



NEWS UPDATE FOR SUPPORTERS/SPONSORS – November 2010

NEW BOARD, NEW CEO

Successful businessman Monde Mpongoshe (38) is set to replace Glyn Broomberg as CEO of the Life Cycling Academy (LCA) and Velokhaya in March next year.

Monde, who has been Acting CEO since October 1, 2010, is passionate about cycling and its contribution towards youth development, particularly in previously marginalised communities. He says he is looking forward to using his vast experience in change management, organisational development, human capital and business development in both the private and public sectors, to the benefit of the organisation.

Current CEO Glyn Broomberg – a co-founder of Velokhaya and the LCA - will continue to work closely with Monde until March 2011, after which he will serve as an ordinary board member of Velokhaya/the LCA.

Says Glyn, “Velokhaya and the Life Cycling Academy have been an integral part of my life since I co-founded the LCA in 2002 with Amos Ziqubu. Stepping down as the CEO has been a difficult decision to make but I do believe it’s the right decision.

“Every organisation needs to change and refocus and I feel the time is right, after almost nine years, for a new person to take the helm at Velokhaya and the LCA. I have full confidence in Monde’s ability to bring fresh ideas to the organisation and to grow it into an even stronger, more focused and more dynamic organisation.”

Monde paid tribute to the vision and passion of Glyn and Amos, the founders of the LCA/Velokhaya. “One need only look at the achievements of Luthando Kaka, Songezo Jim and Anita Zenani, three Velokhaya cyclists who’ve competed and made their mark against the world’s best, as proof of their vision and passion.”



Monde Mpongoshe, Glyn Broomberg and Amos Ziqubu

Monde's appointment as the new CEO is expected to be ratified by the Board at a meeting in early 2011.

The members of the 2011 LCA/Velokhaya Board – which will be actively involved in the operation and strategic direction of the organisation – are: Glyn Broomberg, Monde Mpongoshe, Amos Ziqubu, Charl de Winnaar, Mtunzi Mdwaba, George Edie and Luthando Kaka. (Profiles of each of the board members will be posted on www.velokhaya.com).

2010 - HIGHLIGHTS - BMX

A roundup of Velokhaya's news and achievements on the BMX scene ...

THE RAMP 'REVAMP'...

The start ramp at the BMX Oval has been 'revamped' thanks to the Pedal Power Association (PPA), a long-time supporter of the LCA and the Velokhaya BMX Oval – and of cycling transformation in South Africa.



According to Glyn Broomberg, "One of the 2010 objectives for the Velokhaya BMX Oval was to upgrade the start ramp facility and make it more professional and user-friendly. We also wanted to make better use of the space under the ramp.

"The ramp is made up of shipping containers donated by Safmarine and the idea was to convert the containers into a storage and workshop space which can be used by all our cycling programmes, not only the BMX programme.

"Plans were drawn up to convert the containers and thanks to funding received from the Pedal Power Association (PPA), the conversion became a reality this year. We now have a 12 sqm bicycle workshop, which has allowed us to transfer all the equipment from the previous workshop, 5km away in Makaza. Having the workshop together with the other facilities has made life a lot easier and the two large storerooms for bicycles and a full enclosed courtyard have provided better security for our highly valued equipment. Even our gardener, Alfred, is delighted to finally have his own, secure space for his equipment!"

The top of the container-ramp has been upgraded with the addition of a deck and railing which provide more security for riders and a better starting gate area. A staircase/ramp has been erected on the side of the structure. This ensures that the actual start ramp is no longer used other than for the start of the races and training sessions.

"This new start ramp is proving to be a wonderful asset to the Velokhaya BMX Oval; it has taken us one step closer to becoming, if not already, one of the best equipped tracks in Cape Town and will improve our ability to host national BMX events at the facility."

According to Steve Hayward, chairman of the Pedal Power Association, "We have been thrilled to see the Velokhaya initiative, and specifically the BMX Oval, grow consistently over the last few years.

