



MANICA

Grupo Desportivo de Manica ~ NEWSLETTER Volume 18 ~ Manica ~ Mozambique

GDM First team in front of the local Barclays Branch



Déjà vu

Another year and another championship... Desportivo won the Provincial Championship for the second year in a row, thereby affirming that 2007 was no fluke and that despite corruption, "you can't keep a good team down!" Desportivo finished the Manica Provincial League in first position, Pipeline de Maforga, second and Galos de Manica (practically our B-Team) ended third.

Yet, after all the drama of 2007, the air is filled not with celebration, but with irony, sarcasm and surrealism. As Nelson Veremo said jokingly: "Our job is to win trophies, if people want to come and take it from us because they

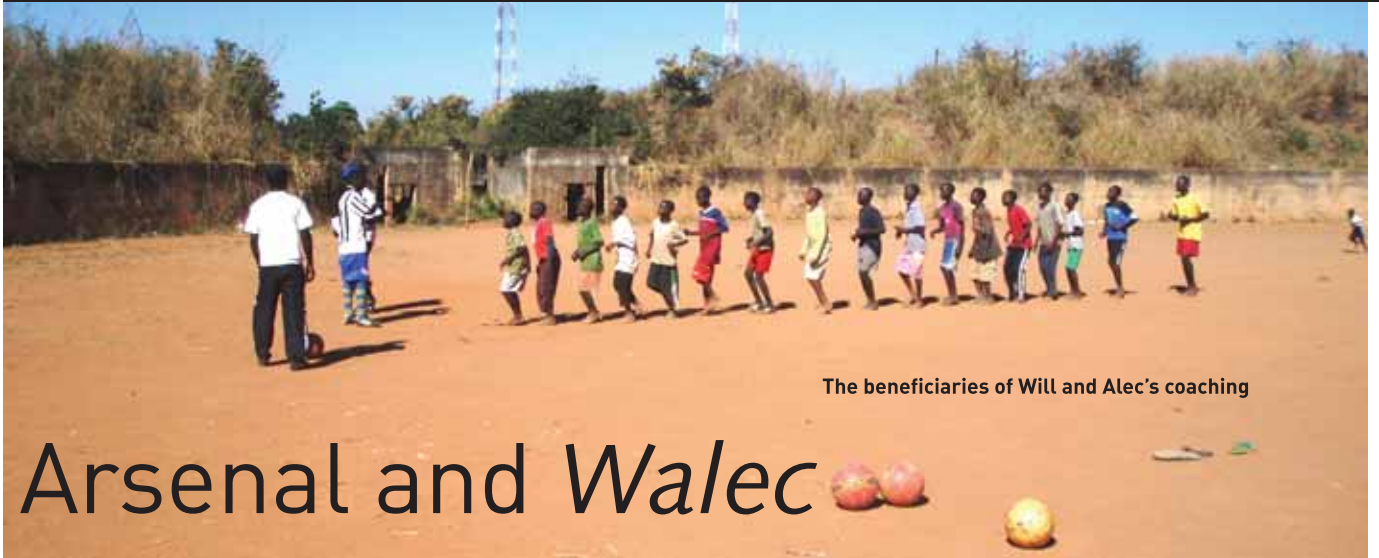
have large empty pockets- its not our problem. Now we wait and see if we will go to Second Division."

The extent of hurt and disillusionment from last year's corruption scam is really only showing its full extent now. If one compares the euphoria of winning the league last year with the cautious smiles and 'vamos ver' (we will see) of this year – it is clear that "once bitten twice shy"!

The year also witnessed an inspiring escalation in our junior activities with more than eight other youth teams participating under the GDM banner and guidance. Surely these investments in the young ones and the performance of our top team is laying the foundations to make Mozambican history. 'Vamos ver'.



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG



The beneficiaries of Will and Alec's coaching

Arsenal and Walec

Two Arsenal Gap-Year community coaches volunteered in Manica for five weeks during July and August 2008. Will and Alec, also affectionately referred to as Walec, came to Africa and Manica as strangers, but left as friends. We won't mention the sentimentalities of the farewell party, but it is fair to say that as Manica became a part of their hearts, they became a part of Manica.

