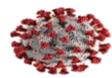




NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Covid-19 Corner



The Covid-19 infection has had some of us in its grip and many have been fortunate to survive it, some with little to no symptoms and others with more severe symptoms resulting in many deaths. In 2020 the names of those who had died were not so familiar to some of us but in 2021 Covid-19 upped its game and the names became familiar very fast. Motorsport has lost many people to the pandemic from a retired member of the federation to competitors, spouse, friends, and followers, many of them in the prime of their lives.

The deaths of Jan De Jager, past President and Secretary General of the NMSF, Dries Booysen, 2 times Namibian Rally Navigator Champion and the legendary Lukas Hipondoka who broke down barriers as a racing and part time rally driver in Namibia has left us stunned. We take a minute to remember them including everyone else who has succumbed to this dreaded disease.

We take a minute to remember those we know and those we don't know, and we keep their families and friends in our hearts and prayers during these extremely difficult times.

“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes part of us.” - Helen Keller

Out with the old

Despite the pandemic and many things coming to a standstill, life carries on and evolves and one cannot stand still for too long. In 2020 the Namibia Sports Commission drafted a new legal framework for the constitutions of Namibian federations and one of the requirements was for federations to incorporate the colours of the Namibian flag in their flags and clothing etc.

With this in mind, the NMSF executive committee decided to give the federations logo a new fresh look incorporating the colours of the flag.



Old NMSF logos



New NMSF Logo





NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

J&P Hydraulics Family Legacy Project

Parent always long to do things with their children or for them to follow in their footsteps but in today's world with all the attractions out there, this doesn't happen much. It is more satisfying for a parent when one's children follow in their footsteps or even emulate them.

It has been a long-time dream of Allan Martin, the legendary and well-known Namibian Champion rally driver, Oval, Drag and Circuit racers dream for his son Zachary to follow in his footsteps and this he did to the extent that the father and son have tackled numerous race car builds together.

Parent One of Allan's long-time dreams was to do a father son project which entailed building a racing car for someone to potentially follow in his father's footsteps and by doing so they would be contributing to the development of motorsport in Namibia.

With all the negativity that came along with the Covid Pandemic, Allan and Zachary thought that this project could be one of positivity and hope. Not only was it about doing something positive but it was also about a legacy of fathers and sons sharing in their motorsport achievements as Allan and Zachary have shared the same podium a few occasions which is something very few parents get to experience.

The beginning of this project goes far back as Allan also managed to bring parents and children who shared the same interests together to the point that grandfathers, fathers, sons, mothers, and daughters namely Willem Hugo, Maretha Olivier, Mandi Hugo and Zachary Martin all rallied on the same events, and at times all shared the same podium.



Project Racing Car

In continuing this legacy, Allan thought of getting the man whose name is synonymous with the racetrack and have been part of motorsport in Namibia for many years, Tony Rust. Tony Rust raced and rallied, and his son Michel also followed in his footsteps and to complete this legacy, Allan and Zachary built and donated the VW MK1 Golf Racing car to Michel's son Wynne.

While Tony Rust retired from competing and active motorsport many years ago, Michel has kept the Rust flag flying and hopefully soon the dream which Allan and Zachary had of Wynne joining his dad on the podium will come true through this project.



L to R. Tony Rust, Michel Rust & Wynne Rust





NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Calling Back the Past

As part of a Facebook and YouTube live stream series hosted by the Witzenberg Motor Club in Cape Town, a program was recently hosted on the Tony Rust Racetrack, covering the past, present and the future. The show which was hosted by Patrick Vermaak and Clint Lingeveltd had Tony Rust, Jurgen Zu Bentheim, Dawie Olivier, Richard Slamet and Derek Jacobs as guests on the show.

The story as told by Tony Rust of how the idea of building a permanent racetrack in Namibia and executing the plan was what dreams are made of to the point where many thought this mammoth task was near impossible and would never see the day of light.