“BMX is a great way to introduce kids to the wonderful world of cycling, and we are looking forward to seeing great cyclists come out of Khayelitsha, starting with Anita, Bayanda and Xolisa who were placed at the recent South African Nationals and Grand National BMX Championships in Pietermaritzburg.”

(More photos of the upgraded Velokhaya BMX starting ramp on www.velokhaya.com)

... Velokhaya wins Gold at the SA Champs

Velokhaya BMXers Bayanda Ganyaza and Xolisa Makubalo had their first taste of national competition when they participated in the SA BMX Championships at Giba Gorge in April.

This followed their selection in December last year to join one of South Africa's top BMX teams, the Durban-based Team Jeep, for two national events in 2010.

Their achievements at the SA Champs exceeded everyone's expectations – including their own - when they each won three gold medals. These are incredible achievements when one considers that both Xolisa and Bayanda had only been riding for a year when they took part in the SA Champs – and that it was their first event outside Khayelitsha and only their third ever competitive event!



Xolisa Makhubalo and Bayanda Ganyaza pictured in December 2009 with Team Jeep's Axel and Liam Webster and Nzuzo 'Zuz' Mngadi; Bayanda and Xolisa in action at the SA Champs (Action pictures © Darren Goddard)

... a World ranking at the BMX World Champs

Thanks to the support provided by Primedia Broadcasting and the DisChem Foundation, five Velokhaya riders were able to participate in the World BMX Champs held in July this year.

For us, the highlight of the Champs was Anita Zenani's sixth in the World placing in the Girls, Age 12 category. Another highlight was the invaluable experience gained by Coach Skeezo Vicani (Team Manager), Team Mechanic Anele Madlolo and riders Xolisa Makubalo, Bayanda Ganyaza, Akhona Jim and Wanga Moshani. A big thank you too, to volunteer Howard Owen for managing the logistics of the trip to Pietermaritzburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal. Read his report on www.velokhaya.com/bmx-wc-report.pdf



Velokhaya with SA's BMX World Champion Sifiso Nhlapo (centre) at the World BMX Champs; Anita Zenani with her trophy and medal and Wanga in action at the World BMX Champs. (Photos: Howard Owen)

... and lots of experience from the SA National and Grand Nationals

Velokhaya BMXers Anita Zenani, Bayanda Ganyaza and Xolisa Makhubalo were back on the road to Pietermaritzburg, this time to compete in the SA Nationals held from 24 to 26 September.

They were accompanied by mechanic Anele Madlolo, Sipho Mona and Skeezo Vicani (BMX coach) and after an 18 hour journey by car, were ready to take on the competition. Read more about the trip in Skeezo's report on www.velokhaya.com/news_20100926_01.html

PUBLICITY NEWS

... Velokhaya live on Radio

The Velokhaya BMXers visited the KFM 94.5 Radio studio on their return from the World BMX Championships in Pietermaritzburg. The purpose was to personally thank Primedia Broadcasting and the DisChem Foundation for their support.

The radio station interviewed Amos, Anita and Xolisa and spoke about the relevance of our work has in Primedia's highly successful Lead SA (www.leadsa.co.za) campaign. (If you haven't read or heard about the campaign, please do visit the website or their Facebook page (you can also find a link to the site from the Velokhaya Facebook page!))



The 'World Champs' team with their photos and Anita's trophy; Anita, Amos and Xolisa in studio with DJ Lee Downs.

... and TV!

Velokhaya's participation in the BMX World Championships also caught the eye of television show producers!

Xolani and Anita were invited to appear on live TV on a programme called Hectic Nine-9 (www.hn9.co.za) on August 17.

Another invitation followed a few weeks later, when Anita was asked to feature in a production called 'Neighbourhoods'.

Neighbourhoods is an interactive children's television programme that gives children the opportunity to present their experiences in their own words. According to the producers, Neighbourhoods aims to explore the country's diverse cultures and colourful suburbs and towns through the eyes of different children who live there, who will take us on a tour of the highlights of their 'worlds'.

