

President's Report – CGA 2021-2022 Season

This is going to be my last report for CGA. After 14 years I will be stepping away from aquatics. During this time, I was never paid a cent for my time, travel, accommodation, it was all for free. I did it for the love of aquatics and for the good of the aquatic athletes.

I started in 2009 as a Timekeeper then moved on to organising the officials, then to swimming TC combined with being a member of the executive and volunteered my time to the tune of at least 32 weekends a year plus endless time sorting out officials, training officials, sorting out swimmers, galas etc.

In 2017 I was elected president and took over a CGA that only had R443 000 current assets i.e., money, R294 000 Non-current Assets which included R257 000 of Trophies. CGA end of 2021-2022 season had R1 068 000 current assets and R1071 000 non-current assets of which R257 000 is trophies and R760 000 pool equipment which includes 20 touch pads, cabling, starters, backup buttons, GEN7 Colorado control system, which can be moved to any pool that CGA wants to have a gala at as long as there are holes to attach the pads. This improvement from R737 000 in 2017 to R2 088 000 at end of 2021-2022 season is nearly 300%. Not too shabby improvement. CGA has always had a problem with having a home pool, we moved from Delville which was really Eastern 's pool to Ellis Park, which is/was a fantastic facility, but as it is a municipality run pool and its situated in, not a very good region of Johannesburg, there was always issues with security, running of the pool, temperature of the pool, toilets, etc. etc., we did try to help and co-operate with COJ in trying to repair equipment, pay for chemicals etc., etc., but in the end the fact that the municipality was not able to keep the pool in a usable condition and that the area just became worst from a security point of view we can no longer use it. CGA is looking for a partner with a pool and we have the equipment to put in the pool. A good bargaining chip for the new executive. Negotiations were started with St

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Stithians in 2020, but covid and issues have made that this has not come to fruition, these negotiations and others need to be made so that CGA can get a 50m home pool from where it can function and preferably a place where all CGA's disciplines, swimming, artistic swimming, diving, masters can function from.

CGA over last 5 years has tried to help its clubs, it has adsorbed fee increases as much as possible. Athletes' portion to CGA went from R500-R310, officials went from R50-R0, Coaches went R500-R310, club affiliation fees stayed constant. During this time the increases have been from SSA's and AG's side. Then during COVID coaches got their registrations for nothing. Please people, stop saying that CGA wasn't looking after your interest and not helping you. CGA has been looking after you. During the Covid period CGA still paid its staff, and it also helped the development LTS coaches with stipends as they could not work. Athletes and persons who did ask for help was helped as much as CGA could, disable athletes got their registration fees and entry fees paid for.

CGA paid for the national's kit and entries which cost in the region of R127 000, so the CGA athletes who did go to nationals got more than their registrations fees back in Kit and entry fees. I.e. those who really worked to represent the district were acknowledged by CGA and were supported by CGA, CGA did its best to look after its members.

Taking into consideration all the COVID issues etc., the number of competitive athletes for all disciplines excluding water polo went from 1295 in 2020-2021 to 1679 in 2021-2022 a 29.6% increase and that is after the normal leaving of athletes from the district due to going to university, parents getting other jobs and leaving the district, etc. Registered coaches went from 116 in 2020-2021 to 78 in 2021-2022. LTS went from 212 to 92, and officials went from 291 to 325 as would be expected due to less restrictions and thus more parents registered. The decrease in coaches and LTS is due to the fact that coaches and LTS person were not required to be registered to carry on with their business so now they are out not bound by any constitution, ethics rules nothing and taking away business from those who are legally registered. There needs to be a greater effort put in in

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making sure that people that work with children, athletes fall under a controlling umbrella so that the children and athletes as safe.

Notwithstanding the issues with COVID the aquatic disciplines managed to do very well, and their athletes performed very well at all levels.

