



## VOORSITTERSVERSLAG 2014/15

### Oorsig

WP het hierdie jaar seker een van die besigste seisoene in sy geskiedenis beleef, om verskeie redes:

The **Winter Champs** in August 2014 attracted 57 athletes who had to pull out all the stops in order to win a medal:

- Tiaan Visser (Boys u/15, with a total of 2 014 points);
- Bridgid Hamilton Russell-Vernede (Sen Vet Ladies, 2 186 points); and
- Deon Velthuysen (Master Men, 2 354 points)

all broke Western Province Winter Champs records. Well done!

Die res van die seisoen het WP **11 plaaslike byeenkomste** aangebied, wat deur 'n gemiddeld van 105 atlete bygewoon is. Die venues vir hierdie geleenthede val nie net uit die lug nie, en ek wil graag vir Gerhard bedank vir die reëlings in hierdie verband. Dit is beslis nie altyd 'n maklike taak nie.

Thank you to the following institutions for the use of their facilities during the season:

- Planet Fitness Aurora
- Stellenbosch University
- Fairmont High School
- Kenridge Primary School
- Curro Durbanville Private School
- Durbanville High School
- Stellenberg High School
- Milnerton High School

Thank you also to the committee members and parents who acted as officials – without officials there could be no meetings.

By die eerste van ons 11 plaaslike byeenkomste, op 6 September 2014, het ons ook 3 WP-rekords sien spat:

- Tiaan Visser (Seuns o/15, 2 032 punte);
- Deon Velthuysen (Meester Mans, 2 349 punte – 23 minder as die SA-rekord); en
- Marille Bass (Meester Dames, 2 106 punte).

Baie geluk aan hierdie atlete.

Ek glo nie enige ander provinsie in die land kom naby ons wat die getal byeenkomste betref nie. Dankie weer eens aan die WP Bestuur, en aan die atlete en ouers wat dit vir ons moontlik maak.

WP was ook hierdie jaar verantwoordelik vir die reël van die **Kangogrotte Interprovinsiaal** op Oudtshoorn, in samewerking met SWD Tweekamp. Die byeenkoms het vlot verloop en almal met wie ek gepraat het, het dit baie geniet.

Western Province was represented by 117 athletes, with 6 other provinces making up the total of 462 entries for the day. For the first time ever there was also an event for handicapped athletes, with a total of 5 entries of which 2 were from Western Province.

As a team Western Province did extremely well, coming second in the Junior Team Competition, first in the Senior Team Competition and first in the Overall Competition. We scored a total of 123 219 points, beating Boland for the first time in 10 years, after they had won the competition 9 consecutive times.

WP het

- 6 goue;
- 9 silwer; en
- 9 brons medaljes gewen.

Dit het niks goeds vir die ander provinsies voorspel nie, veral nie met SA's wat by ons aangebied sou word nie. WP Tweekamp is baie trots op elke atleet wat deelgeneem het.

Ná die opskudding in Oudtshoorn het die WP Kampioenskappe gevolg, op Woensdag 4 Maart. Met die puik prestasies wat dáár behaal is, het ek geweet hier kom 'n ding.

### SA's 2015

On 4 April Western Province hosted the best ever **SA Champs** in the 40 years of the existence of Biathlon. That is not my opinion, but that of all athletes, parents, provincial committees and SA committee members who were present.

It took months of hard work and organising thousands of small details. Gerhard Louwrens, as chairperson of the Organising Committee, deserves all the credit. Western Province and SA Biathlon thank you for your input and hundreds of hours dedicated to organising the Champs.

Since the Friday morning, with the registration of provinces and the team managers' meeting, throughout the afternoon's opening ceremony with entertainment by the Cape Coons and selfies with Ryk Neethling, we knew it was going to be a BEEEG SA's. On the Saturday the running events, food stalls and "kuier-area" as well as the swimming events went smoothly, making it a pleasant experience for everybody present – well organised, well presented and completed in a record time. Saterdag se gala-funksie, prysuitdeling, mooiste medaljes en lekkerste kos ooit was 'n groot en trotse geleentheid vir WP.

574 atlete uit 15 provinsies het deelgeneem, en WP is deur 105 atlete verteenwoordig. Sewe gestremde atlete, waarvan 3 uit die WP, het vir die eerste keer in die geskiedenis die geleentheid gekry om aan die SA Tweekampkampioenskappe deel te neem. Dit was 'n besondere voorreg om hulle daar te hê.

WP het die grootste oorwinning van enige provinsie in die geskiedenis van Tweekamp behaal. Ons wen:

- Die Presidentsmedaljetrofee vir die provinsie met die meeste medaljes (3 goud, 6 silwer en 6 brons);
- Die Nasionale Skild vir die Junior Spankompetsie, met die derde hoogste totaal nog, naamlik 67 408 punte;
- Die Stan Walter-trofee vir die Senior Spankompetsie, met 63 633 punte, die hoogste totaal in die geskiedenis, en 24 045 punte meer as die naaswenners;

- Die Les Cox-trofee as algehele wenner van die kompetisie, met 131 041 punte – ’n nuwe SA-rekord en 25 000 punte meer as die naaswenner.