It is difficult to explain the symbolic significance of such an exchange, because there are few quantitative measurements to analyze things like pride, hope, joy and friendship - and it is even harder to measure the long-term effects of these so-called 'soft issues'. Nevertheless,

there are many Manican youths already missing Walec and implementing the skills that they learned from them. Both Will and Alec assisted with Soccer Skills training, Life-Skills training, English Lessons and a myriad of smaller tasks and projects. From painting rooms and building showers to explaining why Arsenal is the greatest team in the world (!) Walec showed great enthusiasm, dedication and humility during their time in Africa. It's been a huge honour and privilege for us to host them and we look forward to expanding our relationship with Will and Alec and also with Arsenal, the club who trained them and made this experience possible.

Dreamfields

John Perlman uses the term 'Dreamfields' to refer to beautiful spaces to play sport. This makes sense since a great sports-field often becomes a monument of hope and a symbolic space shouting, "we are human, we are alive"!

The Municipality of Manica, in recognition of GDM's successes and track record, gave us a piece of land in the centre of town to build our very own soccer and sports fields! This is a dream come true since especially small children often have a hard time occupying a field when there are hundreds of youths all competing for space on one soccer pitch. With this exciting new development we also face a new challenge: making Dreamfields cost money. Water supply, leveling the land, planting grass, fencing, stands and bathrooms are major elements of the new plan that requires R166 000,00 (US\$ 23 600,00) for the first phase. And the pressure is on, since Mozambican law requires that you start to develop the land within 6 months in order to permanently secure the property.

We recognize that 'place' is something physical, emotional and spiritual. Consequently our mission with this land is:



Google image of the new site

To create a physical space that will change the mental landscape in which healthy living, development and learning is promoted. This is not merely an investment in a sports complex, but an investment in children, in a community and in the future. This is the real excitement behind the glamour of football; it is the real heart of 2010.

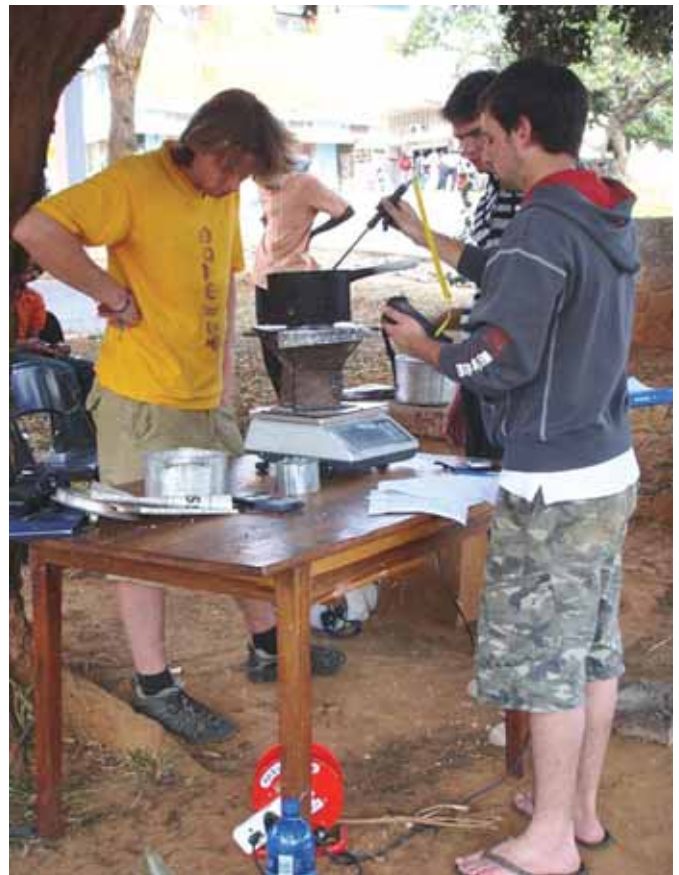
Research Undertaking

Chris Bradnum (UJ HOD Graphic Design) is not a Mozambican; in fact he is two heads taller than most Mozambicans and probably five times stronger. So, Chris walking down the streets in Manica is already a bit of an attraction and soon a crowd of kids were shadowing Chris wherever he walked. Eventually one of them (a kid about eight years old) gathered the courage to shout what they were all thinking: "Hey Undertaker! Undertaker! Undertaker in Manica!" upon which Chris turned around, flexed and roared – sending the group of kids scattering, sprinting for their lives!

