

BAREFOOT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRANDENBURG GERMANY **MANAGERS REPORT**

The 2nd August had finally arrived and there was a lot of excitement amongst the South African skiers. For the first time in quite some time most of the team were flying out together and we were all meeting at the airport at 4:00pm to be interviewed by SABC. The skiers all looked good in their SA shirts and made us proud when interviewed. The following evening SABC aired the interviews and footage of some of our skiers on the news – the sms's started flying in "We saw you on TV – You guys were great – Good Luck in Germany".

The aeroplanes got us there safely but My Gosh, don't ever fly Iberia that's all I am going to say. On our arrival in Berlin we all went to get our cars so that we could drive to Brandenburg, luckily Jonathan had brought his GPS and found our accommodation without any hassles. On arrival we met up with Jane, Pascal, Laurent and Heinrich you had been there for a couple of days already. The accommodation was warm and dry and for the first couple of days we all had a great time but eventually having 10 people in one room with such diverse personalities took its toll and we started seeing some irritability and some unhappy campers – Myself included and I felt the last couple of days were difficult.

Unfortunately the tournament started off badly for Shianne Addinall who broke her ankle three weeks before leaving for Germany. Shianne was determined that she wanted to ski and so the evening of the 3rd she got the boys to cut her cast off for her. Wian, Garth and Zane took turns to cut the cast off with a rather blunt bread knife but eventually they got it off. Her ankle was very swollen and blue still but we strapped the ankle and much to the organiser's disgust Shianne attempted to ski. She could not put pressure on the ankle and obviously battled, the safety officer refused to let her jump. Shianne is still undergoing physiotherapy and is planning to start training mid-October again. We wish her all the best, thanks guys for all the support you gave her.

Everyone was excited to go down to the site and see what it looks like and to meet up with friends they haven't seen for a couple of months or even year or two. The site was beautiful with a lot of spectator seats available and a HUGE screen in the middle of the water. Throughout the competition there were a variety of events taking place to keep the spectators and skiers entertained and I think everybody had a wonderful time. Congratulations to all the organisers for a wonderful tournament.

Now down to the actual skiing. The official practise was in difficult conditions with boats all over the place and the wind blowing but the boys all seemed to find their rhythm and by the end of it all seemed rather confident. They were all fired up and ready to go.

In both the Junior and Open Division we had some fantastic scores with PB's and a World Record being scored. Unfortunately we also had some disappointing scores where we know our skiers could have done much better.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Pascal Bauwens had a good consistent tournament and came in 6th overall. He also came 3rd in slalom making South Africa proud on the podium. He went through to the second round in tricks and jump. Unfortunately in jump Pascal and Wian just missed going through to the finals and ended 6th in that event.

Wian Jacobs in his first world championships ended 13th overall. His tricks and slalom looked good but unfortunately didn't go to the second round. In the jump event he went through to the second round and jumped a PB of 14.1 meters. Just missing going to the finals.

Laurent Bauwens also competed in his first worlds and came 16th overall. He also had a consistent tournament and scored a PB in jump with a 10.4 meter jump. He unfortunately did not go through to any of the second rounds.

The junior team was placed seventh overall.

Congratulations guys we are extremely proud of you and are looking forward to the new season and some serious dedicated skiing.

OPEN DIVISION

The Open Team came third overall this year with all five men keeping our nerves going all week. Well Done on your achievement we are proud of you all.

Heinrich Sam came third overall, he came fifth in slalom and in tricks and third in jump. Heinrich also had a fabulous second round jump beating the World record with a 27.8 meter jump. Unfortunately Heinrich now lives in Australia and his dedication and enthusiasm for skiing will be sorely missed in South Africa.

Andre De Villiers placed fourth overall, he had a consistent tournament and placed fifth in jump and fourth in tricks.

Zane De Villiers placed fifth overall. He went through to the second round in all three events but unfortunately didn't make it to the finals. In his first round of jump he scored a PB with a 24.7 meter jump.

Garth Strydom came seventeenth overall and went through to the second round in tricks. Garth was injured most of this season but despite this he had a good tournament.

Manie Pickard competed in his first world championships and placed twenty third overall. He did not go through to the second round in any of his events but skied well and made us proud.

WELL DONE TO EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE.

In closing I would like to say Thank You to Jonathan Strydom for all his help as the Coach of the teams, to all our supporters that went with us and to those who stayed at home we missed you but thanks for all the messages.

I do however believe that all involved in SA Bare footing need to take a good look at our sport and ourselves. I feel that we have lost the pride and commitment we used to have. We need to look at working together and not against each other all the time. We can be a winning family again.

Yours in sport
Tanya Addinall
Manager