

**WESTERN PROVINCE CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT –
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DURBANVILLE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - 12 MAY 2018**

WP Biathlon Executive Committee, athletes and other guests

Allow me to present my third Annual Report of the Western Province Biathlon Association:

The 4th SA Biathlon team competition title in a row – never achieved before by any province in the 43 years of SA Biathlon and the 5th title in six years. The first time that any Provincial team have beaten Northern Transvaal/Gauteng North in Pretoria since 1976 or in the time that the SA Biathlon Championship were presented in Pretoria. That was a team effort by all athletes, parents, committee and the result of years of planning – now for the ultimate goal of 5th in a row.

Western Province showed their dominance of Biathlon in South Africa by the following achievements :

- Winning the Highgate Interprovincial Championships in Oudtshoorn
- Winners of the Sportsmans Warehouse South African Championships in Pretoria
- Western Province athletes broke 5 x SA records during the season.
- A growth in athlete numbers of +-11%

The committee of Western Province Biathlon set long and short term goals in the past years. Long term goals included :

- to be the leading Biathlon province in South Africa from 2015 onwards by winning the SA Champs 5 years in a row. We are now on a straight four in row. Included in these are 2 titles inland – the first time ever.
- To be the leading Biathlon province by building the sport with new ideas and developments
- To have full teams to the SA Championships – 2018 Western Province was one athlete short of the 66 necessary for the team competition
- Specific focus on 2018 & 2019 – Win SA's in 2018 – the first province to beat Gauteng North in Pretoria since the beginning in 1976.
- Win the first ever schools competition by the SA Championships – Both Durbanville High and De Hoop Primary achieved 2nd places at SA's
- More parent involvement at meetings – Western Province supply more than 50% officials at the last two SA Championships.

This is an excellent achievement by this competitive and leading Biathlon Province in South Africa. Congratulations to all athletes, team captains, team managers, parents, committee members, sponsors and everyone contributing to the success.

But back to the report - this report will focus on :

- Highgate Interprovincial
- National Championships
- Achievements of athletes
- Growth in athletes numbers
- Changes & challenges
- Word of thanks

Highgate Interprovincial – Oudtshoorn: 2 February 2018

A team of 153 athletes represented Western Province at the Highgate Interprovincial in Oudtshoorn. This meeting gives all athletes a chance to compete at a higher level than the normal league meetings because the best athletes are not always available due to other sport early in February. Western Province won 24 medals out of a possible 72 medals with 13 gold (8 in 2017), 5 silver, 6 bronze medals as well as 7 fourth placed athletes. Overall Western Province won the Highgate Interprovincial for only the 4th time since 1991 when the trophy was sponsored by Western Province. Western Province also won the junior and senior team competitions. This was once again a well organised event with the prize giving and braai on the HIGHGATE farm the highlight.

SA Championships – Pretoria: 31 March 2018

WP was represented by a team of 114 athletes and 6 only school athletes at the 43rd SA Biathlon Championships in Pretoria. This was the biggest team ever to participate not only by Western Province but by any province to the SA Championships and that in Pretoria. The following were achieved by Western Province athletes :

GOLD	Girls u.11	Isabella Carneiro	2 425
	Girls u.19	Kelly Vroon	2 406
SILVER	Girls u.15	Aimee Scott	2 408
	Senior open ladies	Marna Louwrens	2 388
	Junior open ladies	Esrie Loock Bezuidenhout	2 336
	Boys u.17	Retief Ochse	2 315
	Senior veteran men	Derek Oehley	2 320
BRONZE	Boys u.13	Leonardo van der Werf	2 349
	Boys u.19	Adrian Taylor	2 319
	Senior open men	Phillip Fouche	2 287
4th place	Girls u.11	Charne Fourie	2 373
	Girls u.15	Mandy Vroon	2 345
	Senior veteran ladies	Jenny O'Hanlon	2 284
	Master ladies	Sue Trott	2 252
	Boys u.9	Nathan van den Berg	2 392
	Boys u.13	Nicholas Marais	2 287
	Junior veteran men	Jeandre Swanepoel	2 232

Western Province won only 10 medals out of a possible 66 medals at the SA Championship but achieved 8 fourth places. This shows the depth of WP Biathlon with 31 boys/men and 30 girls/ladies achieved top 10 places. The following trophies were also won :

- National Shield for the Junior Team competition
- Les Cox Trophy for the Overall winner

During the season five WP records were broken namely girls u.11 and boys u.11. The following SA Records were also achieved by our athletes :

- Boys u.11 Dirkie van Heerden
- Girls u.11 Isabella Carneiro

Growth in numbers:

The Western Province geographical area for biathlon is the Cape Peninsula excluding Paarl and Wellington and including Stellenbosch and Strand/Somerset West. League meetings were held at Stellenberg High, Milnerton High, Fairmont High, Parow track, Bernadino Heights, Strand High and De Hoop Primary. Very positive was the inclusion of more athletes from all areas in the

Western Province teams to the Interprovincial and National Championships. Also is that more families are doing the sport :

- Schmidt family x 3
- Slabbert family x 4
- Weltz family x 3
- Kemp family x 5
- Volschenk family x 4
- Bezuidenhout family x 3
- Elliot family x 4
- Boucher family x 3

We also introduce parents races this season with medals for all participants and at the end 5 of these parents were in the Western Province team to the SA Champs. Participants were from 105 to 170 (WP Championships - 153) – this is an average of 144 athletes per league meeting. Our Winter Championships on 30 August 2017 was attended by 78 athletes.

