might call fear, but nevertheless there was anticipation in the air as our "first-world" friends got ready to venture into deep-Africa!

Hendrikus Bervoets, his son JP and Sandra Balsdon arrived in Manica after some logistical challenges and they there joined Schalk van Heerden, Kutloano Toko and Hannes Botha (all from UJ). Once in Manica the group immediately started with their work and presented three workshops that use art (collage-making) to teach kids about HIV-Aids. The workshops were very insightful, fun and an overall positive experience.

To crown a wonderful week with the Canadians, they also announced a \$15 000 donation towards specific educational needs as well as \$5 000 towards meeting urgent material needs such as food and building supplies.

The participants and beneficiaries of these interventions are young boys and girls from **Anda Orphanage**, a local primary school and the youths of the GDM club. More than 70 of these kids are orphans and these are the very children



Nelson on the brand new bike!

that are vulnerable and need the positive and safe environment that we try to nurture through the work of our program.

We want to give a BIG thank you to Art for Aids International (Hendrikus, Sandra and JP) for their generosity and open hearts- as Hendrikus is fond of saying: "this is not just business, its friendship."

This friendship was demonstrated by the wonderful gesture of these three friends. Out of their personal pockets they bought a motorbike for Nelson Veremo (Mr Man) who is our English Teacher and Project Manager!

Building on solid foundations



↑
Then and now →

In the previous newsletter we showed a picture of our new training facility being built. We are pleased to now show you another picture of the same building!



BARCLAYS: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

On 18 April 2008 the CEO of Barclays Mozambique, Mr Paul Nice signed an agreement that affirms that Barclays will be our primary corporate partner and sponsor. This exciting new partnership was brokered through the head-office of ABSA Africa in Johannesburg and with the help of a great team in: Jaco Grobler, Paul Nice, Willie van Zyl, Johan Rheeder, Maxwell Pirikisi, Sarah Mathias and Luisa da Costa we managed to reach this historic agreement.

To the Barclays/ABSA alliance: Thank you for believing in us and we look forward to building a strong partnership that will have an inspirational impact on the SADC region!



Federation Frustration

As you might know by now, we try to keep our newsletters honest and transparent. These writings share our successes and difficulties and we will always try to resist the temptation of turning the newsletter into a polished marketing tool.

So with this section, we share one of the sadest and hardest trials our program has faced in its six-year history:

We reported how we won the Provincial League in 2007, how we received the trophy and accompanying documents and how we were promoted to the Second Division...

But, and this is a very big and sad but... enter the Mozambican Football Federation (FMF) in Maputo! The Federation overruled the decisions and results of the Provincial Football Association in our province without sending any delegation to visit and without analyzing the facts on the table and made the shocking decision that another team was to be promoted to the Second Division and not us!

This situation which borders absurdity, irregularity and scandal caused a huge stir; with letters being written by the High Commissioner of Mozambique in South Africa, lawyers, the Minister of Sport in Mozambique and various other political role-players. Our club was even visited by the Deputy Minister of Sport- who said that we are the top example in Mozambique of a Soccer Club that truly contributes towards development.

Despite all of this, various reports in the media and our

official complaint to the Federation, we have up to date not received any clear or written report on why the federation made the decision to take away our trophy.

The Judicial Committee of the Federation accepted to re-evaluate the case and confessed that they did not have all the facts and proofs in their possession, but the results of their evaluation (recurso) has still not been given to us! In the meantime, we are not playing in the Second Division. The President of the Federation Mr Feizal Sidat has also not been available for any official comment or explanation.

These trials and stresses are a true test for the spirit and commitment not only of our project, but of our town.

People are very sad and confused, but they (we) are vowing that we will not give up, that this uncertainty and confusion will make us more committed, give us more resolve and that it will make our roots grow deeper. Great clubs are not built over night and success does not mean that one never have setbacks.

As for the Federation, we are reporting the case to CAF and FIFA and hopefully in the future irregularities can be minimized and we can work with the football structures in Mozambique to promote soccer and development.

Global to local

Having many 'project friends' all over the planet is very exciting and visits like those of Emmanuel Madonda and Hendrikus Bervoets are really special moments. Yet, at times we are even luckier as we reported in our previous newsletter about Wenke the German who stayed in Manica for three months.

The list of visitors and volunteers continues to grow and inspire as Julie Zavage from the USA arrive on 6 May for a 6 month volunteering visit! Julie will be very involved with organic agriculture, female participation and managerial capacity building.

Welcome Julie, and we hope to read of your adventures in Manica!

QUOTABLE | "You cannot write a great life-book without including chapters of trial, sorrows and hardship" ~ Matrix M.



TRACTOR GIRL!

On 14 April 2008 the town of Manica was fortunate to receive Manon – The tractor girl!

Manon has an unbelievable story which you can check out on her website (also in English), but for the coolest pictures go to the Dutch site: <http://www.tractortractor.org/zuidpool/>.

Manon is driving with a 30-year old tractor from Holland to the South Pole at 15 km/h, through the whole of Africa!

We at the project were so fortunate not to read of Manon in a book or see her on TV, but to actually be part of her story as she came driving into our little town – unexpectedly on an ordinary day. One seldom meets people that inspire us with the unpretentious substance of their being and doing, and when we encounter these individuals we remain humbly grateful and inspired.

We asked Manon if Manica is “in the middle of nowhere”, since we have been accused of this in the past, but to our great relief, Manon (who is qualified through experience to answer) assured us that Manica is not in the middle of nowhere!

Where there's smoke there's fire!



Aleixo Fumo is one of Mozambique's top coaches and in January 2008 he joined GDM full time basis! His surname means smoke, but we can assure you that with Aleixo's experience and passion a lot more than smoke will be produced!

Aleixo is passionate and serious about sport being used as a vehicle for development and education and says “soccer can never be an excuse for an individual to become a delinquent”.

So look out for more smoke because with Mr Fumo things at GDM is sure to heat up!

← Schalk van Heerden and Aleixo Fumo

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