

THE HISTORY OF NON RACIAL SWIMMING IN SOUTH AFRICA: FROM APARTHEID SPORT TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The formation of the first Non-racial national swimming movement in South Africa 6 April, 1966

Swimming in South Africa has existed for well over a century under the banner of the South African Amateur Swimming Union (SAASU) – an avowedly historically exclusively white aquatics organisation. However, SAASU did little or nothing to cater for swimming among black sportspeople (*black being defined as all disenfranchised people prior to April 1994*). As a result, black sports administrators began organising the sport on a regional basis way back since the mid fifties.

Although organised swimming started much later, by the early part of the 20 century, social swimming was already taking place among black people, using whatever facilities were available to them at the time, including rivers and dams. By the middle of the century, swimming began to take on an organised form, particularly in the then Natal province (now KwaZulu-Natal), Western Cape and Griqualand West (Kimberley). Organisations such as the Natal Indian Amateur Swimming Association and the Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association developed the sport in their particular regions, with organisation of the African townships taking place in the mid seventies with the Amateur Swimming Association of the Western Transvaal. The following extract from the souvenir brochure of the first official inter-provincial swimming competition among black sportpersons provides a historical context:

“The present Association was formed in the gloomy atmosphere of a humble shack which was the club house of the Durban Indian Surf Life Saving Club on the beach on the 21st May 1956. The onus had fallen on the lifesavers to promote swimming because they were perhaps the only members of the community to have some knowledge of swimming at that time. The Association has weathered many storms under the careful guidance of Mr. B. B. Singh and his fellow lifesavers. They had the support of many prominent members of the community. The need for the Association arose as a result of the City Council providing the community with a swimming bath - the first and only bath for Indians in Durban - in 1956. Since then the Association has come a long way - it is now in a position of staging an inter-provincial tournament.”

Attempts at inter-provincial competitions begun in 1959, following discussions between the Natal association and Griqualand West. Although these attempts at competition did not succeed, it did, at least set the stage for interprovincial administrative contact. These contacts gave rise to several meetings in various parts of the country. The words from the 1970 Tournament brochure extracted below capture these historic days:

“There are reports that there had been some sort of association between the Griqualand West Amateur Swimming Union and the Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association. Prior to 1965, competitions had been held between these two centres on a friendly basis. In 1964, certain officials of the Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association - some names that come to mind are: Mr. W.A. Paulse, Mr. R. Herbert and Mr. A. Florris - visited several centres in the hope of establishing a national organisation. There was general keenness at Durban, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth and, of course, Cape Town. There was some difficulty in establishing contact with the Transvaalers.

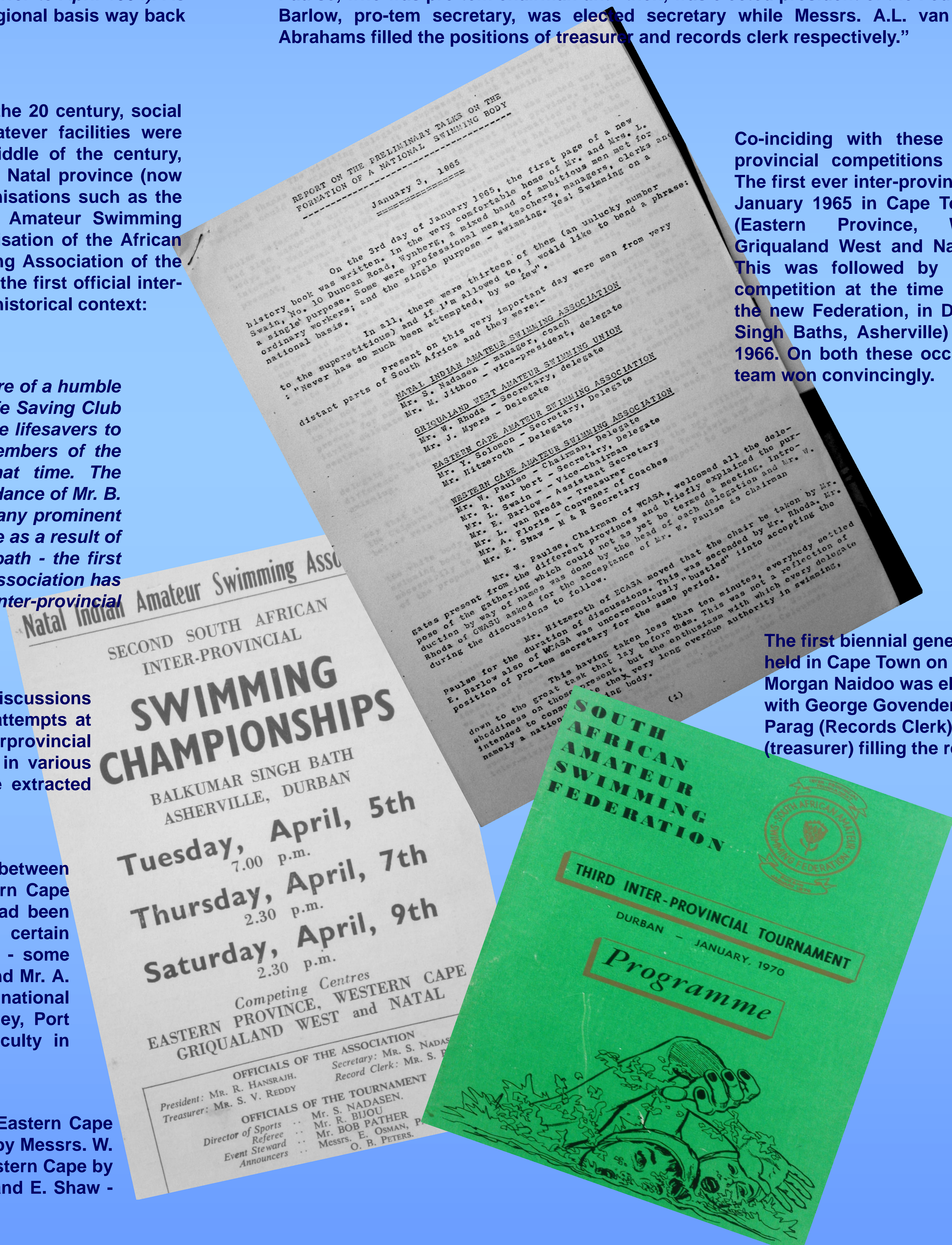
When the different provinces met in Cape Town on January 3, 1965 - Eastern Cape represented by Messrs. Y. Solomons and R. Hitzeroth; Griqualand West by Messrs. W. Rhoda and J. Myers; Natal by Messrs. M. Jithoo and S. Nadasen and Western Cape by Messrs. W. Paulse, Herbert, Florris, L. Swain, E. Barlow, L. Van Breda and E. Shaw - they agreed to begin working towards forming such a body.

The minutes of this founding meeting provide exciting historical material

The same four centres were again represented and this meeting adopted the unanimous resolution of forming the South African Amateur Swimming Federation. This meeting took place on April 6, 1966. The constitution was discussed and this was also adopted and Mr. W.A. Paulse, who was pro-tem chairman until then, was elected president of the Federation. Mr. Eric Barlow, pro-tem secretary, was elected secretary while Messrs. A.L. van Breda and R. Abrahams filled the positions of treasurer and records clerk respectively.”

Co-inciding with these meetings, inter-provincial competitions were organised. The first ever inter-provincial took place in January 1965 in Cape Town. Four teams (Eastern Province, Western Cape, Griqualand West and Natal) participated. This was followed by another national competition at the time of the launch of the new Federation, in Durban (Balkumar Singh Baths, Asherville) from 5 - 9 April 1966. On both these occasions, the Natal team won convincingly.

The first biennial general meeting was held in Cape Town on January 5, 1969. Morgan Naidoo was elected president, with George Govender (secretary), Roy Parag (Records Clerk), and R. Bijou (treasurer) filling the remaining positions



The first tournament of the 1970's of the fledgling organisation took place in Durban (Balkumar Singh Baths, Asherville) from 4 - 10 January 1970, hosted by the renamed, Amateur Swimming Union of Natal with five teams (Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Griqualand West, Transvaal and Natal) participating.

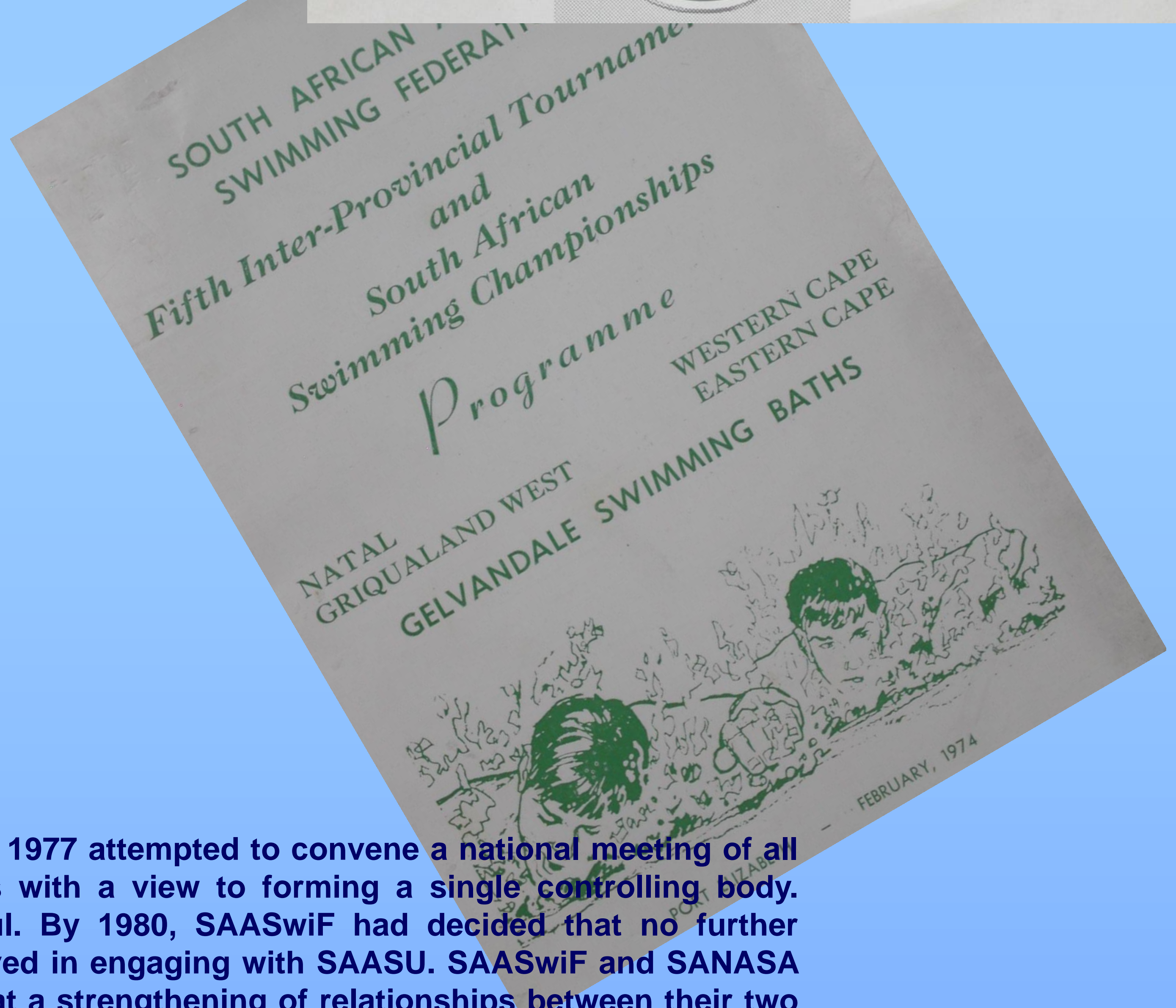
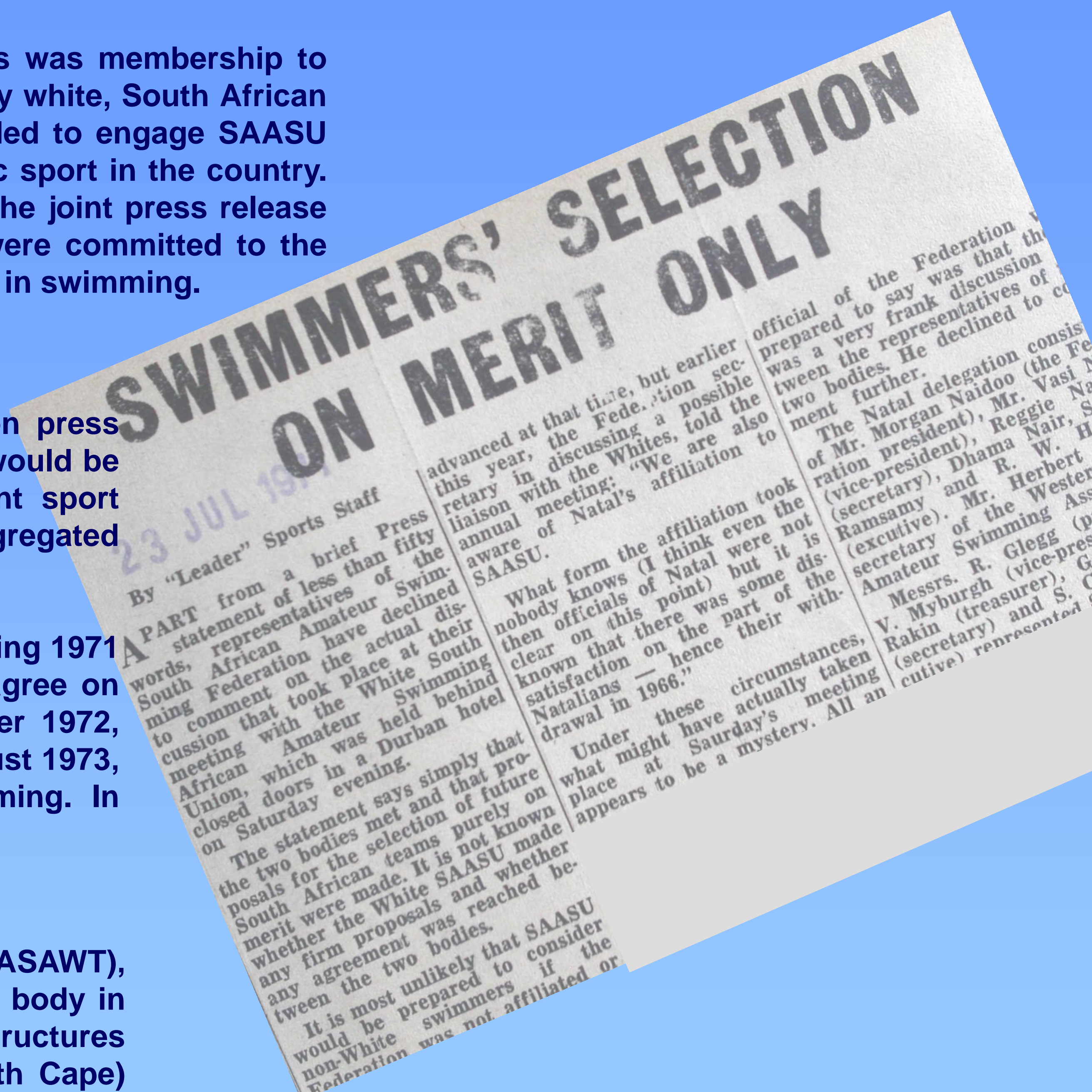
Swimming Organisations in South Africa

