

NEMATO

Change a life

giving disadvantaged youth the mindset, knowledge, skills and support to become successful in life
Newsletter, 9 May 2012, issue 4

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

We are excited and proud that our fencing club is up and running at last. After a fencing camp in George and with the arrival of equipment and fencing clothes, the club made a great start with an active group of members training five times per week. Another important step forward is the start of the Early Childhood Development course for Destiny Nelson. The course will assist her to start the Nemato Change a Life crèche later this year or early next year. Great news for the rowing club is the arrival of new boats donated by the Lottery.

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Full members

From our new members we identified 15 who have been active for at least two months with an attendance percentage over 80%. We offered them full membership. That means that they are allowed into our office, can use the computers and internet and join us for the meals. As soon as we have more furniture for the classroom, we'll also offer them our homework class. We want to say welcome to the new members, well done for working hard, and keep it up!

For the first time we have more than 60 full members in our organisation. This number might even go over 70 as more beginners will get full membership, but it can also go down: we know from experience that not all members will stay active.

ECD

With a week in class in Hamburg (South Africa), Destiny Nelson has started her Early Childhood Development (ECD) course. We are excited that after two years she is back at school. She was unable to continue her study after grade 9, as there is no Afrikaans school in Port Alfred that offers grade 10 to 12. This two year course at Rhodes University will offer her a certificate at Matric level. The course is a practical study and after volunteering at a crèche, Destiny will start and run a crèche for Nemato Change a Life, with the aim to improve the education of our children right from the start. Destiny's course is paid for by The Learning Trust.

Stenden project

Stenden South Africa in Port Alfred is a branch of the Dutch Stenden University. Most of the students in Port Alfred study in Holland and come to Port Alfred for half a year to study in a different environment and to experience a different culture. To strengthen this experience, the students have to do projects in our townships. To improve the quality of this experience, Stenden identified six high quality projects. We are happy that we have been selected as one of them. We can expect students to volunteer for our organisation on a regular base. Our main



ECD student Destiny Nelson at SA Champs in East London

focus is our homework class. Two students have joined us for 8 weeks and will assist our homework class four times per week. It is very helpful. With more 'teachers' we can offer more personal attention to our learners.

Helping network

One of our old members, Damian Marais, is studying Civil Engineering at an FET College in Cape Town. He is doing very well. He was one of only two in his class who passed the first year. We got in contact again with him again and he became an alumni member. In the holiday he lost his accommodation in Cape Town. Without a place to stay, he was unable to continue his study. When you are poor it is not possible to. It is great to be a member of the Sport for Social Change Network Southern Africa. We contacted one of the network members in Cape Town, Sadick Da Silva from Cape Flats Soccer Development, and he immediately offered to sort him out. Damian is now happily staying with the son of Sadick in affordable and comfortable accommodation. Thanks a lot Sadick, you are star!

Welding

With the support of Lottery our rowing club was able to buy equipment for tig-welding. It is great equipment for all types of welding needed by the rowing club: mild-steel, stainless-steel and aluminium welding. The only problem: how do you do welding? We were very lucky to bump into an old member, Ricardo Braaf. Guess what: he has a job in Port Elizabeth as a welder. He accepted our invitation to become an alumni member. He is now training two of our members, Bulelani Zono and Thulani Magongo, in welding. It is the first time an alumni member is training members professional skills. This is a great development. With the commitment of many alumni members to our organisation, we are looking forward to much more skills transfer in future, when more members enter the job market.

Ubuntu

We happily upgraded our computers to the latest Ubuntu 12.04 operating system: open software that offers all software packages you need, without viruses and at no cost.

NEMATO ROWING CLUB

SA Champs

Our senior rowers participated in the South African Senior Rowing Championships in East London on the 28th of April. It was a bit early in our rowing season, but all the years of rowing experience and good basic fitness paid off with Chuma Nyendwana, Lunga Vulindlu, Simlindile Veto, Bulelani Zono and cox Thulani Magongo winning gold in the C-level coxed four.



Our winners at SA Champs in East London

Rowing boats

Nemato Rowing Club is very fortunate to have received funding from Lottery for equipment, capacity building, kit and provincial competition. This month we received new rowing boats: 5 single sculls and 2 doubles. These are the first new boats for our club since the start of the club in 2005. It is a great investment in the long term sustainability of the club. Two sculls and one double are now in Port Elizabeth for our members who are studying there.



New single sculls donated by Lottery

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB



EC Gymnastics Squad training: flick flacks on tumbling track

Eastern Cape Squad

Four gymnasts were invited to a training and testing session in Port Elizabeth for the Eastern Cape Squad. That is a great honour. It means that the selectors see potential in our gymnasts for development to international level gymnastics. They allowed us to bring a few more gymnasts, who we think have potential. In total seven of our gymnasts and three coaches attended the squad session. We are waiting to see who passed the tests and will be included in the Eastern Cape Squad.

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Handball

Somehow the handball team never got as well organised as the other clubs. One of the challenges is poor attendance at the meetings. The club has not been able to formally change from

netball club to handball club, so the club can't affiliate with the handball association. The members are training hard for nothing; they can't participate in tournaments. We are looking for ways to sort it out.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Camp

With a group of 13 people we went to George in the Western Cape for a three day fencing camp. It was a very important camp for us, to get more knowledge and skills in the sport of fencing. We are now well prepared to train and get ready for competition. Thanks to Randall Daniels and the South African Amateur Fencing Association for organising and the Department of Sport for funding the camp!

Start of activities

With the camp, our fencing club is active at last. It took us a

long time, but now we have a basic set of fencing equipment and protective clothes. Immediately we got new members, who had been waiting for fencing to join our organisation. Also some existing members changed their sport to fencing. We already have more than 10 people participating in each training session. As for our other sports, we offer about five to six training sessions per week.

It is great that we can offer this new sport in our townships. Everybody is different. There is not one sport that fits all. We have the feeling that there could be a lot of talent for fencing in our townships. Let's develop it!



Fencing camp in George



First fencing session in Nemato

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