The show's objective is nation-building, celebrating difference and the vast range of experiences in one neighbourhood, but also the universality of being a child and the similarities that unite South Africans.



Anita waits while Xolisa gets 'wired up'; Anita, Xolisa and Skeezo talk BMX on SABC 2's Hectic-Nine 9 programme

World Cup visits ...

Velokhaya was privileged to welcome a number of international journalists in South Africa to cover event, staged for the first time ever on African soil.

Their visits to the Velokhaya BMX Oval resulted in much valued publicity in a number of international television stations and publications. A big thank you to Lars Møller Hansen of the Danish Broadcasting Corporation, who kindly sent us a copy of his TV footage.

You can view the footage on our website or Facebook page or by following the link below:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt5eR14WRSs&feature=player_embedded#!



Interviews with Glyn and Xolisa

... and hosting Cape BMXers at the Freedom Day Challenge

BMXers from across Cape Town and from all walks of life celebrated Freedom Day (April 27) at a special event hosted by Velokhaya. This fun event was presented with the objective of promoting BMX participation in the Western Cape and a good-time was held by all! All finishers received medals, with the first three places in each category receiving gold, silver and bronze medals.



PARTNERSHIP NEWS

MEET WANNEROO – VELOKHAYA BMX'S AUSTRALIAN TWIN!

The Velokhaya 'family' is growing - we have our first 'twin sister club' and it's in Western Australia!



Michael Gooden, BMX Wanneroo, Western Australia, Friday night racing at Wanneroo; Racing at Wanneroo (Photos: supplied)

The idea for the partnership with the Wanneroo BMX Club came about following Velokhaya's visit to the BMX World Championships in Pietermaritzburg earlier this year and the interest the Australian BMXers showed in the Velokhaya riders, both at the event and at the airport. Velokhaya's PR Consultancy, Do Communicate, then decided to see whether it would be possible to develop this interest further with a view to establishing a formal partnership, and at the end of August, Veronica Bradford travelled to Perth and Sydney to see what BMX is all about 'Down Under'.

Here she met Michael Gooden from the Wanneroo BMX facility in Perth, who was very open to the idea of partnering with Velokhaya. Says Michael: "This partnership is a first of a kind for us and we are positive that we can really make a difference. I would also like to commend Velokhaya on all it has done for the sport of BMX this far – your enthusiasm and passion for the sport is evident and we are proud to be associated with you."

The Wanneroo Club has already agreed to assist by sharing information with Velokhaya on BMX racing, club development, training and other issues and will also donate a trophy/plaque for the Velokhaya Rider of the Year.

"As our club is the largest in Western Australia, we have significant BMX knowledge and resources available through club memberships and the idea is to see how we can tap into these," says Michael, who says that the Wanneroo Club riders will consider a future visit to Cape Town and look forward to hosting Velokhaya riders in Australia. Let's hope Velokhaya is able to secure the financial support it needs to leverage the potential of this exciting new partnership, which promises to have far-reaching benefits for all.

Did you know?

The Wanneroo BMX Club is situated in Wanneroo, a northern suburb of Perth, Western Australia; **has the largest BMX membership in Australia** with over 250 registered riders; has members ranging in age from four to 40+ (both male and female) and entered three riders in the 2008 Beijing Olympics – the first Olympics to include BMX ?

"As our club is the largest in Western Australia, we have significant BMX knowledge and resources available through club memberships and the idea is to see how we can tap into these ..."

2010 - HIGHLIGHTS - ROAD CYCLING

Songezo Jim makes it an international hat-trick ...

This year has been a big year for Velokhaya road cyclist Songezo Jim (20). He has made three trips abroad to represent South Africa in international cycling events – and on all three occasions he was the only Cape-based rider selected for the South African national team.

Songezo's selection gives significant credibility to the LCA's cycling programmes and our organisation as a sports transformation body that is achieving its aims and objectives, despite receiving no support from government or national sporting bodies such as Sascoc.