When SAASwiF was formed in 1966, one of its stated objectives was membership to FINA, however, because of the existing affiliation of the exclusively white, South African Amateur Swimming Union (SAASU) to FINA, SAASwiF was decided to engage SAASU with a view to forming a single controlling organisation of aquatic sport in the country. On 17 July 1971, these two organisations met for the first time. The joint press release issued after this meeting declared that both the organisations were committed to the principles of selection on merit, and pursuing a "non-racial" policy in swimming.

However, a few days later, SAASU breached an agreed code on press statements and unilaterally announced in the media that "teams would be selected on merit, but within the framework of the government sport policy". SAASU knew full well that this meant a racially segregated approach to sports participation.

Despite this, both the organisations met on several occasions during 1971 and 1972. Because of the inability of the two organisations to agree on basic principles, SAASwiF suspended all discussions in October 1972, and decided to apply directly to FINA for membership. On 20 August 1973, FINA expelled South Africa (SAASU) from international swimming. In November 1973,

The Amateur Swimming Association of Western Transvaal (ASAWT), formed in May 1974, was the first "African" provincial swimming body in South Africa. ASAWT helped organise the Vaal Triangle, with structures being set up soon after in Northern Transvaal, Galeshewe (North Cape) and Natal by January 1975. These developments led to the establishment of the SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION (SANASA) by May 1975. The SANASA Executive comprised of: Monnathebe Senokoanyane (President); S. Ngcobo (Vice-president); Fikile Soni (secretary); Mac Ratladi (treasurer). Later in the same year, units were established in East London and Langa (Cape Town).



SANASA, in November 1977 attempted to convene a national meeting of all aquatics organisations with a view to forming a single controlling body. This was unsuccessful. By 1980, SAASwiF had decided that no further purpose would be served in engaging with SAASU. SAASwiF and SANASA did however decide that a strengthening of relationships between their two organisations was critical for aquatic sport in the country. Informal interaction between the two organisations continued regularly until May 1981, when the two met formally. In November 1981, the SAASwiF National Council agreed that its organisation should dissolve to form a new united structure with SANASA. On 31 January 1982, the Amateur Swimming Association of South Africa (ASASA) was launched.

ASASA had no meaningful contact with SAASU throughout the 1980's. A changing political environment in the early 1990's prompted the ASASA Executive to engage once again with SAASU. Talks were held in 1991, but once again fundamental differences resulted in a breakdown of discussions. In 1992, a new FINA Commission was dispatched to South Africa, and initiated talks between SAASU, ASASA and a splinter group from ASASA. Later that year, FINA admitted a merged organisation, consisting of SAASU and the ASASA splinter group into international aquatics. ASASA remained outside this grouping until 1999, when through protracted discussions between ASASA and the FINA recognised structure resulted in a truly unified aquatics structure in South Africa. Swimming South Africa, as we know it today is the result of this history.

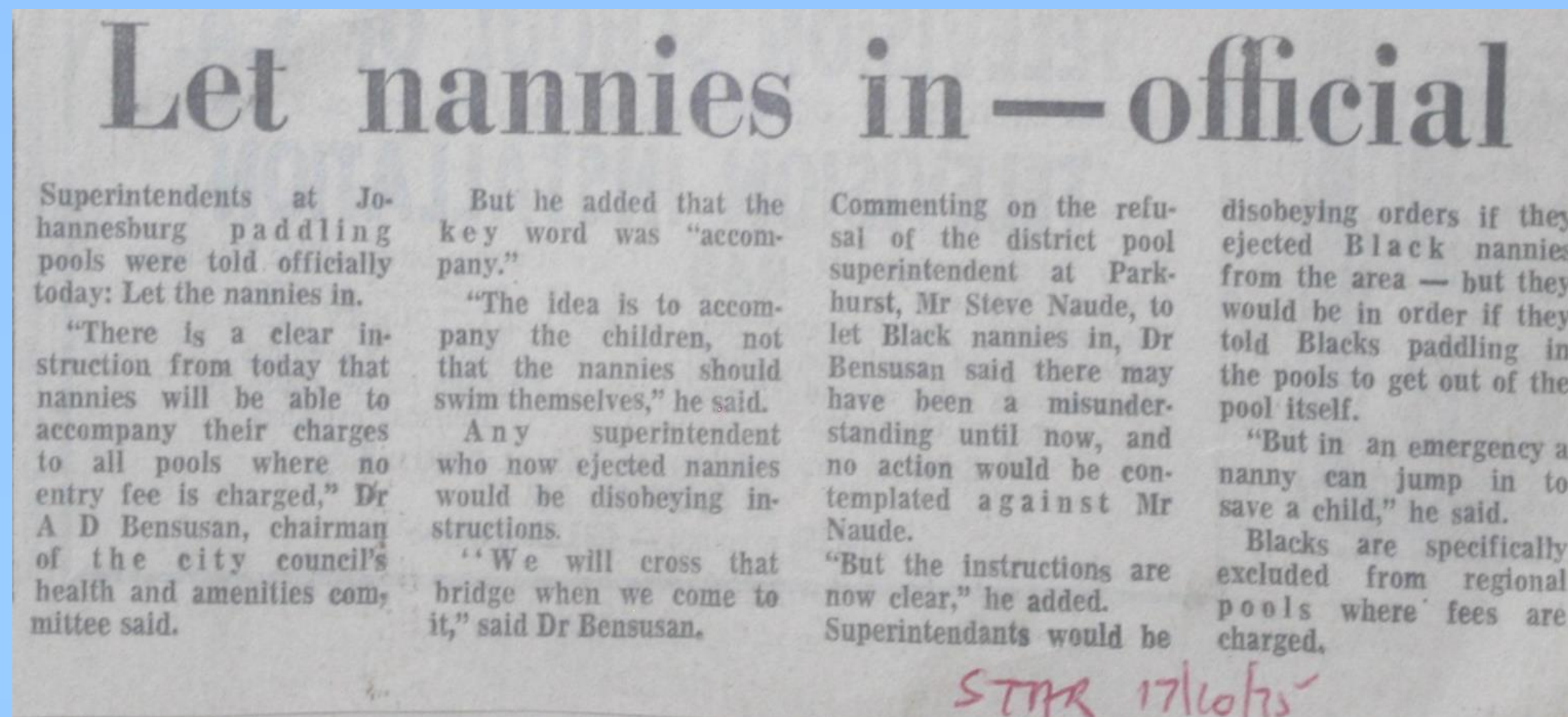


Racism and Politics in South African Swimming 1966 - 2000

Both predecessors to ASASA, SAASwIF and SANASA were built on the principle of non-racialism, yet both had a membership from distinctive communities. This disappeared with the emergence of ASASA. Both predecessor organisations constitutionally allowed any person regardless of colour as members. This was not so for SAASU, who felt obliged to follow the dictates of the racial government, and was thus racially exclusively white.

Not only was the government's policy clearly based on race, it was also based on the concept of racial superiority – not much different from the policies of Nazi Germany of the 1930's. The Broederbond, a secret organisation that was the mastermind behind the ruling National Party, and consisted of many of the leaders of the apartheid government, clearly identified sport as an area of intervention for advancing its philosophies of racial superiority.

There were times when these policies, were it not so hurtful would have been laughable. Black nannies of white children were allowed into pools (previously illegal), but only if they were accompanying their charges. Entering the water was prohibited - unless a white child was drowning, of course!!



It was apparent that SAASU preferred not to challenge government policy, although an open membership was not illegal. Government policy, was often tempered by international pressure, and were attempts at literally "duping" both local and international community. At times this sports policy became so convoluted that even the poor Minister of Sport, Piet Koornhof, could not help becoming confused.



But it was not just the ruling National Party that was guilty of such blatant racism - the United Party (of strong English "liberal" roots) had little qualms about insulting people of darker shades than themselves, as the above article shows - apologising after hurling insults was a special characteristic of the racist politicians – liberal and "verkrampte" alike.





The government of the day was even more vicious in applying its racist policies - not just verbally. It actually forced SAASwIF in 1976 to change the venue of its national championships because it was not prepared to allow swimmers of different communities (or "races" as defined by the state) to swim in the same pool. The venue was to be the prestigious Karen Muir Olympic Pool (the Kimberley equivalent of Kippax Park back in the seventies).

SAASU towed the hurtful line all the way. In January 1974, its Western Province affiliate invited our Western Cape unit to participate in a friendly gala. Shortly afterward it followed the invite with a less friendly letter. The letter says it all: what a cheek!! Close proximity of ourselves with the white swimmer could not be tolerated under any circumstances - not even at the entrances or with programme sellers. Western Cape rejected both the invitation and letter with total disgust.

Western Province
Amateur Swimming Association

Westelike I.
Amateur Swemvere.

6th. January 1974

The Chairman, Western Cape Swimming Assoc.
c/o R.W. Herbert,
Balmoral,
Fairmouth Ave.,
RETREAT.

Dear Sir,
With reference to our recent discussions in regard to an Age Group gala at Newlands during the Cape Town Festival season I can now clarify a point in regard to facilities for swimmers and spectators.
The Dept of Sport and Recreation in laying down the conditions under which such a gala may be held advise amongst others that
"Separate, sufficient and equivalent facilities for the different population groups must exist or be erected. These facilities include :
i) Entrance
ii) Ticket offices
iii) Toilet facilities for both sexes
iv) Refreshment stalls
v) Seated accommodation
vi) Separate personnel eg ushers programme sellers etc."
We are going ahead with our application to the Cape Town municipality as time is running out on us, I just felt that I should let you know what the position is before you reply to our invitation.
We look forward to your early reply.

Yours faithfully,
K. Spoorner. President.

EVEN SEPARATE USHERS AND PROGRAMME SELLERS! Our Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association, in keeping with stated policy, refused to participate.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Kantoor van die—Office of the
STREEKVERTEENWOORDIGER
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
KIMBERLEY.
8300

Tel. Adres/Address: "BEWONING"
Tel. No: 4201
Navres/Enquiries: MNR. BARNARDO/CJB
32/1/4803/6

6-8-1974

The Secretary,
Griqualand West Amateur
Swimming Union,
3 Van Keenen Street,
Homestead,
KIMBERLEY.

Sir,
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO AUTHORISE MEMBERS OF THE COLOURED GROUP TO USE THE KAREN MUIR SWIMMING POOL.
I have to inform you that the Minister's delegate has refused your application as submitted, that is that the Karen Muir Swimming Pool in the White Group Area of Kimberley be open to all races as spectators and as amplified by your letter of the 21st July, 1974, to the effect that competitors will not be restricted to one race-group.
The Minister's delegate has instructed me to inform you that an application for a permit restricting the competition to Coloured swimmers only before Coloured spectators only, will probably be favourably considered.