This is a fantastic result, and we are very, very proud of each of our team members. To each athlete, parent and committee member who played a role in this achievement, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Congratulations to our medal winners:

Gold:	Boys u/15	Oliver Stewart	2 381
	Girls u/17	Gianna Marais	2 331
	Sen Men	Paul Roux	2 313
Silver:	Girls u/13	Lindi Cillie	2 324
	Girls u/17	Zahra Ayyoub	2 326
	Sen Ladies	Vicky van der Merwe	2 275
	Jun Vet Men	Jeandré Swanepoel	2 228
	Jun Vet Ladies	Ulrica Stander	2 473
	Master Ladies	Marille Bass	2 036
	Master Men	Neil Steenkamp	2 215
Bronze:	Boys u/11	Cullan Larkin	2 176
	Girls u/17	Shanae Williams	2 325
	Jun Vet Men	Neil Steenkamp	2 215
	Sen Vet Men	Derek Oehley	2 305
	Sen Vet Ladies	Bridged Hamilton Russell-Vernede	2 291
	Master Men	Joubert Swanepoel	2 343
	Master Ladies	Marille Bass	2 036

Aan ons hoofborg, Genessi, en alle ander borge sê ons baie, baie dankie. Sonder julle sou dit onmoontlik wees om ’n SA Tweekampkampioenskap aan te bied.

### Development

Western Province is one of very few Biathlon provinces that are showing a growth in numbers. We try to accommodate as many athletes as possible by organising more meetings per season than any other province in the country. Please invite your friends and families along to make it even better in the new season.

### The Season Ahead: 2015/16

This should be a more normal, quieter season than 2014/15, and with less pressure the perfect opportunity to perform at your very best. We will be selecting a team to attend the Congo Caves Interprovincial in Oudtshoorn in February 2016, where we will defend our title, and possibly also the Port Elizabeth Interprovincial in October this year. SA’s will take place in Bloemfontein on 25 and 26 March 2016. With Western Province’s excellent performance of the past season still fresh in our memories, this could be the best opportunity for us to secure a win inland. Good luck to all our athletes for the new season.

### Toekennings

Aan alle atlete wat gedurende die seisoen toekennings ontvang het, sê ek graag hartlik geluk. Aan dié wat dit nie gemaak het nie – moenie mismoedig raak nie. WP se standaard is hoog en daar is net drie wat bo kan eindig in ’n kompetisie. Keep on trying – do it for yourself and for the sport. To repeat what I said at the SA’s: We can’t all be first, but we can all be winners. So keep on giving it your best shot.

## Bestuur

Soos julle seker kan raai, het die WP-bestuur die afgelope seisoen talle amptelike vergaderings gehou, en nog baie meer nie-amptelikes, om ons eie huishoudelike byeenkomste, die Oudtshoorn-byeenkoms en die SA's gereël te kry.

'n Baie spesiale dankie aan elkeen van hulle vir hul ure se harde werk en beplanning. It was great to be part of the team, and the results are there for everyone to see.

At the recent AGM of the SA Executive Committee Gerhard Louwrens, our vice-chairman, was elected to serve on the SA Committee, and I have no doubt that he will make his mark there as well, as he has done in the Western Province.

A few members who have served on the Western Province committee for a number of years have decided to call it a day, giving new blood the opportunity to take the lead. I thank them for their years of input, time and money spent on the sport that we all love so much. They are:

- **David Shand**, who has been the man in charge of our clothing and medals for the past 2 years;
- **Huibrecht Steyn**, teacher at Jan van Riebeeck High School and Western Province Biathlon secretary for the past 5 years, who has her eye on becoming a biathlete herself in the new season;
- **Willem van Graan**, our treasurer for the past 8 years, who first joined the team in 2006 and has served on the committee for a total of 9 years, of which one was as vice-chairman;
- **Louise Vorster**, who first joined the committee in 1996 and has been sending out notices and newsletters and answering hundreds of queries for the past 19 years.

This is my 8<sup>th</sup> and last speech as Chairperson of the Western Province Biathlon Association after joining the committee in 1994 and becoming vice-chairman in 1996 and chairman in 2007. It has been a great pleasure to serve this truly magnificent sport. However, there is a time to come and a time to go, and the time has arrived for me to leave. Thank you all for great times that I will cherish in my heart forever, and for all the support that I have received over the years – that is what kept me going. I wish the new committee everything of the best, having no doubt that whoever will be taking over, will serve the sport to the very best of their ability and will continue to make it even greater. I won't be leaving the country, and am sure we'll still see a lot of each other. So, I bid you "Goodbye" and hopefully not "Farewell".

Thank you.

MARIUS VORSTER

14 May 2015