Songezo first competed in the 'Tour of Nations', in Europe in April and May 2010 (the GP du Portugal, the Tour de Flanders, the ZLM Tour and the Giro delle Regioni in Italy).

This was followed by a trip to Europe to compete in Holland, Belgium and Spain's 5 stage Vuelta de Leon..

In November, his cycling talent took him to Rwanda where he participated in the Africa Championships and the Tour of Rwanda. Songezo says he has learnt a lot from this travels this year. "There have been many firsts for me this year and I've gained invaluable experience. I've raced in snowy conditions and in extreme heat, over long distances and in big bunches and competed against some of the big names in European and African cycling. All in all, I've really enjoyed racing abroad; it has given me a taste of what it must be like to ride for a pro-team and it has helped motivate me even more!"

Another highlight for Songezo this year was being crowned the coveted u/23 Western Province Road Cycling Champion in May. Like Luthando Kaka, Songezo is proof of what South African's township youth can achieve when they are given the support and the opportunity to develop their talent! *(When you read the list of achievements below, it's hard to believe Songezo only started cycling five years ago!)*



Songezo's 2010 cycling achievements include:

- 2010 Western Province Under 23 Road Cycling Champion -1st Under 23; Second overall.
- Finished, on average, in the Top 20 in the 2010 Giro del Capo. (Finished 21st in Stage 1, 18th in Stage 2, 13th in Stage 3, 12th in Stage 4 – also the first Under 23 rider to finish Stage 4).
- Finished 71st overall in the 2010 Cape Argus Pick n Pay Cycle Tour;
- Finished in overall 8th position in the 2010 Engen Dynamic Cycle Challenge held in PE in May.

"The Life Cycling Academy is delighted that Songezo's talent has been recognised by the national selectors; his selection also proves that the LCA is achieving its goals of preparing our athletes for international competition."

Programme Update – 2010



2010 Engen Safe Cycling Programme

Wayne Kirby

“This year, 2010, was the third year of the Engen Safe Cycling Programme and what made this year different to the other years, is that we managed to reach our targets despite the many obstacles we faced (which included the five-week World Cup period and the four week Teachers strike!). Despite these, we succeeded in rolling out the Safe Cycling Programme to more than 7800 learners in Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban.

Another highlight this year was our engagement with the Department of Community Safety, working with them on a programme in Citrusdal in the Western Cape and a holiday programme in the Southern Cape town’s of Struisbaai/Bredasdorp. The programmes were funded by the Pedal Power Association. Currently, we await a meeting with Community Safety to look at future engagements on programmes that focus on pedestrian safety.” – Wayne Kirby



2010 PicknPay Excellence Programme

Amos Ziqubu

“The Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Junior Girls and Junior Boys teams fall under the PnP Excellence Programme banner and we are once again most grateful to our sponsor for its ongoing support. We also continue to receive strong support from the parents, who are working well with LCA management and who are very supportive of their children’s cycling achievements and their academic progress.

There were a number of highlights this year. These included the opportunity for five juniors to join the pro-elite riders in the Engen Dynamic Cycling Challenge in Port Elizabeth at the beginning of the year. Our juniors also performed well in a number of Cape Town Summer League races. We even managed to secure a podium place in one of the events, the Klein Joostenberg event in Stellenbosch, when Mhlahli Luphuwana took third place. We are particularly pleased with this achievement considering our riders competed against the elites and without the support of a Velokhaya elite team, as this team was dissolved during 2010 due to a lack of sponsorship. Well done too to the Junior team riders and to the three Under 16 riders who finished among the top five in the Western Cape Summer League. The Girls’ team did not have as much luck in the League this year due to bike problems, but they continue to participate in the programme and have been part of the aerobic and physical training programmes run at the BMX Oval. We look forward to a new year, a highlight of which will be our participation in the 2011 road and time trial championships in February. The Under 16 and Junior teams will be participating in this event and we’re hoping that sponsorship will be forthcoming so that we can once again enter an elite/Under 23 team!” - Amos Ziqubu

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