

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

Newsletter, 10 September 2012, issue 8

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

It is busiest time of the year for Nemato Change a Life and its members: competition time for our sports clubs! At the same time the homework class and all sorts of other activities are also in full swing. With each member playing a role in running the organisation, we are just managing to keep all of our activities going. Problems with our electricity supply makes running the office a challenge and delayed this newsletter. Apologies!

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Homework class

In our daily homework class we focus mainly on mathematics, the most challenging subject at township schools. We are making good progress, with the marks of maths being better than the average of the other subjects now. That doesn't mean that everything is going well. Ability to concentrate for long periods is poorly developed. This slows down our progress, and means that the maths levels of most of our members is still below what it need to be qualify for technical studies at FET colleges, for example.



Playing the piano is one of the favourite activities at Nemato.

Violence prevention

The bad old days of apartheid are far behind us, but in many ways the impact of the evil system on our communities is still very difficult to get rid of. Violence is one example. The shocking news of the violent mine workers and police murdering each other is an extreme and very tragic sign of how deeply violence is rooted in the minds of our people. We experience it in our organisation where members have great difficulty avoiding violence when trying to solve problems. In adults the challenge is even bigger. How do we make adults understand that if you beat a child for beating another child, you teach the child to use beating as a 'solution'? We have a policy of strict non-violence and use the powerful phrase "violence is the problem, not the solution" as a tool to address the issue.

Electricity

We are struggling to run our office and do tasks like bookkeeping and the newsletter on time, due to electricity supply problems. We use electricity from the neighbours, because Eskom, two years after applying, still hasn't connected us to the grid. Often we can't buy electricity for the neighbours, due to a fault in the registration of their electricity box. When we have electricity, the power fluctuates between 120 and 240 Volt, forcing us to invest in expensive power supplies for our computers to deal with these fluctuations. Instead of fixing the problems, Eskom instructed our neighbours to disconnect us from their box. It is a shame that Eskom makes it's own incompetence our problem.

Accommodation PE

After the armed robbery last month at our students' home in PE, we helped our students to find safer accommodation. They moved from the township to town. The place is much better, but also more expensive. Hopefully the students will receive their NSFAS bursary soon to cover the costs.

Slogan

We have simplified the slogan of Nemato Change a Life by taking out details and going to the heart of our organisation and its uniqueness. Our new slogan is: "success in life – for youth, by youth". Thanks to Sandra Millar from the NPO Development Course in Johannesburg and the participants for giving us ideas!

NEMATO ROWING CLUB

Nemato Sculls Head

The competition season has started for the rowers – and there is a lot of action. It is the time of the season for the long distance races. The first competition was Nemato Sculls Head, proudly our own competition. Although we keep it informal, it's a tough race over the same course and distance as Boat Race. Only the younger age groups row a reduced distance. Three clubs participated: Grey High School and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) from Port Elizabeth and of course Nemato. To reward the hard work of the participants, we had gold, silver and bronze medals available for the first three places in each age group. NMMU won one race, and Grey and Nemato each three races. The Nemato winners are:

- Under 14 Boys: Xolisani Hina
- Under 19 Girls: Wendi Hoyi
- Under 23 Women: Destiny Nelson

60 minutes ergo

The next event was the 60 minutes ergo trial, an event for our own members only. For under 14 rowers the time is 20 minutes and for under 15 it is 30 min. It is the longest of the trials we do over the year. Most of our guys are new and it's their first time doing it. Most of the older guys improved their personal best. Club records were pulled by Xolisani Hina (U14, 20 min: 4 754 m) and Lindokuhle Nikelo (U15, 30 min: 7 112 m).

Buffalo Heads Regatta

We went to East London for the second competition of the year: the Buffalo Heads Regatta. It has long distance heads races like our Nemato Sculls Head, not only in single sculls, but also in team boats. It was a nice competition with many Eastern Cape schools and clubs participating. We came up with some great results, including eight first places!

And our winners are:

- Under 14 Boys A quad: Xolisani Hina, Lifa Nxopho, Mondli Njibane, Thambani James and Aphelele Makeleni
- Under 15 Boys A single scull: Lindokuhle Nikelo
- Under 15 Boys C single scull: Xolisani Hina
- Under 15 Boys E quad: Lindokuhle Nikelo, Buhle Ngcelwane, Akhona Quma, Qhamani Isaac and Siphelo Sneli
- Under 19 Girls C scull: Wendi Hoyi
- Opens Women's Single Sculls: Destiny Nelson
- Opens Men's Single scull: Lunga Vulindlu
- Opens Men's Double scull: Simlindile Veto and Bulelani Zono



The Under 14 Nemato Boys getting ready for their gold medal race at the Buffalo Heads Regatta.

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Second Eastern Cape Trials

The second Eastern Cape Trials were split over two weekends. The first weekend was at Mandy's in Port Elizabeth, where a full tumbling track is available. The high levels tumbling took place here, routines that include flic flacs and other scary stuff. We had 7 gymnasts participating in this event. They did very

well, but the most exciting part was after the competition when they went wild on the tumbling track. Lots of amazing jumps that got all the audience excited.

The second weekend was in Uitenhage in the indoor sports centre, a great venue for the competition, that included artistic



Nemato on top in Eastern Cape Trials

gymnastics (bars, balance beam, pommel horse, etc) that we don't offer, and our disciplines of trampolining and (lower level) tumbling. We had great results again.

There were gold medals for our beginners level gymnasts:

- Mini-trampoline: Akhona Ngesi, Yonela Baku, Siphosethu Nazo, Lukhunyo Qhobosha, Nolubabalo Boosyen.
- Blacktop trampoline: Akhona Ngesi, Siphosethu Nazo, Wandisa Baku, Lukhunyo Qhobosha, Nolubabalo Boosyen.



Strong Nemato tumbling at Eastern Cape Trials.

- Elementary tumbling: Siphosethu Nazo, Yonela Baku.

Our experienced gold medallists:

- Double mini-trampoline: Ayamangalisa Nqomfo, Thando Ngoqo, Phelo Dasa, Siphokuhle Nyoka.
- Euro trampoline: Ayamangalisa Nqomfo, Thando Ngoqo, Sinoyolo Qholoma, Lihle Nxopho, Siphamandla Baku.
- Levels tumbling: Lihle Nxopho, Simthembile Bari, Siphokuhle Nyoka, Liyema Nxopho, Siphamandla Baku.

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Members

Our handball club is struggling with too few members. As a team sport it is our only sport that needs a minimum number of members to be able to compete. Without matches, training gets a bit pointless and we lose members at the same pace as

we get new members, always leaving the club one or two short to be able to compete. The challenge is to break of this deadlock.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Boland competition

Most of our fencers are too young to compete in the Boland competition in Franschhoek near Cape Town, so we didn't go there to participate, but the South African Amateur Fencing Association (SAFA) invited our coaches, Chuma Neyndwana and Thulani Magongo, to experience the event, to get a better understanding about high level fencing and how competitions are run. Chuma was thrown in the deep end when he was made to umpire fights, but he knows how to swim and did well.

Training with Ingubo Fencing Club

The other fencing club in Port Alfred, Ingubo Fencing Club (a Stenden project), doesn't have fencing equipment and fencing knowledge. Our club has a space problem. Our small yard with its uneven surface has to be shared with our gymnasts. To solve both challenges, we started training together three times per week, with our coaches and equipment, and with Stenden transporting us to Ingubo. It is great that Ingubo Fencing Club is up and running now!

CONTACT DETAILS

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