Yours faithfully,
M. Barnardo
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

THIS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE BY CHILDREN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE GROUP.
NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THIS AREA.

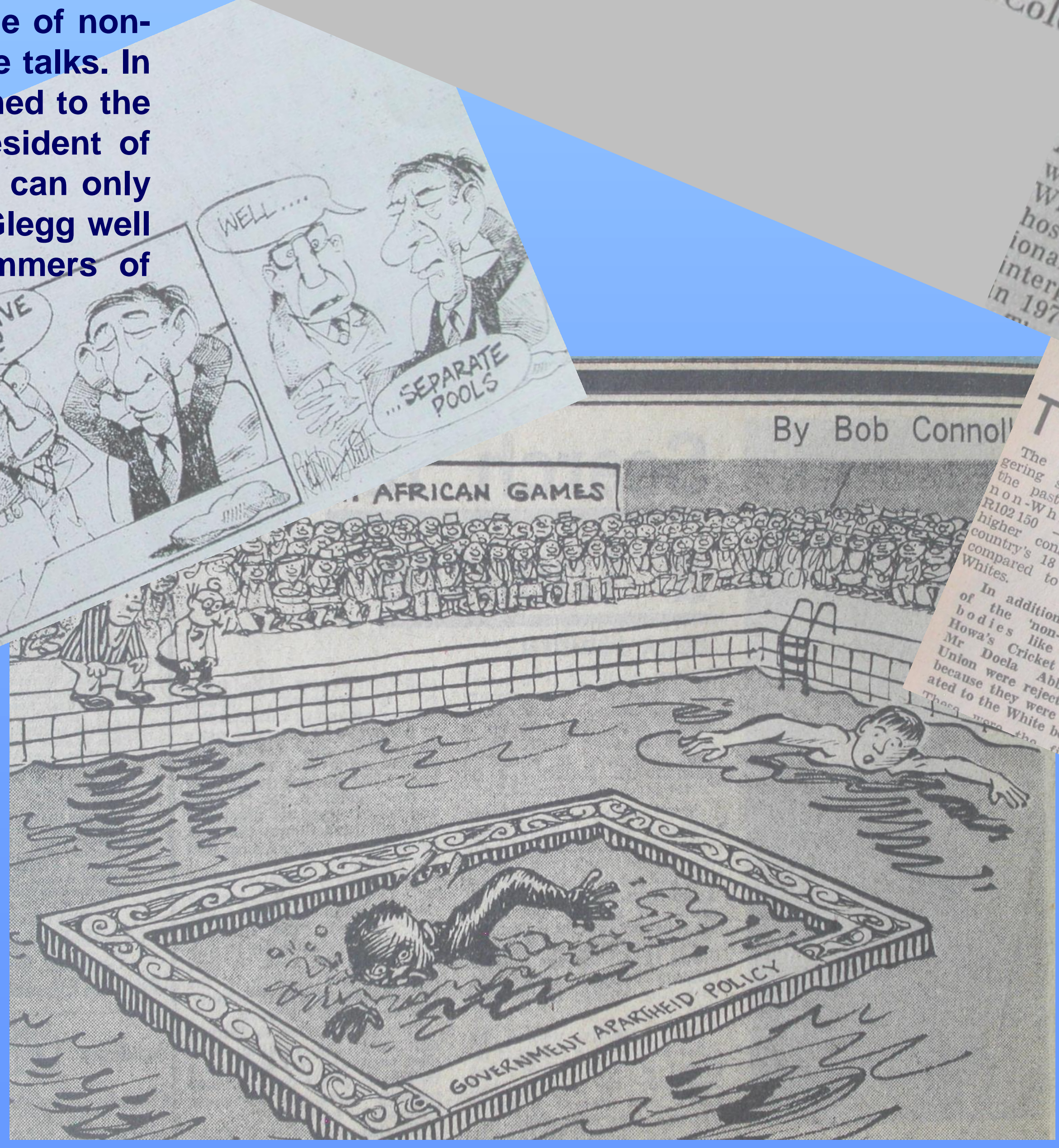
HIERDIE SPEELTERREINTOEKUSTING IS UITGEHOU VIR DIE UITSLUITLIKE GEBUIK VAN KINDERS WAT LEDE VAN DIE BLANKEGROEP IS.
GEEN HONDE WORD BINNE HIERDIE GEBIED TOEGELAAT NIE.

MINISTER REJECTS NONRACIAL GALA PLAN

DURBAN — The Department of Community Development has rejected an application by the South African Amateur Swimming Federation's Griqualand West Union for the use of Kimberley's Karen Muir swimming pool because the union was not prepared to restrict its championships only to Coloured swimmers and spectators.

Own Correspondent
STAR 22/8/74

No matter how hard SAASU attempted to prove to both our organisations and the international community that they operated within the ambit of South African law, it was obvious from their actions that their position was not dissimilar to that of the state. This became even more obvious when following top level discussions between SAASwIF and SAASU in the early seventies. At these talks SAASU agreed to the principle of non-racialism, as stated in a joint statement issued after the talks. In a not so strange twist (we had since become accustomed to the workings of the organisation), two days later, the President of SAASU (Roy Glegg), claimed that such agreed policies can only work within the stated government policy - which Mr. Glegg well knew explicitly forbade joint activities between swimmers of different shades.



ERALD, DECEMBER 23 1972

AT ARE YOU PAYING FOR WHITE SPORT?

By RASHID SERIA

TOP companies in South Africa practise apartheid in sport sponsorship.

The Whites received a staggering sum of R2 000 000 over the past six years while the non-Whites received only R102 150 in the same period. In addition, the majority of the non-racial sports bodies like the SA Cricket Board and the South African Rugby Union were rejected mainly because they were not affiliated to the White bodies.

● A razor blade manufacturer - R25 000 for Whites and nothing for non-Whites.
● A hotel group - R14 200 for Whites and nothing for non-Whites.
● A soap manufacturer - R14 200 for Whites and nothing for non-Whites.
● A brewery - R185 000 for Whites and nothing for non-Whites.
● A soft manufacturer - R24 000 for Whites and nothing for non-Whites.

Breakfast food

THIS conference views with concern and alarm the practice of private enterprise in this country to sponsor White sport to an overwhelmingly greater extent than non-racial sport, notwithstanding the tremendous consumer value of the non-White population, and resolves to take steps forthwith to urge the private sector to remedy this position.

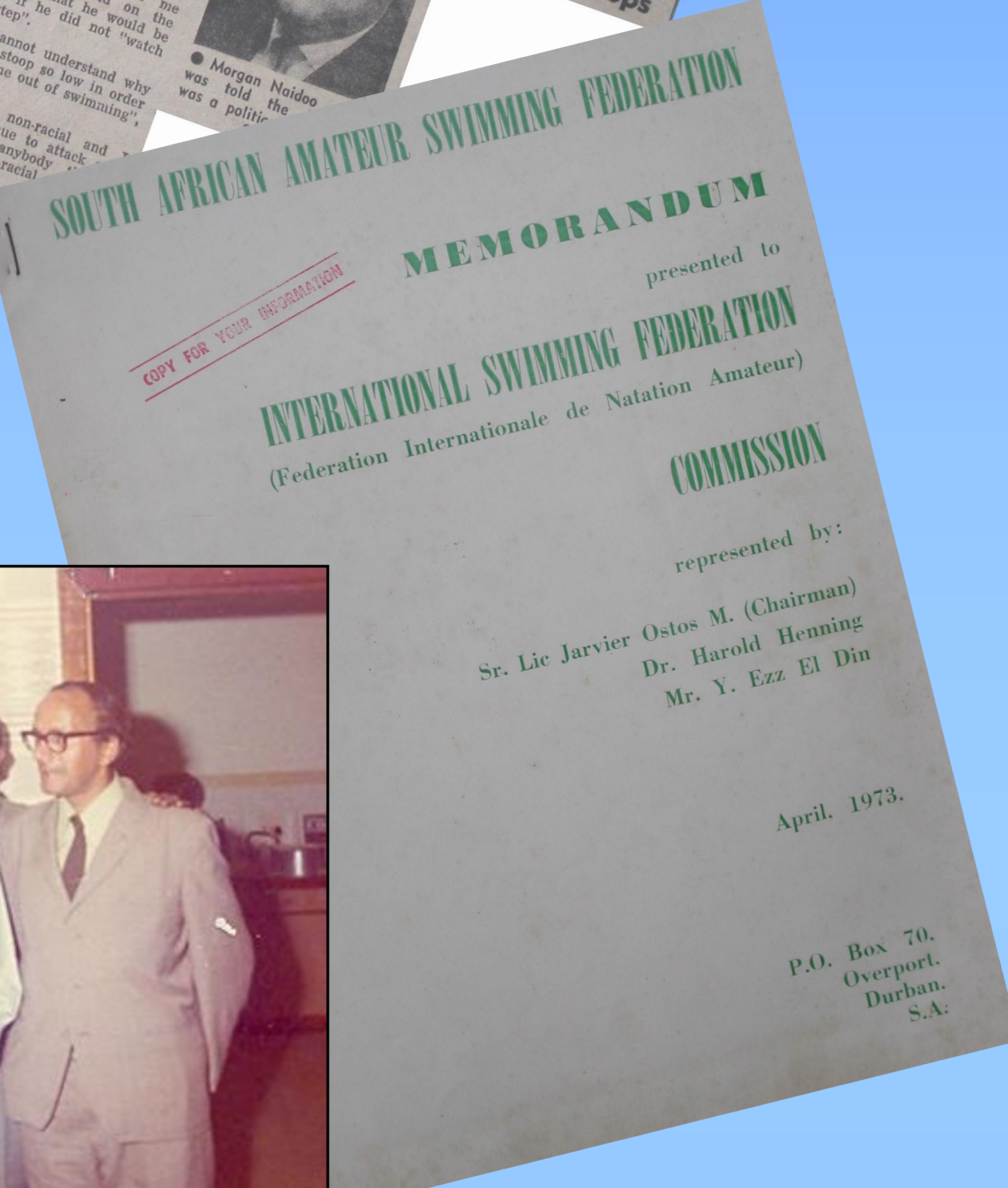
— SASPO resolution

One company spokesman: "It's nonsense. It's not the



Excluded from International Swimming 1973

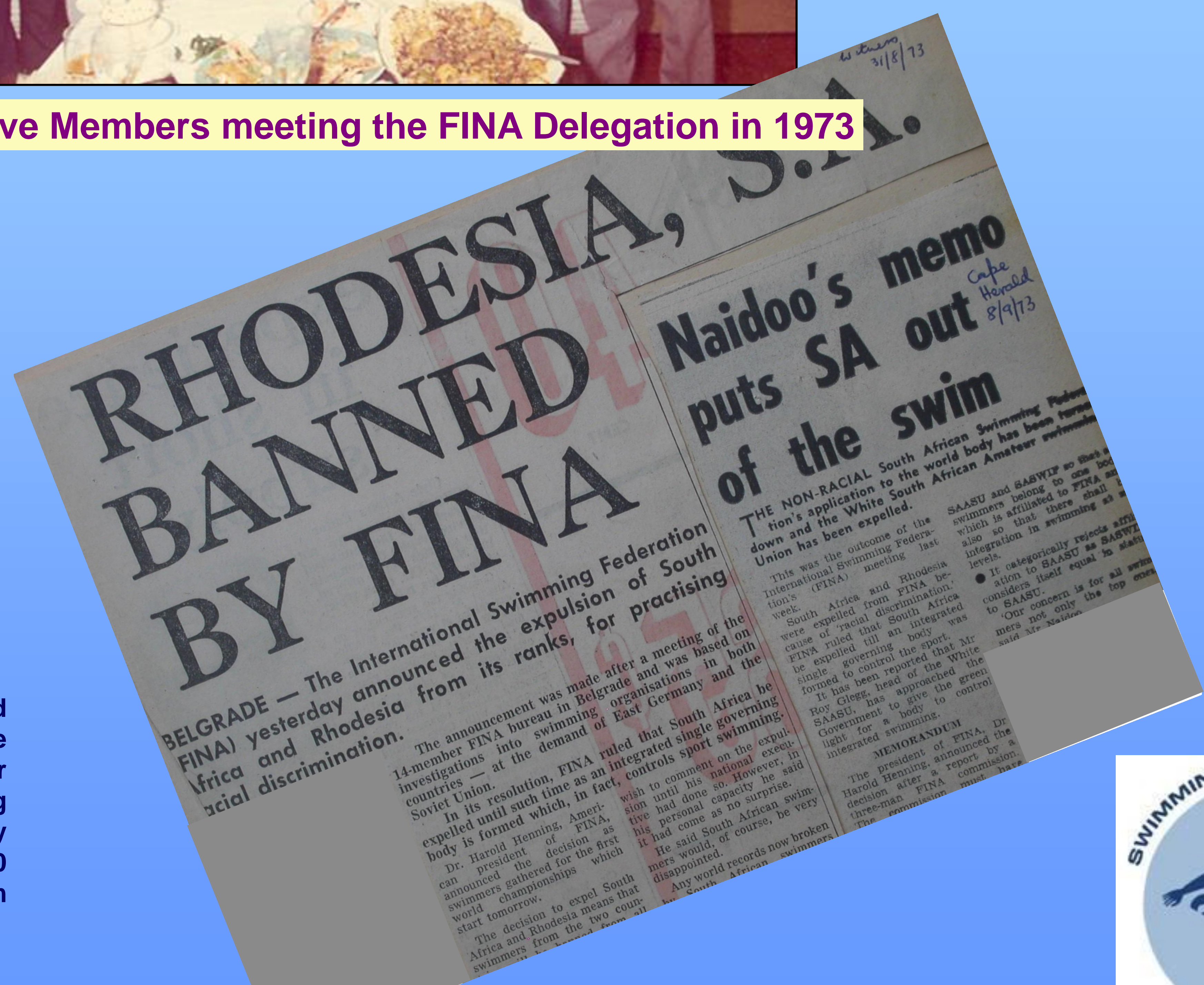
With increasing international isolation on the sports front, the South African government and the sports associations hanging onto its coat tails, attempted many devious ways to deceive both the international community and the majority of black South Africans. Racially exclusive sports organisations were created for black people – the token leaders of these sham structures were then invited to sit on the executive boards of the exclusively white organisations, and on specific occasions, the membership of these sham organisations were invited to participate in certain events. Total integration was not permitted, not at club, provincial or national level. In swimming, SAASU engineered the establishment of a “coloured” swimming organisation (co-inciding with FINA investigation of racist swimming in South Africa) – whose total membership consisted of its president, his sons and nephews! Of course, this individual was invited to sit on the executive of SAASU, and the organisation invited to participate in the South African Games in the seventies – and SAASU claimed this as a “breakthrough”!



