



NAMIBIA MOTOR SPORT FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Covid-19 Update

The NMSF attended a meeting held at the Namibia Sports Ministry on the 24th June 2020 regarding Covid-19 compliance and enforcement of regulations for the safe return of sport in Namibia under Stage 4 of lockdown.

Despite some sports codes starting up again, the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in Namibia and the tightening of lockdown regulations has led to some organisers delaying the restart of motorsport as the latest restriction on public gatherings doesn't make it financially viable to host an event.

Adding to the financial burden are the extra costs which organisers will incur to ensure the required protocols are put into place to safeguard everyone at events.

The NMSF hopes that motorsport will resume safely sometime soon



The Tony Rust Racetrack



With Covid-19 bringing motorsport worldwide to an abrupt halt, many competitors joined the world of virtual sim racing. The NMSF recently received an email from someone in Germany who was enquiring about the Tony Rust Racetrack because he saw the track on one of the virtual games and was surprised to find out that Namibia had a racetrack.

Up until 1981 motor racing in Namibia was held on a track made from salt a short distance outside Swakopmund on your way to Henties Bay. Part of the track was also used for playing rugby matches which damaged the surface and had to be repaired at a great cost before racing could take place again. As the cost to repair the surface became unaffordable, a man by the name of Tony Rust who was a civil engineer and a racing enthusiast came up with the idea of building a racetrack in Windhoek.

Everybody thought that Tony had lost his marbles because of the scale of the project and the lack of resources.





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The Tony Rust Racetrack Cont.

The fact that everyone thought that his idea was impossible made him more determined to build the track. Little did the people know that behind the scenes, Tony was engaging with the Windhoek municipality for property and was successful in securing the property on the Daan Viljoen road where the track stands today.

At the time Tony was working on the Western Bypass road project and arranged with the contractors to lend him their equipment to clear the site after hours and sometimes worked way into the dark. He also arranged for the left-over tar to lay the track surface and approached Rocla Namibia for their damaged drainpipes which was used for the drainage under the track.

Despite receiving a small sponsorship from Total Namibia and selling the corners of the unbuilt track to raise funds, the project was largely funded out of his pocket. Except for a handful of people Tony tackled this massive project virtually on his own and the Windhoek Motor Club had no idea that a track was being built for them.

One night after work Tony invited the WMC members for a braai at the property. He hid the Bulldozer in the bushes after clearing an area where the braai would take place and once everyone had finished eating, he took them through the bushes to show them the new track. As it was his idea and hard work that made it possible, it was befitting that the track was named after him.

The track was opened by the mayor of Windhoek in May 1982 and was packed to the hilt with competitors also coming from as far as South Africa to take part in the first event.

Over the years the Tony Rust racetrack has earned a fearsome reputation because of the layout of the circuit. Because of this, many racing drivers have added this track to their bucket list. Testimony to the good job which was done is the fact that the surface of the track was only guaranteed to last 5 years and almost 40 years later competitors are still racing on the original surface.

This exercise proved that with determination you can achieve your dreams.



The NMSF is proud to announce that Richard Slamet Jnr has become the Automobile Association of Namibia's first Junior Ambassador. Richard Jnr will promote road safety and encourage responsible driving in Namibia through the experience he has gained as a racing driver.





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The Future FIA Rally Star



At the heart of the FIA's strategy for the development of rallying throughout the world, FIA Rally Star aims to encourage the emergence of a new generation of drivers and to identify those with the greatest potential to target a professional career. The program is funded by the FIA Innovation Fund (FIF), which aims at supporting innovative and high-impact initiatives that generate lasting benefits for the FIA community.

At the base of the pyramid, the 144 member National Sporting Authorities (ASNs) of the FIA will be encouraged to organize detection operations, offered to young boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 25. In order to make these selections accessible to as many people as possible, two grassroots disciplines will make the framework for these operations:

- Digital Motorsport, using driving simulators and the FIA Rally Star partner video game;
- Motorkhana, which involves manoeuvring a production vehicle through a handling course.

ASNs will also be able to use their own detection methods to identify young talent.

The second phase of the programme will be a tour of six continental finals organised by the FIA in Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Africa, Asia-Pacific, South America and North America. Candidates selected by the ASNs will compete against the clock at the wheel of XC Cross Cars to win one of the seven seats granted: one per continent, plus one for the best woman driver in the world.

This group of seven youngsters will then benefit from an intensive season of training, including personal coaching, testing sessions and participation in a minimum of six rallies at the wheel of Rally3 cars. This development programme will identify the four most promising drivers, including at least one female competitor, who will then join the FIA Junior WRC.

Over the next two seasons, these future stars will need to demonstrate that they can compete for victories and then for the title, as a full season in FIA WRC 3 will be the ultimate reward for a FIA Rally Star driver winning the championship.





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Driver Profile



Name: Ivan Vorster

Born in: Swakopmund

Age: 22 years

Motorsport Category: Karting Senior Max

I started karting in 2015, entering the Senior Max class with an old 2004 Birel kart which my father bought from a family member. I remember my first race being a wet race, and I finished overall 2nd in my class. I learned a lot by watching the defending champion during my first year and finished 2nd overall in the championship.

In my second year (2016) I started to find my feet and competed in a 2010 Tony Kart which I received from my uncle. I won the championship that year by being consistent in a reliable machine.



The following 2 years (2017 and 2018) went well as I always made sure that I had a well-prepared kart, never missed a race and I ended up winning the title in 2017 and 2018. I had some fair fights with other skilled competitors, and it was in these years that I started to find my confidence and get more technical with the kart.

In 2019 things started to get a bit more interesting as more drivers came along and the competition started to become tough. It was also time to consider purchasing a newer model kart because mine was a little outdated and started to show. Nevertheless, I had some fantastic battles with other drivers and found a little more within myself. In 2018 I bought an Exprit kart from Germany and I had to wait a while for it to arrive so I could only use it for the last 2 events that year. I had some teething troubles with the set up and familiarizing myself with the kart which nearly cost me the title.

In my 5 years of karting, I have won 4 national Senior Max titles and a 2nd overall.

In December 2018, I had the privilege to attend the FIA Motorsport Development Academy in South Africa where I learnt how to approach motorsport on a more holistic and professional level. The experience was extremely valuable and gave me confidence on and off the track.

I am looking forward to many years of racing as it is my passion.

