



MISASA

Microlight & Light Sport Aeroplane Association of South Africa Chairman's Report 2017

We live in challenging yet interesting times, whether it is political or regulatory and the present and future will most definitely not disappoint.

The chairman's report is possibly the one time in the year I have scratch my brains and reflect on everything we as MISASA have achieved, but also where we have fallen short of the mark. I have in previous reports reflected on that what is expected of us as volunteers. Generally, our personal sacrifices and effort are lauded by the majority of members that recognise our sincere efforts. MISASA (and Aeroclub) are often criticized for not communicating too well with its members and once again it is an area we need to address. I for one do not enjoy hanging out dirty laundry of the internal workings as it detracts from the seriousness of the tasks at hand.... I prefer to quietly get on with the job.

During my current tenure, I opted to step down due to certain internal challenges which seemed totally unresolvable at the time. The chaps courteously requested me to step back up to the plate again and seeing that I was asked so nicely – obliged. I don't think I am going to focus on the events that led up to the decision but I am going to highlight one pertinent point I had made at the time – "Now is the time for building bridges with the South African Civil Aviation Authority." Given the decision by the SACAA not to renew the Service Level Agreement with RAASA, it highlights the importance of MISASA as recognised ARO for microlights and light sport aircraft and gives credence to my statement. These challenging changes contribute to the strong possibility of additional responsibility of the ARO's future and gives credence to nurture a healthy relationship with the aviation authority. Given the changes between CAA & RAASA, the matter of Project 24 also comes to the fore but how all the work that has been done up to now will be affected, remains to be seen.

Housekeeping 2017

We held our AGM on the 14th April 2016 at the Rand Airport Harvard Café. We had initially aligned with the Aeroclub's planned AGM but their date changed and in doing so, scuttling our efforts to be cost effective. Airline tickets had been booked, members notified and nominations were in for the board election. In hindsight, our efforts would have been severely hampered by time constraints when the discussion around the adoption and implementation of the new constitution hit a slight speed bump and rocky ground. A vibrant and at times robust discussion promised to deliver a better solution for the somewhat outdated version we have been governed by. A sub-committee was agreed upon to finalise the document that had already seen countless hours of Skype meetings and to & fro e-mails exchanged to update. Further to this, our financial reporting had been hampered by the slow response from banking institutions to requests by our Treasurer, Brett Hickman. It was then decided to have an SGM at the Kroon Fly-In. The event was well attended and the financials were accepted and the new constitution ushered in. The updated constitution was required for renewal purposes of the ARO.

Transformation & Development

Our T&D student that I made mention of in 2016 is progressing slowly. Under the watchful eye of Marius Nel, the training of Jan Moabi has often been dealt various unforeseen challenges – from weather conditions not being conducive for valuable training to student inconsistencies. Without elaborating too much, we sincerely hope that he will go solo shortly and then progress to completing his NPL. As mentioned in my last report, T&D is a contentious topic in South Africa. Finding the correct formula is a pipe dream but we have to caution ourselves not to make a mockery of our recreational sport. I am sure we'll revisit the current decision on completion of the current project and decide the way forward.

BlueBoxOnline Portal

The BlueBoxOnline payment portal has proven to be successful. MISASA administration in the capable hands of Thelma, still experiences some minor housekeeping issues with the system but nothing that affects you the member. The feedback we have received from members vouches for its ease of operation, updating details and payment functionality. Some extra features were added to assist you when requiring you membership certificate and licence book insert.

As always, Thelma is there to assist and can be contacted on 071 656 2027 or on e-mail admin@misasa.org

Portfolio Reports

Our respective portfolio reports are printed in our yearly magazine and can also be found on the MISASA website. Remind yourself that the sterling and unselfish commitment to make these portfolios function are filled by volunteers. They are passionate aviators including holders of NPL's, PPL's, CPL's, AP's and Instructors.

Events & Fly-Ins

Our hope was that more support be given to preferred fly-ins and/or competitions. The Parys Airweek was one of the events identified and even though not as hyped with the likes MISASA events of the past ie. Tedderfield & Kitty Hawk, a good start even so. Some folk flew all the way from kwaZuluNatal to attend. We provided tents and mattresses for camping members, which was very well received. The committee reaffirmed the decision to identify events as the year progressed and then promote these events. The Vryheid Fly-In was identified and marketed by Byron Lutzge, but the organisers were forced to cancel due to red tape. The Wings Park event down in East

London is next on the itinerary the end of May. The Kroon Fly-In in mid-June was also identified and Mervyn Reynolds will be facilitating a competition – the 1st of many to come I hope. Now we need to identify one event down in the fairest Cape ... Swellendam / Robertson is always well supported by the chaps from Cape Town and the region.

Brett Hickman took over the reins of the Numbi Africa Cup from stalwart – Rob Mc Fie. Brett jumped through the regulatory hoops to organise his very first successful, safe and incident free event. I am sure he has already started the process for this year's event.

AeroclubSA

Donald Hicks and I serve on the AeroclubSA Board and additionally, Rowena Kraidy was elected to serve. Definite changes will have to be made in the manner Aeroclub functions bearing the notification of CAA not to renew the RAASA SLA. One of the aims of MISASA is to take "ownership" of the instructor seminars. This used to be a function embodied in MISASA. I am sure that along with CAA, we'll be able to rekindle that function. I have no doubt that we will be faced with certain levels of restructuring and we need to rise to the new challenges this presents. Members will be kept in the loop via our media channels.

Safety

The 2017 safety campaign "Your Approach" has already initiated the beginning of May. It is for ALL old and bold pilots; take your wife or girlfriend or husband or boyfriend with if you cannot convince yourself! Maybe by attending one of these events, you'll get rid of the "bold" part and become an "old" pilot. I find that most of these events are primarily attended by the "converted", who then re-affirms oneself to the commitment of safety, but we do need to see new faces join the ranks of attendees. Well known TV Presenter / Aerobatics Pilot / Airlines Captain – Eon de Vos is usually a guest speaker at these events and from personal experience he does convey and incredibly valuable narrative! Make the effort ... I urge you!

Microflight Africa

The committee had to revisit the format of the magazine from a cost perspective but also achieve more exposure and contact with the members. It is for this reason that the magazine takes on a slightly different form but you will have to wait and see if you like it or not. A monumental effort goes into the compilation of the magazine and we thank our editor, Alan MacKenzie producing the goods.

In Closing....

To our valued & esteemed members, on behalf of the committee, our most sincere appreciation for the loyal support.

I may have singled out a couple of committee members in my report but this by no means excludes any of the committee that have worked really hard and sacrificed their time to make a success of MISASA and the terms of the ARO. Their efforts will most definitely reflect in the Portfolio Reports. To my fellow committee members I have the following to say, and it may sound like an apology, I may be a bit brash at times and I may stir the pot here and there, but we most definitely get the job done!

I thank you for your unselfish & dedicated contribution as a committee member and my sincere appreciation for the support the past term.

Fly Safe ...

John Boucher