SAASwiF of course, refused to be part of these duplicitous actions, and rejected this new “unity” and refused to participate in token events



The SAASwiF Executive Members meeting the FINA Delegation in 1973



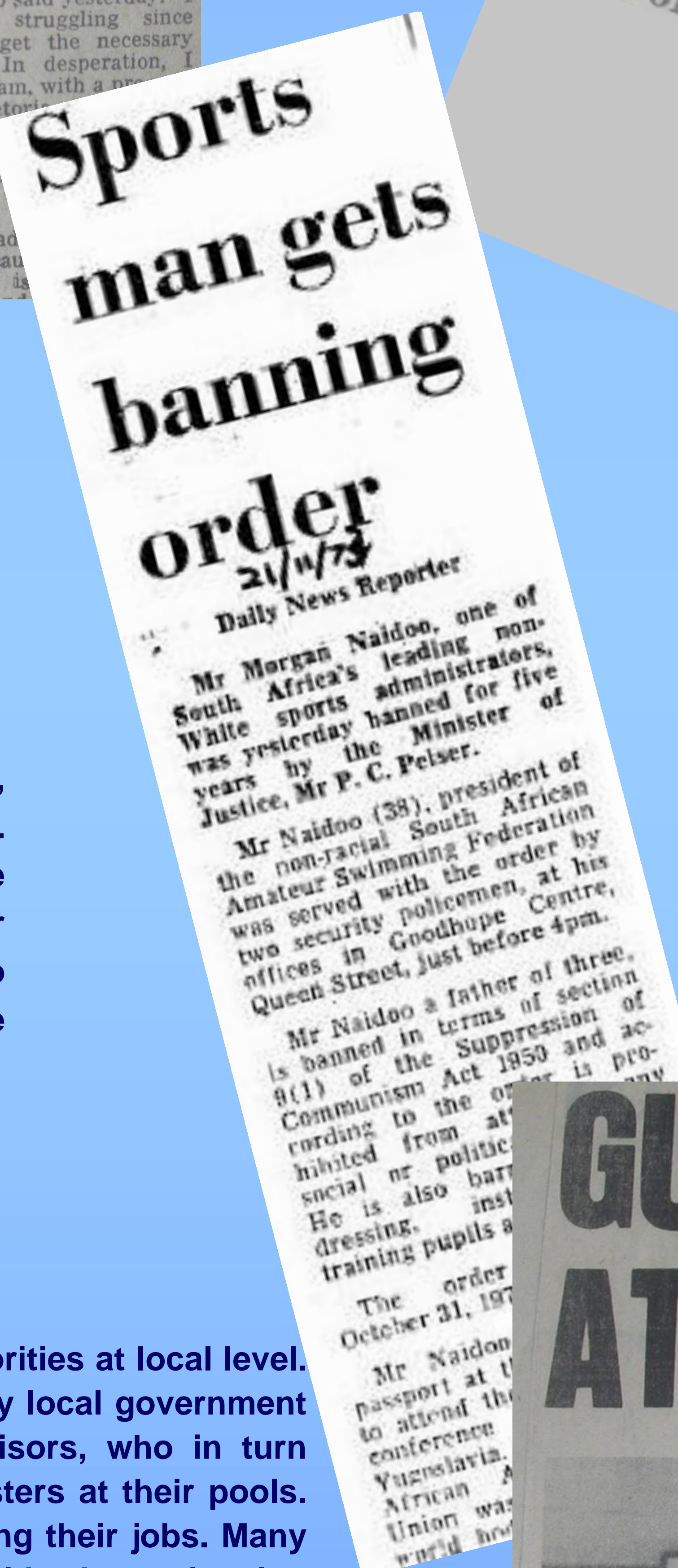
With this type of attitude expressed both by the government and SAASU, the non-racial national swimming organisation had little choice but to develop new approaches in order to promote swimming among Black swimmers in South Africa. SAASwiF decided that it was time to attempt to obtain international recognition. It applied for membership to the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA - the international controlling body of aquatic sports). Because it had already recognised SAASU (actually one of the founder members of FINA), FINA was forced to send a top level Commission of Enquiry to South Africa. This mission included the then President of FINA.

A lengthy 120 page submission by SAASwiF exposed both the state and SAASU for their racial practises, a serious contravention of both FINA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). SAASwiF vigorously campaigned for the expulsion of SAASU from the world body. Faced with cries of playing politics and hurting innocent swimmers (white!), SAASwiF realised that only this form of action will drive the racist practitioners to their senses. On the 30 August 1974 FINA Bureau announced the expulsion of South Africa from international swimming.



Intimidation of Non-Racial Swimming Organisations

Both SAASwIF and later SANASA paid dearly for their position on racism in swimming. The state applied all its ruthless machinery against the organisations. In quick succession, Federation officials Morgan Naidoo and Roger Ellick were refused passports for overseas travel. These gentlemen were intending to present the case of Black sportspeople to international fora. These shortsightedness on the part of the state only served to further convince the international community that it was justified in excluding white South Africa from participating in international sport.



Three months after having his passport withdrawn, Morgan Naidoo was served with a "banning order". This prevented him from attending meetings of the Federation, officiating at swimming galas or conducting "Learn-to-Swim" campaigns. It also prohibited him from being in the presence of more than two people at any particular time.

SANASA officials were similarly threatened by state authorities at local level. Officials of SANASA affiliates were generally employed by local government "Administration Boards". They were often pool supervisors, who in turn provided coaching and teaching programmes for youngsters at their pools. Interaction with SANASA placed them in jeopardy of losing their jobs. Many faced with such stark choices severed their links with the swimming organisation to the detriment of swimming in those areas. The West Rand Administrative Board (WRAB) which previously gave a grant-in-aid of R100 and R400 to ASAWT and SANASA respectively per season, discontinued the grants. The WRAB's attempt to destroy the unity of the organisers met with failure. However, similar action by Boards in other parts of the country, did succeed in causing division, as people were threatened with dismissal if they did not co-operate with the authorities. As a result, swimming in these areas suffered a severe blow.

At the time of the merger between SANASA and SAASwIF, only ASAWT was still fully operative. Contact with the people in the rest of the country was lost as people - through fear of losing their jobs - distanced themselves from SANASA.

But governmental intimidation was not all that these organisations faced. The extreme white right wing showed little mercy when it came to expressing its opinions. Our Western Cape officials continuously expressed threatening telephone calls - not even children of these officials were spared such action. In Natal these acts of terror went chillingly further. Petrol bombs into homes and cars, and even early morning gun attacks. The police have yet to uncover the culprits of these atrocities.



Raising Standards of Non-racial Competitive Swimming 1966 - 1994

Given this extremely abnormal set of conditions that were operating in an important social activity such as sport is, it is a wonder that non-racial swimming actually survived this onslaught. One of the primary reasons that both SAASwIF and SANASA lived to give birth to ASASA was that despite the politics the engulfed our sport, both organisations strove to give their young membership exactly what they wanted: recreational and competitive swimming. Notwithstanding the difficulties, lack of facilities and lack of finances, the non-racial swimming organisations that standards were constantly improving. This they did through a variety of ways.

In fact in the early days of non-racial swimming, with limited resources at our disposal (the first swimming facility for Black people in Natal was the Balkumar Singh Pool opened in 1956), the commitment of coaches, swimmers and administrators resulted in performances that were comparable with our privileged white counterparts. Swimmers such as Ismail Vayej and Seelan Nair were producing times that were as good as the wonderboy of white swimming, Paul Blackbeard. Griqualand West Amateur Swimming Association's young star, Brian Hermanus, was producing times that will have obtained him a place in the finals of 1972 Olympics

DREXLER KYZER: ONE OF THE GREATS

Cape Herald 10/3/73

DREXLER KYZER can hold his own with the best swimmers in South Africa — Black or White. This was proved at the Wynberg Swimming Baths on Friday evening when he set a new Western Cape record for the men's 100 yard freestyle.

His time of 53.9 seconds is even more remarkable when it is remembered that he has had hardly any competition this season and was not extended in Friday's event.

A former South African champion in the freestyle, backstroke and individual medley, Kyzer made one of his rare appearances in inter-club galas and showed that given the competition and the incentive, he will hold his own with the best swimmers in the country in the freestyle.

● He was South African champion from 1968-1970, but since then has concentrated on coaching.

● He helped to establish the Manta club a year ago.

● The lifesaver of the year award came his way in 1971.

At 22 years his best year or two may still be ahead of him. A fantastic turn, which he taught himself and perfected, helped him considerably on Friday night as he surged ahead of his younger brother Neale and Trevor Heinrich.

Manta swept the boards and led by the massive 399 points to the 188 points of Dolphin, and the 42 of Inkwell.

Kevin Heinrich, as expected, won the 100 yards freestyle and 200 yards breaststroke in the under 14 group.

In the under 12 Glen Adriaanse won the 66½ yards butterfly and Eric Wolhuter the 100 yds breaststroke. Glen Adriaanse also won the 66 2/3 yds freestyle in the under 10 age group.

Dolphin, however, more than

Credit for the standards set in the late sixties and early seventies must go to men like Samba Ramsamy, who, with international swimming experience, coached the Natal team to its early success.

SPLASH RECORDS SMASH! 14 CRACKED

Post 21/1/73

By DEVEN MOODLEY

FOURTEEN South African records were smashed in the challenge swim gala between Natal and Griqualand West at the Balkumar Baths, Alberton, last week. Water-poloists to 100, Natal only one record was equalled by Antia Vlotman. The other records were broken by three South African swimmers. The 100 yds freestyle was won by Shereef Abass of Kimberley (1:28.4), the 100 yds breaststroke by I. I. Vayej (1:45.2), the 100 yds butterfly by D. Wolhuter (1:50.4), the 100 yds backstroke by J. Wolhuter (2:00.4), the 100 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (2:15.4), the 200 yds breaststroke by I. I. Vayej (2:05.2), the 200 yds butterfly by D. Wolhuter (2:20.4), the 200 yds backstroke by J. Wolhuter (2:30.4), the 200 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (2:45.4), the 400 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (4:00.4), the 800 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (8:00.4), the 1600 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (16:00.4), the 3200 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (32:00.4), the 6400 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (64:00.4), the 12800 yds individual medley by D. Wolhuter (128:00.4).

BRIAN AMONG S.A. TEN BEST

NW 12/1/73

By DENNIS DONE

GIVEN the opportunity to test his ability against better class opposition more consistently, there is no reason why Brian Hermanus, the 17-year-old Griqualand West non-White swimmer could not stake a serious claim for inclusion in a Springbok team.

This is the considered view of Australian swim coach, Terry Gulliver, who had an opportunity this week of studying at first hand the 'training methods and ability' of a squad of top-non-White swimmers.

They are Brian Hermanus; 15-year-old team mate, Shereef Abass; 16-year-old Er Hendriks, of Eastern Cape, and the Natal trio of Vlotman (13), Ismail Vayej (15) and Seelan Nair (17).

He added: "These six swimmers seemed to be technically adept and reasonably well schooled in their approach. They performed as well as any similar White squad. I would not mind having one or two of them in my group, for I believe there is great untapped potential here."

Talking about Brian he said: "In eight years of coaching I have seen many promising swimmers but none like Brian. He has a natural grace and a strong desire to improve. He is a real pleasure to coach."