Development

On the development side Yusuf took this under his wing and he has been doing a fantastic job, CGA has more development programs, running most another districts. CGA has LTS programs running in Lawley, Orange Farm, Eldorado Park, Coronationville and helping with the Vuleka program run by Aqua Athletes, has assisted other areas like Carletonville in establishing a solid program. CGA development has established 3 new development clubs in Eldorado, so we now have 5 plus two non-development Clubs, Soweto swimming has 5 different locations within the township, have helped Superfins expand into River Lea and we are helping Cosmos city although it's not in our territory as such. CGA has a very solid development side and even if we do get a little help from the Government, most of this support comes from the CGA community. I would like to thank you, the aquatics community, for this support so that CGA could do these programs and I hope that CGA will continue with its programs. For more details on development please read the developments report from Yusuf which will be supplied. Yusuf thank you again for getting all of this done appreciated

Compliance

With COVID came compliance rules which changed the way that the aquatics sports would be conducted. Yusuf again put his hand up and took things over from Steve when he left. During these last two years CGA has come under a fair amount of criticism at times, but the decisions that were taken were proven to be right and we managed to keep COVID spread down to a minimum with minimal outbreaks, Yusuf and all the compliance officers thank you

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again for all the hard and thankless work that you put in for further details please read compliance report from Yusuf.

Artistic swimming

Artistic swimming has come back with a bang this last season under the management and guidance of David Drinkwater. CGA is very proud to have the SA Olympic coach and Olympic athlete as members, then there are lots of new plans, programs for the new season being put into place by Artistic swimming. Davis and artistic swimming well done on a great season, and I wish you all of the success and a strong future. Please read Artistic swimming report for more details

Diving

Diving under the guidance of Loredana had a very successful season, winning the Women's Overall Shields at nationals. Diving is still having major challenges due to there being very few diving facilities. Loredana thank you for all the hard work that you have put into diving and for keeping it going strong. Please read Diving's report for all the details

Swimming

Swimming came back much stronger this year and managed to get in the region of 10 galas in. CGA has a major problem with the availability of 50m pools, but the TC under the guidance of Kyle managed to get enough events in, the swimmers managed to get times, so that they could participate at Nationals and regionals. Venues are at a premium and we are asking all for help in getting venues and to eventually get a home pool for CGA. CGA has the equipment to have effective and efficient galas it just needs a good partner with the facility.

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Open Water

Open Water has had a relatively good season, but water quality is now becoming a major issue making it very difficult to hold events. Open water CGA has now merged with open water AG and is being run on a provincial basis, I really think that CGA should have its own events as in the past, but this will be up to the new open water team and the new executive to put in place. No report available for open water

Masters

Masters under the guidance of Guy and Carole have had a successful season even with their major pools for events, Ellis Park and St Stithians was not available. At nationals several SA and GMS records were broken. Well done to all. Masters as always are looking for new younger swimmers to join them their numbers have remained constant. Guy and Carole thank you for your support and for all the hard work that you are putting into Masters, well done. Please read master's report

Education, Training, and IAP

Education and training were moved out of CGA and was managed by IAP together with the registration of Coaches, LTS and officials in 2020, this worked very well, and everything is now streamlined. Within two years, people's documents certificates, qualifications etc. were all in one safe place and the system could be analysed and worked with, it was POPAI compliant and secure, user friendly if a person read the instructions, Naomi, Bradley, David, Robyn, Gabby, and crew bent over backwards to help all at CGA to get their registrations in and sorted out. I would like to thank them for their support and for all that they did for CGA members. Naomi on top of what she was doing at IAP also volunteered to be the registrations co-ordinator between CGA and SSA/AG for the uploading of all the Coaches, LTS document

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and registration stuff and made sure that everything was done absolutely correctly to the unhappiness of many, but it was done correctly.

The IAP gave/facilitated courses for CGA members and other people, for CPD points, these were monitored and run correctly.

IAP thank you for your time, patience, and dedication, CGA appreciated it.

IAP, you have a fantastic system that would bring sanity to the administration of any sporting discipline. I wish you all the success for the future.

The IAP's contract came to an end on the 7th July 2022 and it was quite apparent from the previous evenings disrupted AGM, that certain main members of the "new executive" were totally against the IAP, as well as certain clubs, so the present executive could not in good faith re-negotiate a new contract with the IAP, and it would be fatal to IAP to sign a new contract with CGA due to the antagonism that the "New incoming executive persons" have towards IAP.

If you can't get registered or get your CPD points or any education and training information, it's not the IAP's fault, they did what they were asked to do very well, till the contract finished.

Please note that it's neither the old executive's fault nor the IAP's fault, that you can't get registered. It's the apparent incoming of certain "new executive's" and certain clubs attitudes that's causing the problem.

The office can't help you, nor can accounts help you as they don't have the facilities nor capacity to do this, so don't get cross with them.