	'30 Aug 17	'16 Sep 17	'28 Oct 17	'11 Nov 17	'13 Jan 18
	Winter	League 1	League 2	League 3	League 4
Boys / Men	38	61	105	83	87
Girls / Ladies	38	43	61	53	72
Disabled	2	1	1	2	1
Total	78	105	167	138	160
	'20 Jan 18	'2 Feb 18	'17 Feb 18	'28 Feb 18	'31 Mar 18
	League 5	Interprovincial	League 6	WP Champs	SA Champs
Boys / Men	97	91	72	91	56
Girls / Ladies	71	59	51	59	55
Disabled	2	3	2	3	3
Total	170	153	125	153	114

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	B/M	G/L	B/M	G/L	B/M	G/L	B/M	G/L	B/M	G/L
u.8	21	9	17	15	16	11	21	18	20	37
u.9	12	10	15	6	11	9	25	15	20	12
u.11	28	35	39	32	54	32	64	53	53	32
u.13	58	34	32	39	33	28	70	31	48	31
u.15	34	38	33	27	28	22	30	31	19	17
u.17	22	15	48	23	18	16	21	16	17	15
u.19	13	7	10	7	11	7	11	8	6	6
Open	9	7	11	9	7	3	7	6	7	4
Junior vet	7	8	15	6	7	6	11	9	8	8
Vet	21	8	18	14	7	7	14	10	17	8
Senior vet	10	1	7	3	4	2	6	5	4	5
Masters	1	3	6	3	4	1	6	2	3	4
Disabled			1	1	3	1	2	3	2	1
Total	236	175	252	185	203	145	288	207	224	180
	411		437		348		495		404	

So, what now. What is the way forward?

Change of running distances for boys u.15 / u.17 / u.19 and Senior Open men

The running distance for boys u.15 boys change from 1 500m to 1 600m and boys u.17, boys u.19 and senior open men change from 2 000m to 1 600m.

Change the bonus points for Master athletes

60 to 64	20 points per year
65 to 69	100 bonus + 30 points per year
70 tot 74	250 bonus + 41 points per year
75+	455 bonus + 52 points per year

Special needs athletes part of team competition

From the 2019 season two special needs athletes points will be added to the team competition if they participate – 2 000 points per athlete to a maximum of 4 000 points.

SA Biathlon Championships 2020 & 2021

2020 SA Championships awarded to Oudtshoorn and there is a possibility that the Championships will alter between Oudtshoorn and Bloemfontein/Kimberley for the years to come.

Branding and Marketing - SA Biathlon umbrella brand

It was decided at the SA Biathlon AGM to create a unique name and image for Biathlon as a sport establishing a significant and differentiated presence in the market that attracts athletes and retains loyal participants and supporters. In the long-term Biathlon must be marketed to the target market we want to capitalize on. We are not a professional sports body with huge financial resources and sponsors with little exposure and dependent on the generosity of volunteers who give up their free time, for free. Biathlon must become a recognizable brand

Numbers – growth and schools competition

The schools competition, introduced and launched by Western Province is going from strength to strength. Last year the top schools were invited to the Highgate Interprovincial Championships in Oudtshoorn and this year was the first ever schools competition at the SA Biathlon Championships in Pretoria. Durbanville High and De Hoop Primary are the Western Province League winners while Durbanville High, Stellenberg High, Jan van Riebeeck High, De Hoop Primary, Durbanville Primary and Preparatory and Jan van Riebeeck Primary represented Western Province at the Highgate Interprovincial where Stellenberg High achieved a 2nd position and De Hoop Primary won the Hi Sense trophy for primary schools. Durbanville High, Stellenberg High and De Hoop Primary qualified to go to the SA Biathlon Championships in Pretoria where Durbanville High and De Hoop Primary finished 2nd in the respective high and primary schools competitions. This was just the beginning of something big with 7 high schools and 9 primary were part of the first SA schools competition. The last few years the success of involving schools have already been confirmed – just look at the numbers and quality of our provinces who actively embraced this innovation. It was evident with the Highgate Interprovincial (513 athletes) and the SA Championships (837 athletes). We MUST now endorse this as an official requirement for provinces to participate and function as a province. This concept also goes hand in hand with league meetings in the provinces – with a success model of some of the active provinces to go to different venues and even towns.

Recognition

SA Biathlon also decided to acknowledge those athletes who participated in 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 SA Championships. Three WP athletes received certificates for this at the SA Championships:

Marna Louwrens	10 years	12 in a row
Paul Roux	10 years	13
Tricia Rix	20 years	22

Interaction with SAMPA - International competition

The first meeting with SAMPA, Pieter Oosthuizen, will be held on the 16th of May to determine the possible co-operation in future and participating internationally. SA Biathlon is looking at international participation as early as 2020

Word of thanks

One of our master athletes, Jan Ferreira, tragically lost his wife end of January because of cancer. Our condolences to Jan and the Ferreira family. Despite his big loss Jan participated at his second SA Championships in Pretoria with the minimum time to train.

Thank you to

Competent and hardworking committee of WP Biathlon:

- Johan Ferreira, Ernst van Schalkwyk, Esrie Loock-Bezuidenhout, Jan Slabbert, Herman Ochse, Christopher van Niekerk, Roger Bezuidenhout and Marco Prinsloo

Team Managers

- Christopher & Daphne van Niekerk

Officials

- All parents who officiated during league meetings, Highgate Interprovincial and the SA Champs

Apex Charters

- Madeleen Swanepoel and her team for the transport of our athletes

Strymar Strydom & Herman Ochse

- Transport of trophies to SA Championships

We want to thank The Almighty for giving us the strength, health and the time to participate in a sport we love – by participating, as an official or just as a supporter

Gerhard Louwrens

Chairman: Western Province Biathlon