IN THE SWIM

● Coach Samba Ramsamy passing over some finer points to Colin Meth and Anjini Jithoo.

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Sketches kindly drawn by Jaseeliah Naidoo

DURBAN, December 23, 1982

Throughout its existence, organisations such as SAASwIF, SANASA and ASASA continually undertook programmes aimed at improving standards. Gala Officials' Courses and Examinations was the norm from the early seventies, with almost every pool deck official fully conversant with the latest FINA rules and conduct of competitive swimming. Developing coaches and coaching programmes was critical to this programme. Manuals were even developed for the traditionally "cinderella" codes such as water polo – note the "artist" of this 1980 publication for water polo – none other than the current President of Swimming South Africa!

COACHING FOR SWIM OFFICIALS

Leader 29/1/70 "Leader" Sports Staff

A COMPREHENSIVE course, dealing with all aspects of swimming, is to be held at the David Landau Community Centre, this Sunday. This "gala officials' course" is under the auspices of the South African Amateur Swimming Federation and will be conducted by the England-trained coach, Mr. Samba Ramsamy.

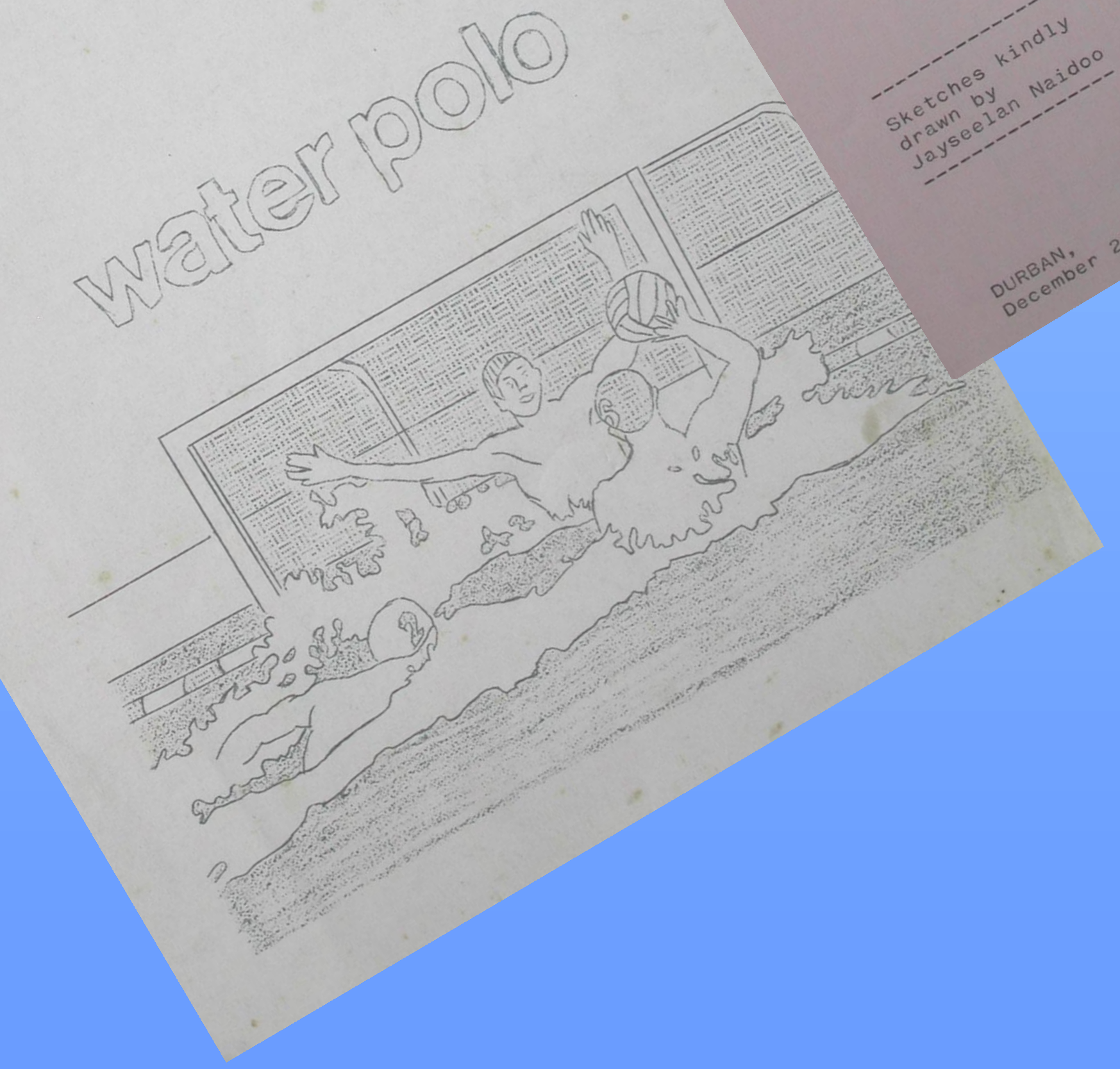
According to a letter to all interested persons, the national secretary, Mr. George Govender, says: "This course will be of great benefit to our many friends who so willingly give their time to officiate at galas and it is hoped that all those connected with the sport, no matter in what capacity will take advantage of the lectures."

The course will begin at 9 a.m. and will go through the day until

lectures in order to qualify to write the examinations and it is reported that the Federation will require a very high percentage pass, before candidates could qualify for certificates.

Mr. Govender said this week, that the date for the examination has still to be decided and this will probably be done on Sunday, when the lectures take place.

EARLY START



SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION

SAASwIF COACHES CLINIC
ORGANISED & HOSTED BY

Western Cape Amateur Swimming Association

1982

LECTURE NOTES





● ABOVE: Meelo Kyzer turns the 800-yard freestyle event in the Wynberg pool on Friday evening. Kyzer won comfortably from Trevor Heinrich and P. Bronder.

● BELOW: Kevin Heinrich does the butterfly during the 14-15 year-old boys 250m final at the Wynberg Group Cup of the Wynberg Ag. Club.

Cape Herald 24/77

45 SWIM RECORDS WENT OVERBOARD

A TOTAL 45 national records of the South African Amateur Swimming Federation were smashed by 104 swimmers at the national championships in Cape Town last week.

Natal, who won both the victor and victrix ludorum swept the Board with 211 points followed by Griqualand West, 149, Western Cape, 33, and Eastern Cape with 26.

The victor Ludorum won by Seelan Nair scored a maximum of 211 points while A. Nair scored 18 out of the four available.

Natal still swims best

8/77

WATER BABE

“Leader” Reporter NATAL swept to a remarkable 200 point victory in the eighth Inter Provincial Tournament at Port Elizabeth’s new Olympic sized pool. This enabled Natal to retain the Maracha Cup for the fourth consecutive time.

The outstanding features of this tournament were the performances of the two star swimmers, Anita Nair of Natal, who won all ten of the events in which she competed, and Seelan Nair, who was successful in seven of the eight events for the victrix.

The awards for the most versatile swimmers of the tournament were awarded to the two Natal swimmers, Anita Nair and Seelan Nair.

There were other outstanding achievements by Natal swimmers and little Ventus Jithoo won the special award for her outstanding performance.

Natal also won the outstanding young swimmer award at the tournament who also received a special award.

Cape Herald 20/1/68

Interprovincial Swimming

KYZER, METH OUTSTANDING

TREMENDOUS interest was displayed at the South African inter-Provincial Amateur Swimming tournament staged at the Wynberg swimming baths on three nights of last week.

Only three centres, Natal, Griqualand West and Western Cape participated but this did not detract from the outstanding success of the venture, which was attended by big crowds at every session.

The battle for final honours resulted into a close and absorbing struggle between Natal and Griqualand West. Natal eventually took first place with 339 points. Griqualand West came second with 291 points and Western Cape was a poor third with only 49 points.

W.P. FAILS

Western Cape’s inability to match the skill and efficiency of the two visiting centres was rather surprising and to a large extent alarming. It is generally known that there are more and better swimming facilities here than anywhere else and the failure of the local swimmers was therefore difficult to understand.

It is obvious that the Cape has scope for habited and some



Some of the female stars of the sixties: Jacqueline Meth, Selva Kisten, Roshini Pillay, Sandra Kisten and Anjini Jithoo

OVERSEAS COACH FOR SWIMMERS

8/77

The South African Amateur Swimming Federation has decided to invite an overseas coach with international experience to tour South Africa and conduct coaching clinics.

The decision was taken at the Federation’s annual general meeting held in Durban recently.

On the recommendation of its president Mr. Morgan Naido, the meeting also decided to select one or two of its most promising swimmers and send them overseas where they could join clubs.

and lack of international competition.

“How much worse off are we not having had any kind of international competition?”

PATIENCE

“Olympic games are out of the question — at this stage anyway. South African swimmers cannot engage in friendly competitions, simply because we are not affiliated to FINA. We cannot invite another country for the same reason.

Reproduced from

SWIMMING WORLD AND JUNIOR SWIMMER

and issued by the

SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION

5 DEC 1971

JIM BRINGS BOOST TO SWIM GAME

BY DEVEN MOODLEY

South African Swimming Federation has hired national coach Jim Spring of Australia now living in Durban.

M. Spring was delighted to offer his help to the first association. He said his first meeting with swimmers will be at the David Landau Community Centre from where he will coach the swimmers at the nearby Balkumar Baths.

WINNING WITH WILKIE . . .

Not only were the technocrats in the organisation involved in writing their own manuals, engaging external resources was integral to this programme. This included obtaining the rights to publish locally the David Wilkie (the British Olympic gold medallist in breaststroke) book on elite competitive swimming and getting leading coaches to participate within the organisation such as Terry Gulliver and Jim Spring.



The non-racial organisations were determined to provide the highest possible incentives for its swimmers. The Federation's top five swimmers of 1972 were given a lifetime opportunity. They were sent to a six week training course at the capital of English swimming, Crystal Palace. Once again, credit to Samba Ramsamy for his role in Federation's ambitious programme.

If standards within SAASwiF and SANASA were so high in the early days, why is the gap between white and black so wide today. This question is often asked by many on both sides of the unity divide. The discourse presented above should provide some idea to the answer to this question. In the early sixties, the facilities that existed although were greatly different (black swimmers had fewer pools, less experienced coaches; white swimmers had internationally trained coaches as a norm, with pools in most suburbs). However, sheer tenacity on the part of the non-racial sports organisations partially compensated for this: provision of high level national championships, coaching clinics etc.



However with the onset of the seventies this imbalance suddenly widened. In order to appease white sportspersons who were increasingly being isolated from the international community, vast amount of money was invested by the state in the provision of resources and other facilities for the white swimmer. Almost overnight, white exclusive Olympic standard swimming pools sprung up in major centres. Heated pools which permitted year round training programmes became the norm. Our swimming got stuck in the sixties mould: 25 yard and 33 1/3 yard pools for the summer months were our watering grounds - little wonder that our officials were mathematicians - the Conversion Table Books were always in demand!

White swimming celebrated when its prestige swimming pool, the Ellis Park received electronic timing - for the first time in South Africa - way back in 1972. White swimming took anti-ripple lanes for granted. The first time that black swimmers were able to experience electronic timing was in the 1990's - some 20 years later!

ELECTRONIC TIMING SOON FOR RAND

STAR 2 - MAR 1972

TRANSVAAL, the first province to accept sponsorship, will claim another notable first next summer when electronic timing equipment is installed at Ellis Park.

The absence of automatic timing and judging equipment is perhaps the greatest single shortcoming of the well-organised national tournament being swum here, and the Ellis Park device will be a great boon to Transvaal swimming.

According to a Transvaal official the equipment is of the most advanced type. As well as recording every swimmer's time to a thousandth of a second, it will print the results of each race and flash swimmers' times on an illuminated "scoreboard."

An electronic timing device was tried at Ellis Park two years ago as an experiment, but the new system, to be installed at the expense of the city council, will be the country's first permanent automatic timing equipment.

finals as such in relay races for which heats are necessary, and positions are decided on times. Transvaal won the first heat comfortably on Monday and Northern's romped home in the second. As spectacles both races fell flat. Yet in the final count only 14sec separated

Avoids human error



Spectator facilities at the Galeshewe Pool, Kimberley, at the time of the first ASASA Nationals, 1982. Inspected by Monathebe Senokoanyane (President), Morgan Naidoo (Secretary) and Brian Hermanus (Griqualand West Tournament Convenor)

When ASASA celebrated its inaugural national championships in 1982 at the Galeshewe township in Kimberley, the facilities were dangerous and seriously substandard - little more than ropes for lanes! And they still want to know why we are were we are.....



Tribute to Fallen Heroes

Morgan Naidoo

Entered swimming in 1964 as Vice President of the Natal Amateur Swimming Association. President and founder member of SAASwiF (1966) until its merger with SANASA in 1982. Secretary General of ASASA since its launch until his death in October 1988. Founder member of SACOS. SACOS President 1980-81; Secretary General 1981-84; Publicity Secretary 1986. Played an instrumental role in isolating racist swimming organisations from international sport. Banned for five years under the Suppression of Communism Act from 1973-1978. Posthumously awarded the Nelson Mandela President's Sports Administrator's Award in October 1998.