Please revert all questions/issues to the interim committee or to the "New executives"

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding was introduced and adopted by CGA this past season, many have been registered, which is fantastic. This was put in place to safeguard the athletes, coaches, officials, and everybody who works with athletes. Puts into place protocols for the management of harassment, maltreatment etc. issues in sport. SSA has now also sent out a draft policy, so CGA was ahead of the curve on this one, well done to all involved and especially to Yusuf Moola, Naomi and Dave Dodge for taking responsibility for this and running with it together with IAP and Safeguard. I hope that new responsible persons will take it forward for the good of the athletes and sport.

Finance

As I mentioned at the beginning, the present CGA executive has left CGA in a very strong financial position from which it can grow and be able to help its athletes. The final financial statement will be made available to all once the final version comes back from the auditors. I truly hope that this trend will be kept going by the new executive. Please read Michaels, report, and the financial statement.

I would like at this point to thank Linda Griffiths for all the hard work that she has put in to keep the accounts in order and up to date, your commitment has been tremendous and appreciated. Michael I would like to thank you for looking after the finances even from Ireland, this has been appreciated thank you

Marketing, communications

I would like to thank Walter for making sure that Facebook works, that our email's and that the CGA webpage functions. A very big thank you to Liesel Thompson for putting up her hand to sort the national kit at an extremely short notice as per normal. She did a fantastic job, thank you very much.

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CGA Office

The CGA office has been reduced to one person. Thank you, Barbara, for all the work that you are putting in. Barbara is only responsible for the registrations of athletes, co-ordination of the clubs, and official's registration after these are sent to her from IAP, communications between E&T coordinator, CGA, AG and SSA etc. Communicating to clubs', communications from the executive and TC chairs, she is not responsible to the registration of coaches, LTS, and officials, only the transferring of registrations from IAP to AG/SSA.

Barbara, I thank you very much for all the hard work that you put in. Appreciated.

CGA members, it has become apparent that as members some of you are not reading the CGA constitution and the CGA byelaws, as a member you are required to know what is in the constitution and the bylaws, they were written to protect CGA and to make sure that CGA is run properly. Persons have taken the liberty to circumvent CGA's constitution and byelaws, please be careful, don't be blinded by promises and gifts.

I would like to thank my present executive and executive committee members for all their hard work that was put in this past season, without your inputs CGA would not be on such a sound base.

Thank you CGA members, coaches, TC members, parents and athletes who stood by the Executive, tightened their belts, pulled up their sleeves and made it work, for without your help this would not have been possible.

Thank you, all the athletes, for representing CGA and South Africa in such a disciplined and successful manner.

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Well done to all our coaches - their dedication and passion in continually applying their knowledge to teach and coach every athlete to reach his/her utmost ability is inspiring and helps the CGA Executive as well as the technical committees to work continuously to support our members. It has been a pleasure to be part of such a great, caring, and competent team.

CGA clubs please, you need to contribute more towards the running of, setting up of the strategies and putting forward nominees for the various portfolios of CGA get involved.

We as the Executive, with your help, have managed this past year to build onto the solid foundation from past years, now CGA needs a lot of committed people to move CGA forward. CGA must continue with meaningful debate, understand, isolate, and resolve the real factors that impact the pace, quality of development and transformation in your wonderful sport.

I would like to thank the following persons who over the last 14 years and especially the last 5 have been there to help, support, advise, mentor me through all the work, politics, issues that is part of running an organization like CGA.

Andre Kucio, Roberto Castellani, Mark MacMillan, Dea Slattery, Marion Hughes, Dave Dodge, Naomi Dodge, David Gal, Steve Haupt, Mike van Hiller, Lynne Stockton, Braam van Niekerk, Pieter Williams, Walter Trevisan, Yusuf Moola, Linda Griffiths, Barbara Moremi, Sue Crawford, Michael Craig, Simone Craig, Karen Saunders, Lauren Sher, Gavin Falconer. I would also like to thank all the clubs and their members who over the years have supported me and helped at galas, events etc.

I am proud and honoured to have worked with such a competent and committed group of persons these past years and I hope that you will give the same support and put in even more hard work for the new executive and executive committee so that CGA can be successful and one of the better districts in the country.

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On a last note, I have really enjoyed my time spend in aquatics since 2009, I have had lots of fun had great times, made good friends, but the back stabbing, posturing, unethical behaviour, lying, politics, grabbing for power and using the system for one's own benefit, by paid administrators as well as "volunteers" who get benefits out of the system at the expense of the athletes is quite disgraceful and very tiring, will be quite glad to see the end of that. I wish CGA all the best for the future.

Marco Marchi

CGA President 2017-2022

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