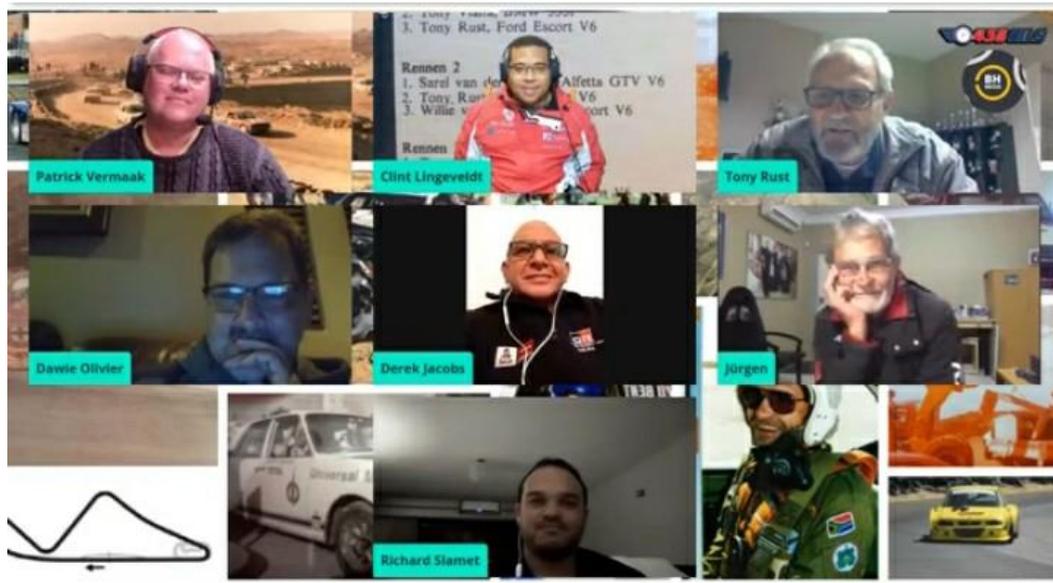


This story proves that one should never lose sight of one's dream and what might seem impossible to some can be achieved.

It was interesting to also hear the stories as told by those who had the opportunity to race on this track over the years and another feat was to have big names such as Sarel van der Merwe, Tony Viana and Abel de Oliveira compete at the inaugural race.

As a follow on to this successful livestream, the NMSF is considering hosting similar programs on a regular basis to talk about the rich Namibian motorsport history, its icons, past legends, and the future super stars.

Details to be announced soon.



Livestream Screen shot





NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

The World of Digital Motorsport

The NMSF is proud to announce that that it has finally launched a Digital Motorsport racing league and currently have 19 registered racers. Some of the Namibian racers have also participated in the SRA League in South Africa and kept the Namibian flag flying high by featuring in the top 4 of the results whilst competing against some of the best South Africa has to offer.

The Namibian league has seen regular racing and rally competitors testing their skills against the virtual racers and vice versa with some interesting results.

The Namibian League was set up with the aim of running a fully accredited Namibian Digital Motorsport championship with the crowning of a champion at the end of the season. This championship will be used to put together the strongest possible Namibian team to take part in the 2023 FIA Motorsport Games.

If you are interested or know of anyone who would like to compete in this rapidly growing code of motorsport, kindly contact the Secretary General on info@motorsportnamibia.org



A snapshot of race held recently on the virtual Tony Rust racetrack





NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

2021 FIA Africa Sport Congress

Since 2015 except for 2020, the FIA has hosted a Regional Sports Congress for the FIA affiliated African Federations of which there are currently 24. The 2021 Congress was held in Kenya during the month of June and attending delegates were given the opportunity to attend the start and opening super special stage of the Kenya Safari WRC Rally as guests of the FIA. The congress was attended by the NMSF Secretary General, Derek Jacobs and the Touring Chairperson, Benson Kalla.

In promoting safe motorsport and road safety worldwide, the FIA was encouraging African Federations to hold speed trials, better known as Drag racing in Namibia in the effort to take illegal street racing off the streets because of the horrendous accidents caused by them. The FIA introduced a basic set of rules for the federations who do not host this type of event and made a state-of-the-art wireless electronic timing system as part of a start-up package.

After some discussions and a little persuasion because Drag racing is already an established form of motorsport in Namibia, the NMSF was able to obtain one of these systems at no cost and it will be arriving in Namibia over the next few months.



Derek Jacobs & Benson Kalla



Electronic Drag Timing System



WRC Competitors



L to R: B Kalla, Jean Todt (FIA President), D Jacobs





NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

2021 NMSF Championships

In view of the current situation caused by the continually changing Covid-19 regulations, the NMSF Executive Committee decided after some consideration to extend the period over which the 2021 championships will run. The period will run over 2 years starting from 01 January 2021 and ending 30 November 2022.

This allows codes which are currently facing challenges posed by covid-19 to complete their championships by utilising the extended period. Some codes have been fortunate and have already hosted events and the NMSF would not like the time, money and effort invested in these events to be wasted and by giving the extra time, these championships can be completed.

Furthermore, Codes which can complete their championships on or before 31 March 2022 can resume their 2022 championships which must be completed by 30 November 2022.

Testimony to these unprecedented times and circumstances is the fact that up until the end of June 2021, only 16 out of the proposed 40 calendar events could take place safely.

The codes which have managed to host one or more events so far are Motocross, Enduro, Circuit Racing, Karting, Drag racing, Rally and Off- road rally. Unfortunately, Oval Track, Spinning and Vasbyt are yet to host an event.

Despite all the uncertainty and setbacks, we trust and remain positive that we will reach some sort of "normality" soon.