Monathebe Senokoanyane

First President of SANASA (1975-1982). Played a crucial role in developing swimming in the African townships, especially in the then Transvaal. Was a key roleplayer in the unification between SAASwiF and SANASA in 1982. Became first president of ASASA in 1982 until he was tragically killed in a car crash on April 16, 1983.

Harry Hendricks

The true elder statesmen of non-racial sport and swimming in particular. A founder member of the Eastern Cape Amateur Swimming Association in the early sixties and played an important role shaping the direction of SAASwiF and instrumental in the organisation of school sport in the sixties. Was responsible for ensuring that technical standards were maintained within non-racial sport, through Officials' Courses and examinations, development of coaching technical manuals etc. He was integral to coaching his sons, particularly Denver and Gavin to successful competitive swimming. Played key roles in ASASA, including that of acting President at various times.



Archie Hulley

Another stalwart of non-racial sport, and leader of aquatic sport. He was Vice President and Acting President of SAASwiF since the early seventies until its merger with SANASA in 1982. He was active in school sport throughout his life. He continued to be active in swimming at a national level until late in his life.



Tom Pause

Founder member of the South African Amateur Swimming Federation (SAASwiF) in 1965 and of ECASA. Played an instrumental role in establishing ECASA swimming as a key force in national events in the seventies and eighties, especially from his Uitenhage base at Dolphins Swimming Club- one of the oldest swimming clubs in the country. Served on the ASASA Executive as a ECASA delegate. Was the winner of the prestigious ASASA Sportsman of the Year Award in 1996. Died in office in 1997.

Gulagha Mohamed

Executive member of the Eastern Cape Amateur Swimming Association from 1972-1979. She moved to Cape Town where she became secretary of Western Cape ASA from 1980-1987. She was the SA Senior Schools Sports Association secretary from 1977-1979. She served the Eastern Province Senior Schools Sports Association from 1964-1979. On her return to King Williamstown in 1987, she began organising swimming in this area following the decline in activities of the Border ASA. She died in 1991, while still active in the ranks of ASASA.



Fred Beukes

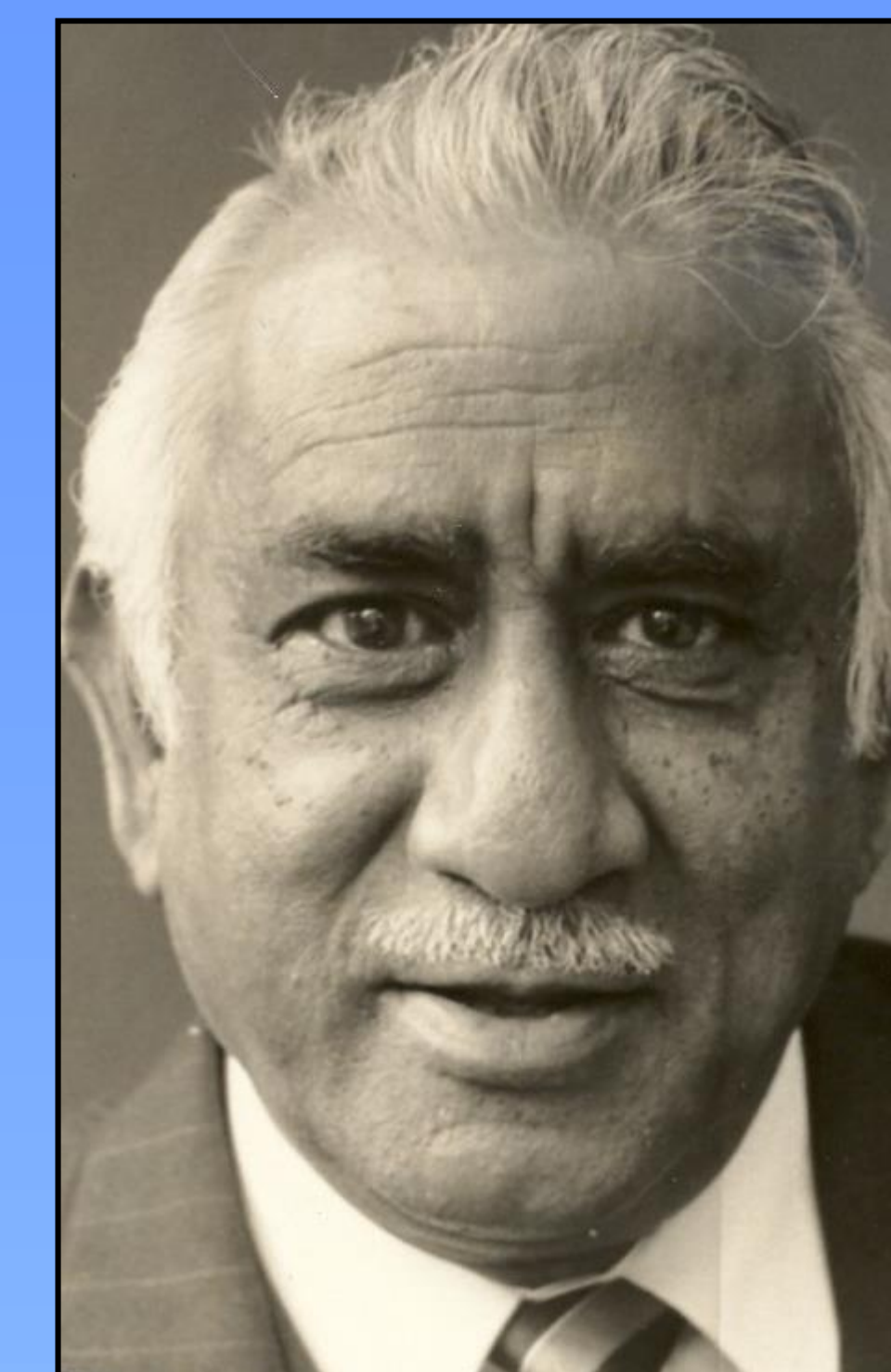
Founder member of the Aquadale Swimming Club in Southern Transvaal ASA, based at Ennerdale. Became secretary of STASA and in 1990 became General Secretary of ASASA, a post which he held until ill-health forced to accept a less onerous task - that of assistant secretary of ASASA in 1994. Fred died in office on 14 February 1997.



Other Stalwarts of non-racial swimming

Vasi Nair

Mr. Nair's involvement in aquatic sport commenced in the late sixties as chairperson of the Otto Swimming Club. Executive member of the Durban and District Swimming Association and the Natal Indian Amateur Swimming Association then renamed the Amateur Swimming Union of Natal in 1967. Mr Nair served as President and Vice President until 1976. Returned to the position of Vice President from 1989 – 1994 in the Amateur Swimming Association of Natal. Apart from his involvement at club and provincial level, Mr. Nair served in various positions in SAASwiF from 1968 until 1980. He was a leading technical official, deputy convenor of the Gala Officials' Course and Examinations Convenor at a national level. Mr. Nair was one of the most accredited technical officials on the pooldeck, having been referee and starter at almost all national tournaments. In recognition of his contribution to sport, Mr. Nair won the prestige KZN Premier's Sportsman Award in 2002 and a lifetime achievement recognition by Swimming South Africa in 2005



Mike Davy

Started out his career in the mid sixties as a swimmer, subsequently became coach and chairperson of Whalers Swimming Club from Eldorado Park in Jo'burg. Became President of the then Southern Transvaal affiliate of ASASA. Played a major role in the merger between SAASwiF and SANASA, and became pro-tem secretary, then assistant secretary and in 1984 became vice president of ASASA. Became President of ASASA in 1990, until its merger with Swimming South Africa in 1999, when he became Vice President for Development in the restructured SSA in 2000.



Gideon Sam

One of the early administrators of Border Amateur Swimming Association, formed and affiliated to ASASA in the mid 1980's. Was involved in the unity talks in the early 1990's. Became Deputy President following a merger with SAASU in 1992, and then President in 1996 until 2004. Played an important role in the unification of Swimming South Africa and ASASA in 1999. Currently Deputy President. Apart from swimming also involved in senior positions in national rugby, as well as being the former Chairperson of the SA Sports Commission.



Thabo Seotsanyana

Formerly coach and chairperson of Senoane Swimming Club from Soweto. A key executive member of SANASA, who became the vice president of ASASA at its formation, and subsequently its President upon the demise of Monathebe Senokoanyane in 1983. Illness forced him out of aquatics administration in 1990.



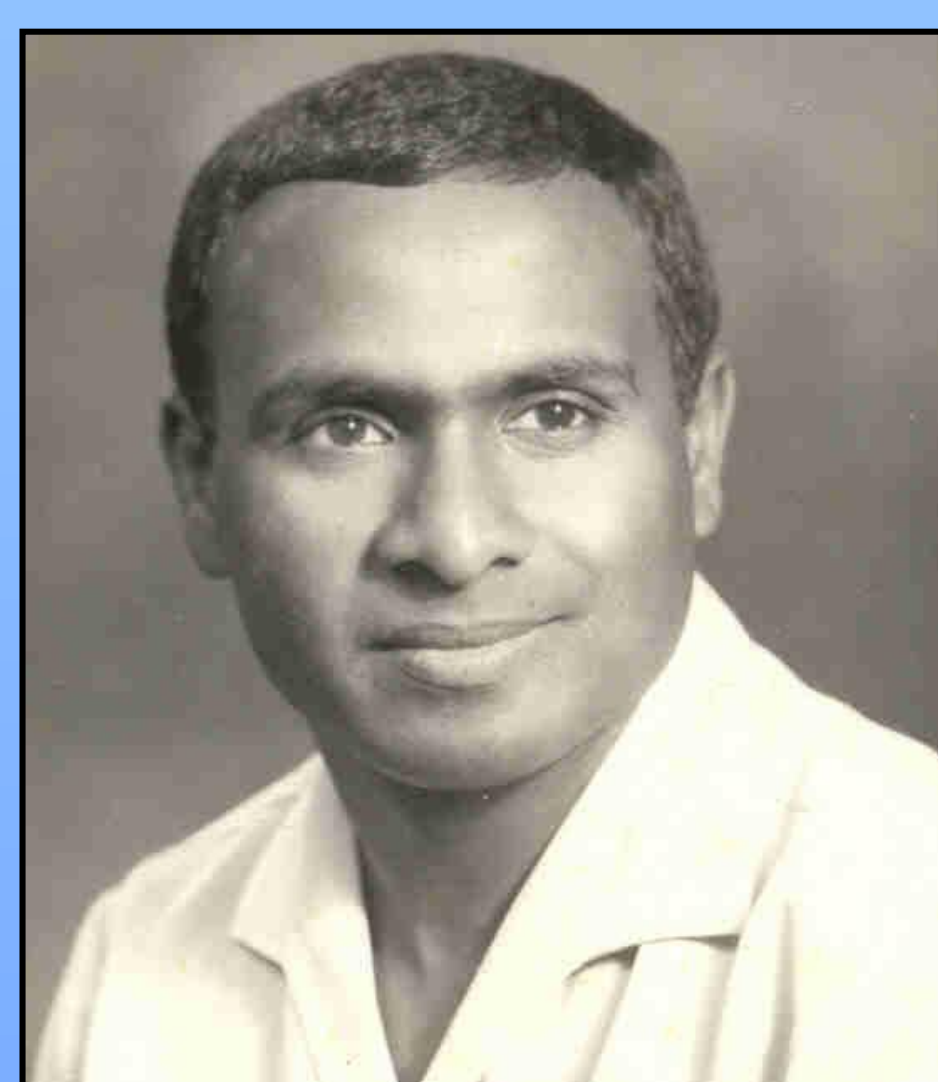
Param Naidoo

He was initially a swimmer of Daintree Swimming Club, then of Otto Swimming Club, during the sixties. Participated in first non-racial national swimming championships held in Cape Town, 1965. Since then he participated in ALL annual national swimming championships organised by adult body and schools' structures between 1965 – 1973. He was the national champion in all butterfly, freestyle and breaststroke events between 1965 – 1973, and was the national surfswimming champion in 1970/71. Coach for Otto from 1973 – 1979 producing provincial and national swimming champions and national record holders. Was appointed Natal provincial coach: 1974 - 1979 and again from 1992 – 1999. In addition, he was also the provincial Primary School's Swimming Coach (1974 - 1979), the provincial Senior School's Coach (1974 - 1979). He was the coach of winning national team for several years: 1974 - 1979; 1994 – 1999 and coach of runner up national team: 1993. Two of his proteges (Seelan Nair and Anita Vlotman) were selected to travel to a three month international training programme to London in 1975. Was recognised for his contribution to the sport by being nominated for the Premier's Sportsman Award in 2001. He was also the Assistant Coach to the national team which toured Brazil in 1999. Provincial and national Selection Committee member from 1990 – 1996 and again in 2000.