Despite fun and significant moments of interaction and friendship building, the research team from UJ's Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA), Department: Industrial Design, went to Manica on a mission and impressed everyone with their hard work, professionalism and dedication. The research projects they initiated include the Manica Charcoal Stove Project and the Desportivo Soccer Boot Project. The Stove project aims to design more efficient charcoal stoves that will need less charcoal (environmental and financial impact) and the soccer boots project aims to come up with a cheap boot that can last long on hard ground soccer pitches.

One of the lecturers, Angus Campbell wrote a small note of thanks: *"I just wanted to write a 'thank you' to you, the staff, the soccer players and all the others that find a home at Grupo Desportivo de Manica. It was an incredible opportunity for our students and ourselves to be able to see what is happening in the GDM project in Manica, Mozambique as well as being able to use the facilities and people involved to be able to really interact with the community on a level necessary for the projects we were undertaking. The club as a base is a wonderful point from which to interact with communities that typically are very wary of researchers in their midst. I think I can speak for everyone from the department when I say that it was a really enjoyable experience and one that allowed for self reflection on our own circumstances and how 'lucky' we all are. The projects will continue while we are away from Manica and we will keep you updated as to their progress."*

While the researchers thank us, it is really us, the GDM team and the town of Manica that want to thank Chris, Angus, Lionel, Victor, Ross, Nulane, Theo, John, Given and Amos for their efforts and inputs – we loved having you there and appreciate your work! Thank you also to Prof Southoff and the University of Johannesburg that made this trip possible.



Charcoal stove testing



Art for Aids

After our HIV/Aids workshops, the childrens' artworks have now been printed and taken back to Manica to be signed. The works look wonderful and are ready to be sold. We have also commenced with the allocation of educational scholarships to 5 youths and financial aid to 60 orphans that are in Primary School. Once again a huge thank you to Hendrikus and JP Bervoets and Sandra Balsdon from Art for Aids International.

Africa Child Charity Drive

A University of Johannesburg (UJ) lecturer and Alumni is currently driving from Cape Town (RSA) to London (UK) with their two BMW motorbikes. We were fortunate that Jaco Human and Morné van Logrenberg also came to visit the Manica Programme as part of their adventure and the town was very excited to interact with these two adventurers.



Jaco, Alec, Morné and Will

Where there's smoke – THERE IS FIRE!

Aleixo Fumo's surname means smoke, and in the previous newsletter we jokingly (or prophetically) claimed that where there is smoke, there is fire. And fire there was! Not the fire hoped for though.

We have always had the commitment to be honest and transparent in our newsletters and to share the ups and downs of the reality which is Manica. And this one hurts a lot: In the previous newsletter you read of our new super coach Aleixo Fumo who came to join our team. Aleixo stayed with the team from January to July but was then asked to leave due to an irreparably bad relationship with our players. Unfortunately, due to the legal implications, we can not go into too much detail publicly, but it will suffice to say that things did not work out with the new coach. As a coach he is truly brilliant and taught us a lot, and Aleixo is also very intelligent and his inputs during the six months he spent in Manica were numerous. Off the field problems, however forced the Directors to make the decision that the coach could not stay. Although we are disappointed, we thank Aleixo for his input and help.

New (agri) Culture



Julie and the boys. Front: Chibebe and Benjamin. Middle: Gibson, Armando, Katorze and Simãozinho. Back: Julie, Machapa, Helder, Hardlife, Jota, Jimmy and Paiva.

The volunteer from the USA, Captain Julie Zavage has been focusing on agriculture and managed to turn our soccer stars into farmers! The players, under leadership (perhaps threats or bribes!) of Julie has entered a rhythm where they work together on our agri-plot after each day's practice. "This is unheard of for Mozambican 'soccer stars'. It shows we are establishing a new and positive culture" said a pensive Xavier Razão, General Secretary of GDM.

"Working together is really fun and we are all learning a lot from each other. I've seen how working together here is teaching all of us discipline, team-work, small business and patience!"

CONTACT INFORMATION

Schalk van Heerden | Tel +27 11 559 4151 | Cell +27 82 815 1224
schalkvh@uj.ac.za | desportivodemanica@gmail.com | www.consumemore.com