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CHAIRMANS REPORT 2018

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairperson of Dolphin Coast Striders (DCS) during 2018. It was a tough year for me and I relied heavily on the executive committee. I would like thank each of them, for their dedication to the club and the support they gave me (even whilst going through their own tough times).

The 2018 Executive committee consisted of:

Shannon Clark (Vise Chair and Captain)

Marilize Redelinghuys (Treasurer and assistant Secretary)

Carla van Biljon (Secretary)

Warwick Taylor

Belinda Skinner

Muze Cele

A special thank you to John Clark for taking on the role to assist and co-ordinate the running of the clubhouse. This is a big task and I know there were a number of members that assisted with various duties throughout the year – a huge thank you.

Joe White – thank you for caretaking the role of Treasurer in the beginning months of the year whilst Marilize was exploring various parts of the world.

A club as amazing as Dolphin Coast Striders does not get to where we are without the support of its members and friends (partners, children and extended family).

During the year there were many people that assisted in making this club great. From race directors; marshals; assistants at race starts & finishes; lead car drivers; car park assistants; water table helpers; seconders to runners on long runs; people that assisted with

communications and social media; event coordinators and last but certainly not least – all the support people to these supporters. A HUGE thank you.

It has warmed my heart on many occasions during 2018 to hear people talk about our club and how awesome it is. What an incredible vibe we have. There is only one reason we have this reputation – our members and the special community to choose to create. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

Highlights during 2018

As like every other year 2018 was jam-packed! Here are just a couple of the highlights.

- The **Deloitte Marathon** was run in March, which meant that it was a Comrades qualifier. This only increased the success of the race. The lottery system was used again in 2018 to afford our members the opportunity to run the *greatest marathon* in KZN.
- The **Big Hill Run** was managed under the directorship of Arthur Betram with the guidance of Barry Holland. A big thanks to Tim Johnson and **Seeff** for their continued sponsorship of the race. This year some saw some changes to the running of the race, the main one being the timing of the run which was moved to the afternoon. This brought a special vibe with a more social aspect to the race. I believe this was relatively successful, especially due to the race taking part at the start of the holiday season and has given us a great platform to build on. A special thanks goes out to Lifestyle Shopping Centre for their continued support in our registration activities.
- **Charity Hat Walk** sponsored by **Balwin Properties**. This was the first running of the event and was a huge success. That you to Balwin Properties for the support of the club and the local charities.
- **Jump Start 2018** – sponsored via **Sarah Elizabeth**. A massive thank you to Sarah Swainson for once again driving this initiative. It always astounds me how successful this program is and 2018 was no different. With over 60 people signing up on the first day and some participants driving from Durban to take part. This encapsulates what the club stands for.
- The refurbishment of the **Club House** roof was long overdue and has made the world of difference. Thanks to Joe White for managing this process from start to finish. I am sure everyone will agree that it has made a significant difference. On the backdrop of the roof refurb the members took it upon themselves to rejuvenate the club with a lick of paint, some serious repairs and maintenance, scrubbing and some nifty handy work.
- The **Annual Awards Evening** was once again coordinated by a few of the members and was a great success. This year saw the addition of some new awards and initiatives for 2019. It is with great enthusiasm I look forward to seeing who the Club Champions will be in 2019. This will be based on 3 races over 3 different event distances during the year.
- Growth in **membership** – membership has continued to grow year on year. The club has seen a steady increase in membership over the last few years. Some of this growth can be attributed to the renewed running “rage”. This can be seen in the number of races that get sold out within hours of opening – Comrades 2019 is an excellent example of

this. However I believe that Dolphin Coast Striders has grown exponentially due to its members and their love of the club. The “magic” that exists that makes runners want to belong.

- **DCS official trailer** – thank you to Barry Holland for sponsoring his trailer to DCS. I am sure many of you have seen the beautifully branded trailer which is already been used at our races to cart the much needed catering requirement and refreshments.

To Action

2018 saw a shift in the relationship between Salt Rock Country Club and DCS. This initiated a complete move back to the Ballito Club house which has been what I believe is a stepping stone in the right direction to ensure that we once again have a united club with the common goal of promoting, fostering and administering the sport of athletics and road running in Ballito.

With the move back to the Ballito Club House it is very apparent that we are growing too big for the current structure. We set up a sub-committee headed up by Barry Holland to come up with some ideas on the way forward.

Some of these ideas were presented to the executive committee in 2018, however we felt that some more investigations needed to be done and then the proposals should be presented at a Special General Meeting to discuss and decide on the way forward.

Treasurer’s Report

Financially the club is still very sound. As request by Harry Botha, in accordance with our Constitution, the 2017 and 2018 financials have been audited and an accounting firm has been appointed to continue with this role and offer assistance and guidance going forward. The introduction of standard accounting principles can we seen in some of the variances in year on year income, as we now report on race income and expenses separately, rather than just reporting on the proceeds.

Membership fees grew by 26% with the bulk of the growth coming from licensed members, with a 11% reduction in non-licensed members. At the end of 2018, 85% of our total members were licensed members.

At our member’s request during the 2018 AGM, we gave back more to members in 2018 and increased our expenditure in events and social races by 87% as well as a 392% growth in marketing expenses to sponsor our comrades tops and introduce our Time Trial Tees.

In addition to this, a substantial amount of financial investment went into the Clubhouse this year, relative to previous years, with increased repairs and maintenance and the introduction of depreciation for the new Club Roof. It was a great disappointment when our donation from Wayne Cody was retracted and the Club had to fit the bill for the full roof cost.

All financial information is now being processed on a financial software package which is relatively user friendly, free to use and this will ensure continuity going forward. We also invested in a more interactive and member-friendly website and online shop for members to maintain their contact details and purchase club gear. This marks the start of a digital era for the club.

In 2018 the sponsored runner programme continued successfully under the guidance on Muzi. A decision was made to increase the sponsorship per runner to R4,500. This will assist in ensuring these runners have access to transportation; shoes; race entries awards events and the coveted Mandela Marathon.

Sponsors

A special thanks to all our sponsors in 2018:

- Deloitte South Africa
- Seeff (Tim Johnson)
- Balwin Properties
- Durban Runner (Justin Hand)
- Sarah Elizabeth (Sarah Swainson)
- Dave Flood
- Poobie Naidoo
- KZN Plumbing (Barry Chapman)
- Jack Salmon

Lastly, thank you too all the members – without you Dolphin Coast Striders would not be what it is today. I encourage all of you to be part of this wonderful club and to give back to this community in any way you can. A club is only as good as its members.

I will be stepping down from the Chairperson position this year and the Executive committee but the club will always be a very big part of who I am.

Once again thank you to my committee and extended support group for the support and assistance during 2018. I look forward to seeing you all on the road.

Regards

Nikola Ramsden

Dolphin Coast Striders Chairperson 2018