Samba Ramsamy

Samba was one of the early coaches of Otto Swimming Club and coach of the provincial side in Natal. In those early days, he was also records-clerk and treasurer of the provincial organisation. He left the country in 1968 and became based in the United Kingdom became one of the leading international campaigners for the isolation of apartheid sport in South Africa. As President of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), Samba was responsible for representing many of the non-racial sporting codes on the international front. He often represented SAASwiF at the FINA meetings. On his return to South Africa in 1992, Samba became the first president of the South African Amateur Swimming Association and the president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA). He stepped down as a formal Swimming South Africa member in 2004, to assume the position of Honorary Life President of the organisation and a Vice President of FINA

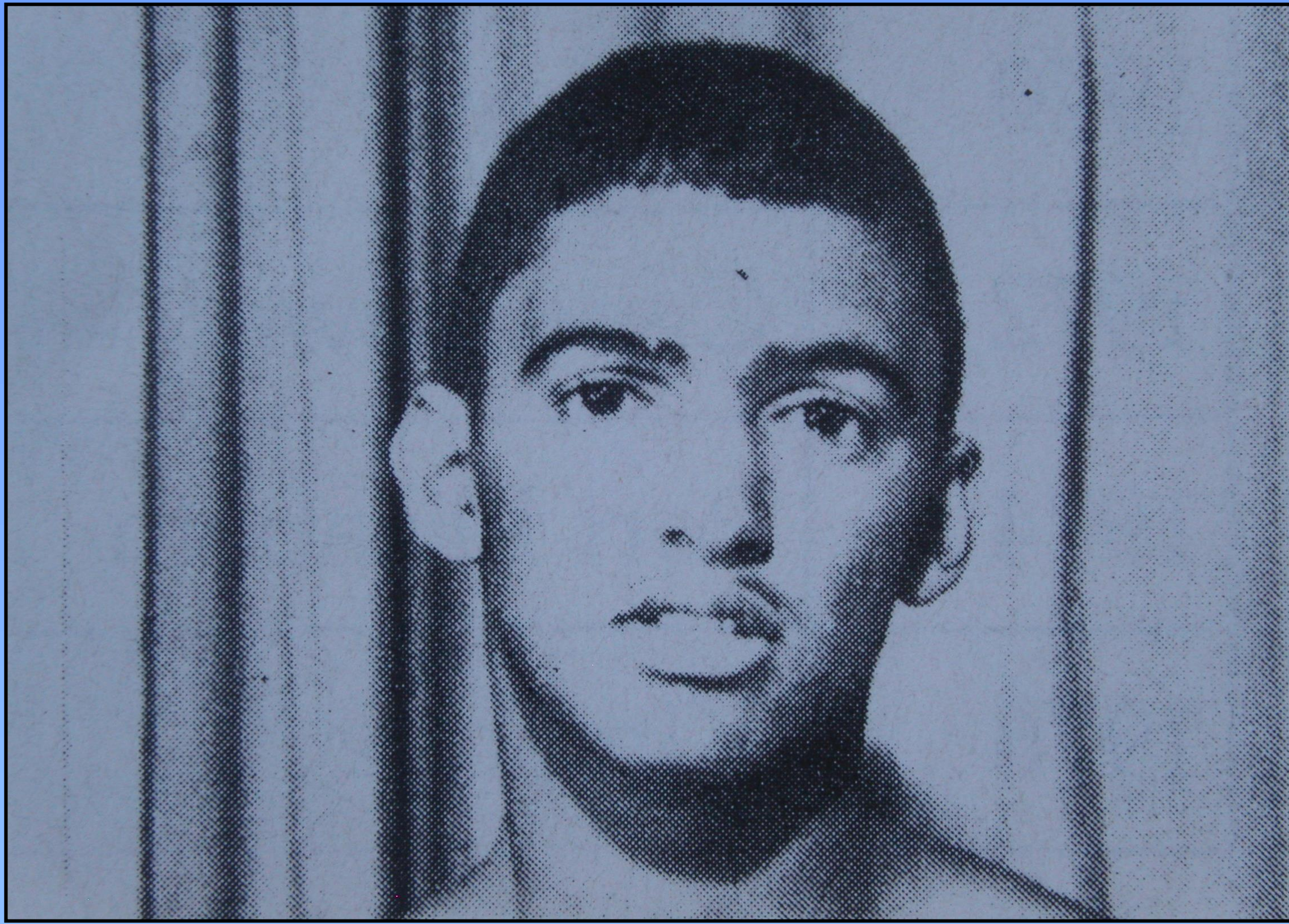


Eddie Meth

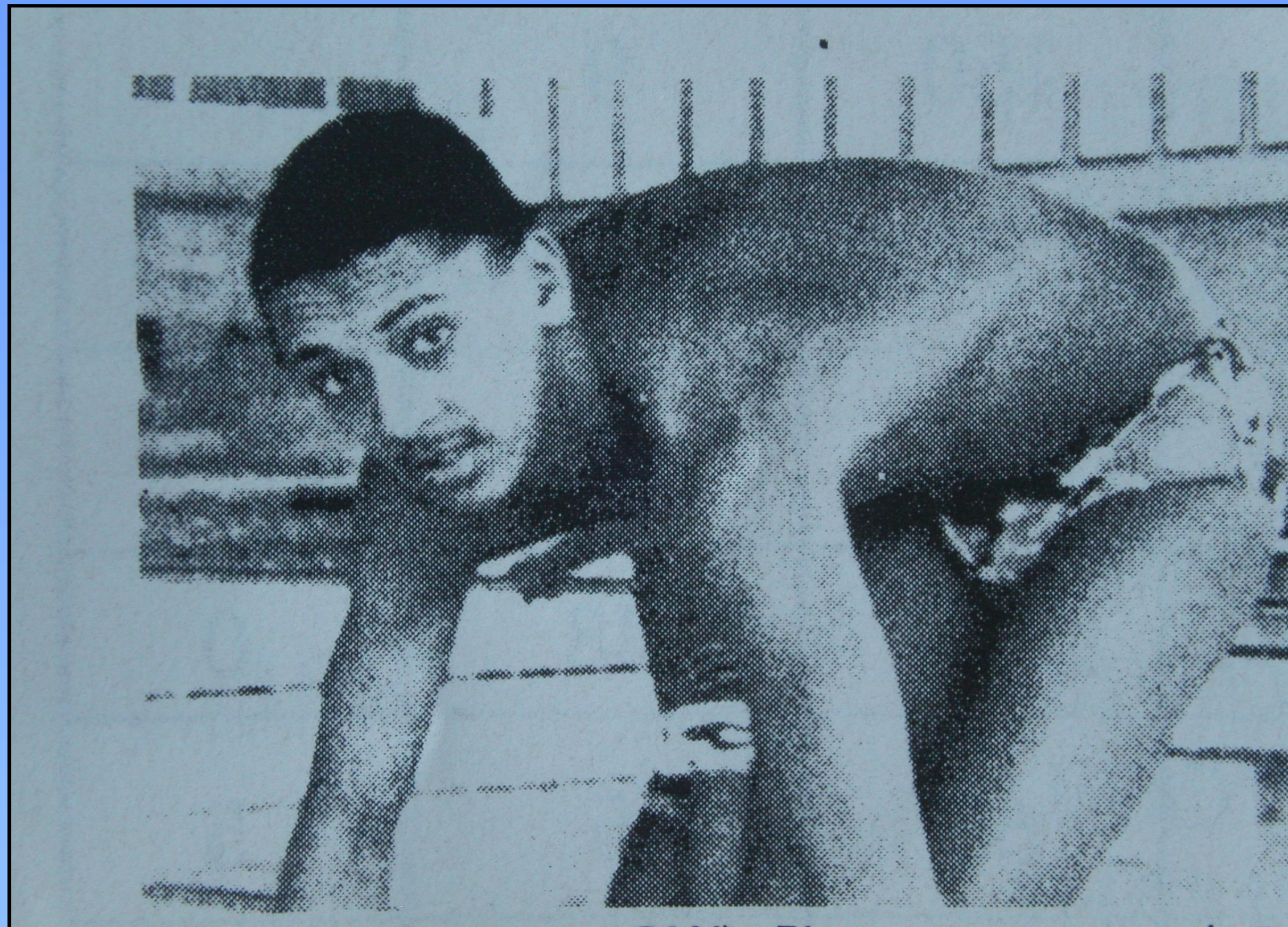
His career started in 1959, when he joined Daintree Swimming Club, based at the Balkumar Swimming Pool at Asherville, Durban. Captain of the provincial team to national competitions from 1964 - 67. Provincial swimming coach for the Amateur Swimming Association of Natal from 1980 – 1985. Swimmers under his guidance have received national and provincial honours, including receiving international sports scholarships to university in the USA. Director of Development in KwaZulu Natal Aquatics from 1992 to 2001, and the Deputy President from 1996 until 2000, Executive member of Swimming South Africa from 1997 until 2000.



Some Swimmers who became household names in non-racial swimming



Denver Hendricks



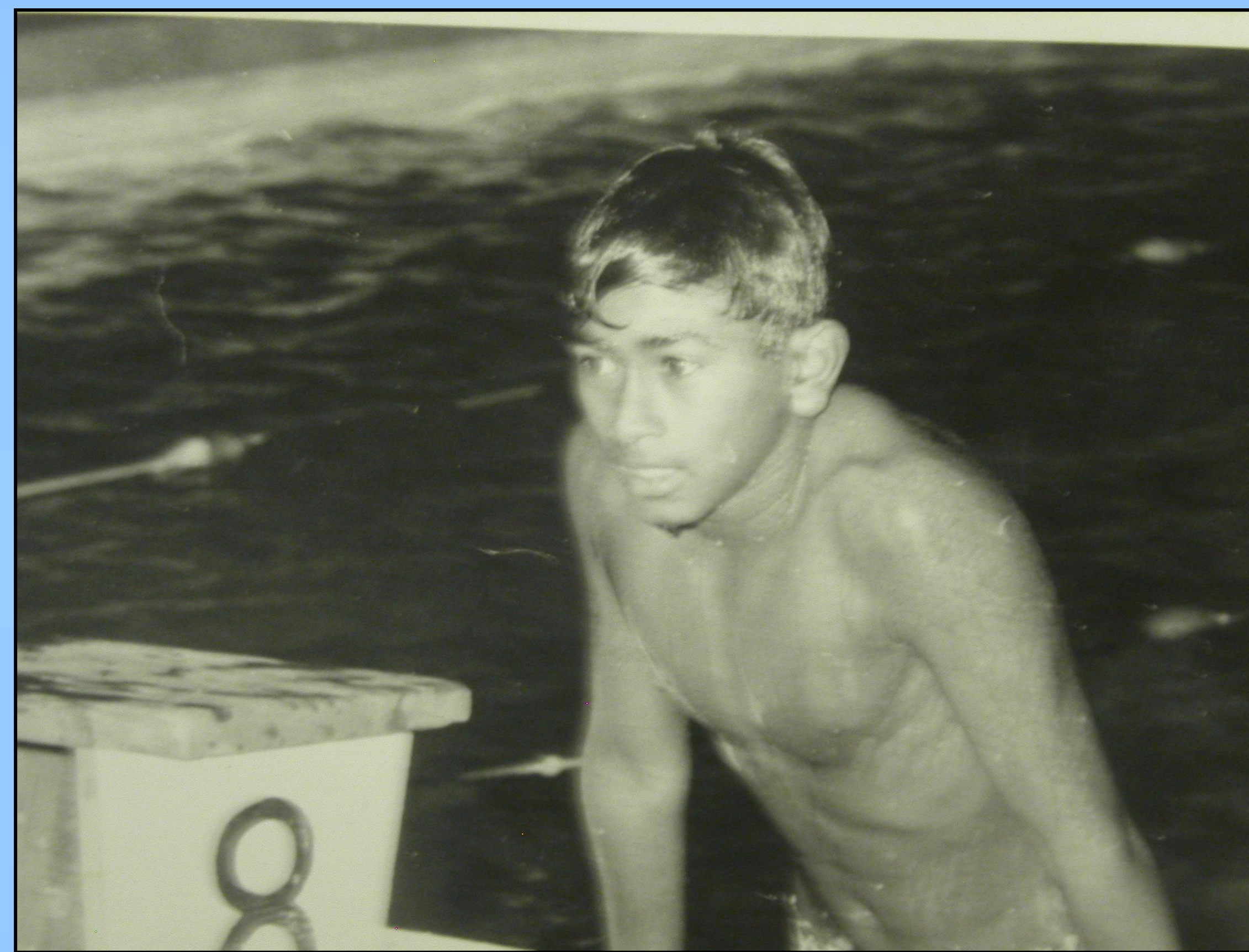
Brian Hermanus



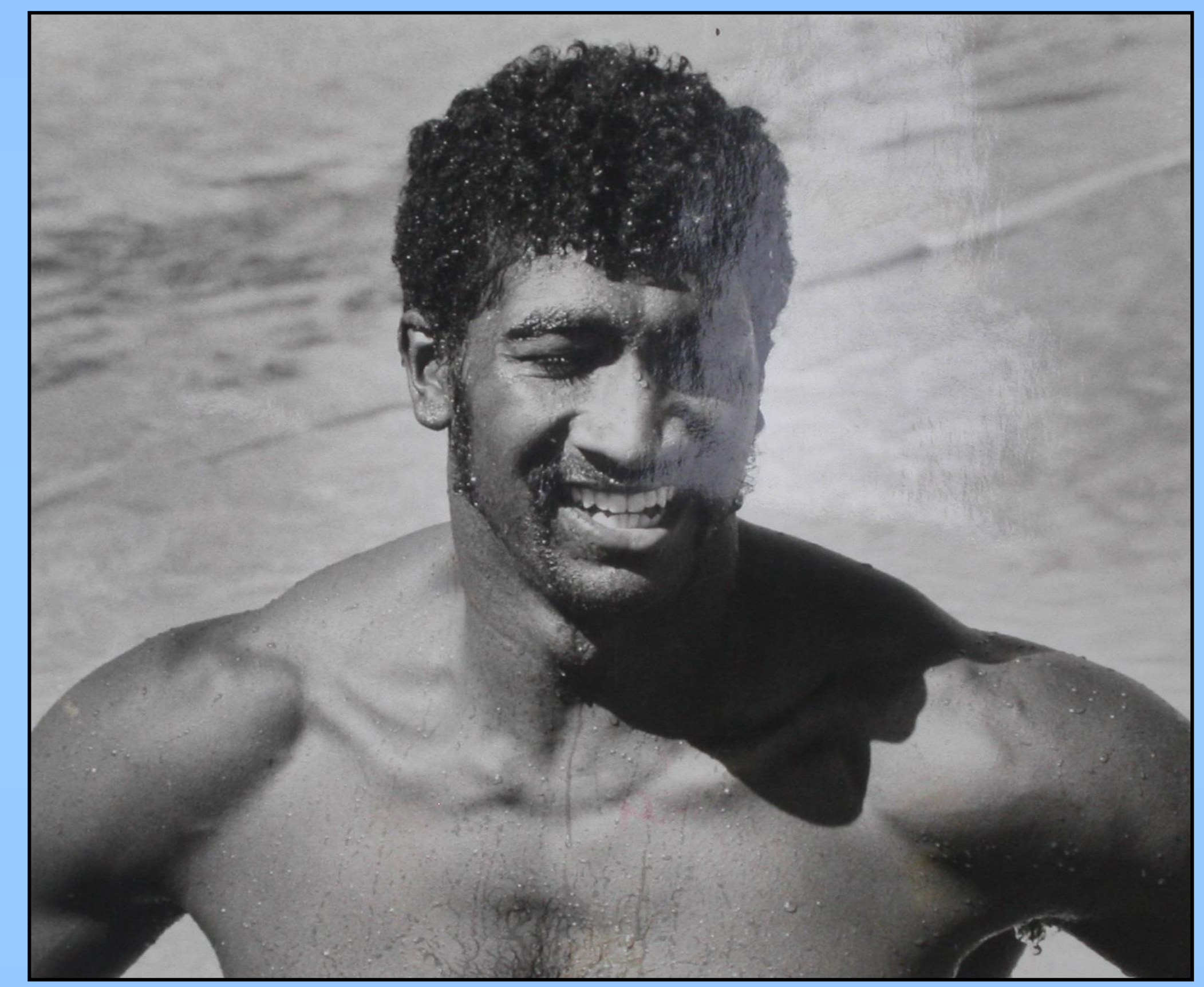
Shreef Abass



Anita Vlotman



Seelan Nair



Derek Ordersen



Gavin Hendricks



Keith Meth



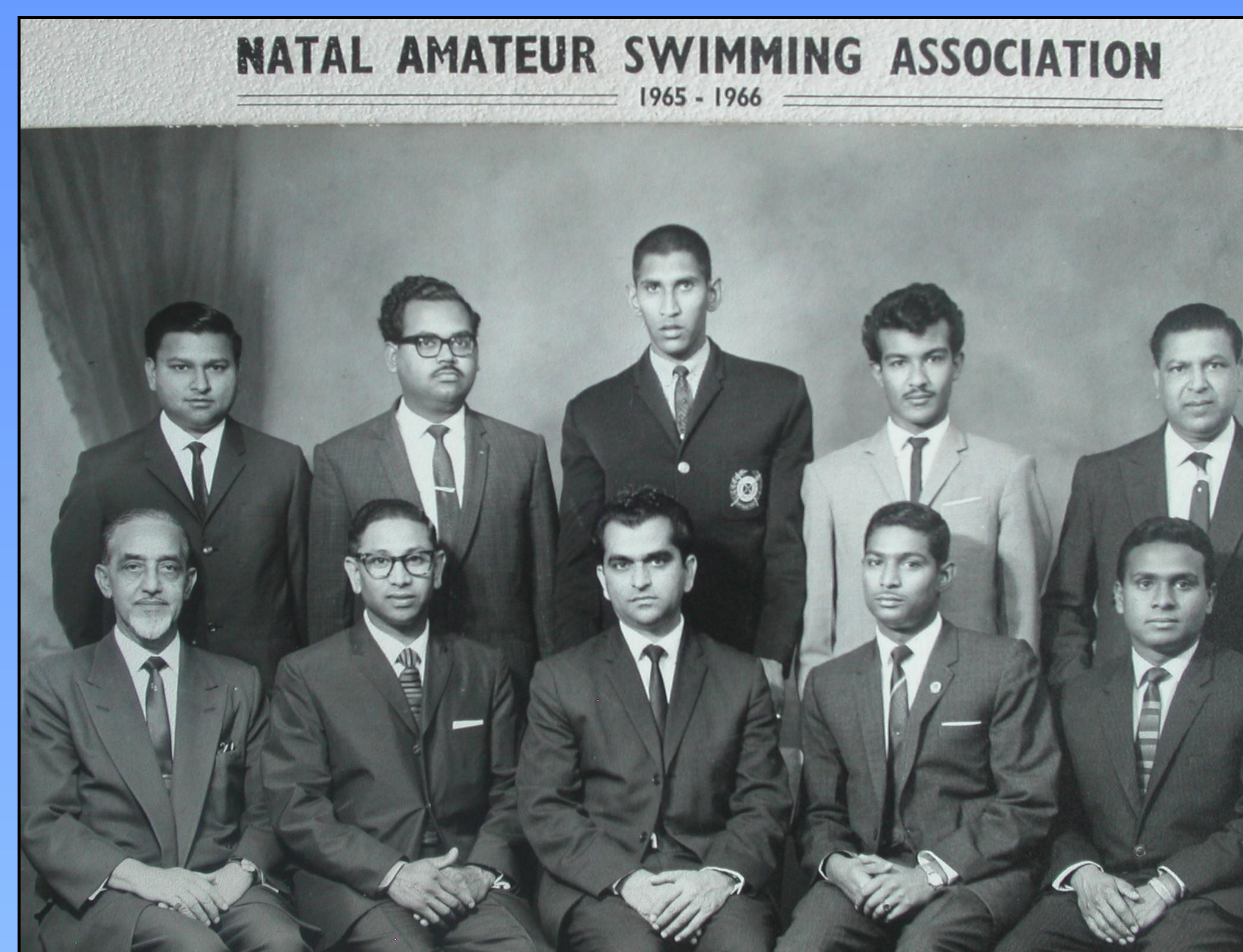
Mokotja Mota



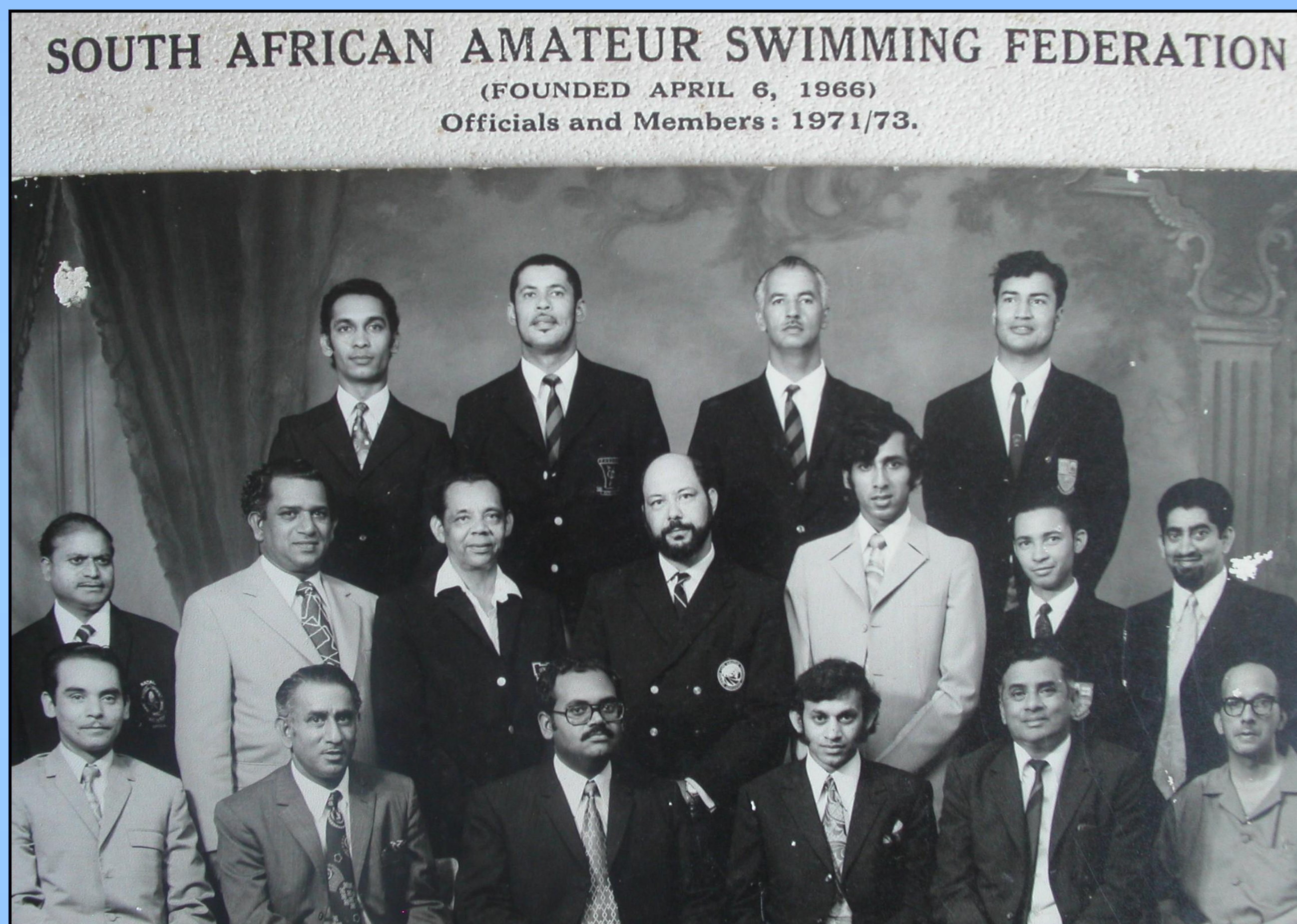
In the Boardroom



L to R: Vasi Nair, Dhama Nair, Dhasi Naidoo, Archie Hulley, RK Naidoo, Strini Naidoo, unknown visitor, Reggie Feldman, DK Singh, Harry Hendricks – administrators of SAASwIF in the early seventies



Natal Executive, 1965-66: (Standing) A. Mira, Morgan Naidoo (Vice President), Krishna Veeran (Coach), I. Mahabir, M. Jithoo (Vice President); (Seated) EH Ismail (Patron), SV Reddy (Treasurer), R. Hansrajh (President), S. Nadasen (Secretary), Samba Ramsamy (Record Clerk)



SAASwIF, 1971/3: (Back): SR Naidoo (Natal), IH Maclean (Eastern Cape), HCC Hendricks (Eastern Cape), N Jephta (Griqualand West), (Middle) S Viranna (Primary School), D Nair (Natal), T.Paulse (Eastern Cape), AI van Breda (Western Cape), D Naidoo (Natal), K McAnda (Griqualand West), MS Singh (Senior Schools); (Front): RW Herbert (Western Cape), V. Nair (Vice President), M Naidoo (President), D. Naidoo (Asst Secretary), SK Naidoo (Treasurer), RW Maurice (Western Cape)



ASASA Executive 1985 L to R: Mike Davy (Deputy President), Rocky Naidoo (Records Clerk), Thabo Seotsanyane (President), Morgan Naidoo (General Secretary), Adam Abdool (Treasurer)



ASASA Executive 1999 - L to R (standing): Jace Naidoo (General Secretary), Mike Davy (President), Cyril Julie (Deputy President), Roland Wagner (Records – Technical), Errol van der Hoeven (Records Clerk), Rishi Hiramun (Age Group Convenor), Rocky Naidoo (Assistant Secretary), Aubrey Goosen (Assistant Records Clerk), Audrey Meyer (Synchronised Swimming Convenor), Johnny Kamal (Treasurer)



The text and layout of this historical display of non-racial swimming since 1966 was done by Rajen Naidoo and sponsored by Swimming South Africa