

OLD DALIAN UNION



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Life has become so precious that we value even seeing our loved ones talking and laughing, the past months have been tough not for South Africans but for the whole world. I have struggled to write up another letter in the last couple of months due to so much sadness that the Dale family has witnessed during this Covid-19 Pandemic. However it is important to let go of things you cannot change and look at, what the future may hold, even when such future looks “bleak” in the current moments.

DALIAN'S HELPING HAND!

There has been amazing donations made by different classes of Old Dalians during this pandemic and I thanked such classes on public and private platforms. I encourage the spirit of giving and giving something tangible is the greatest gift of all because it lasts forever.

PLAN FOR REUNION 2021!

The year 2020 has been one with unpleasant surprises of which one was the cancelation of Reunion 2020. This year had two groups coming back, the traditional ten-year group the twenty-year group. Even though preparations for Reunion were already underway, the Lock Down halted such preparations and eventually we had to cancel Reunion 2020 as a whole.

However we have planned that we cannot leave out the ten and twenty year group of 2020, out in Reunion 2021, which is why we have decided to have both groups coming back for Reunion in 2021. This decision is still however dependant on the Lock Down regulations that will be set by the SA National President as we are still not sure if we will have defeated this dreaded virus of Covid-19.

DALE COLLEGE & ODU PAYS TRIBUTE TO KAUNDA “BEV” NTUNJA

Kaunda was in the 1999 Dale First XV Team which was a team that put Dale College on the map. He played very good rugby in his prime years. To mention a few names that were in the team with him as well were; Mondzi Zondeki who played for the Proteas, Nicholas (Nick) Eyre who played for the Lions, Bulls and SA Sevens, James Winstanley played for Border.



Kaunda introduced Xhosa commentary in rugby and that was where it all began, a popular yet humble Old Dalian who brought excitement to many South Africans watching local and international rugby. As he is called a pioneer in his own art, Kaunda leaves behind a legacy which is still to be brought to its full potential.

Transformation happens in many forms and Kaunda promoted transformation in school boy rugby, provincial and the national team (Springboks), social media has become the new mode of communication and sharing of ones views on a public platform. He has truly made us proud and I am sure that his legacy will never die within the Dale family.



NEW BEGINNING FOR TERA MTEMBU AFTER 10 YEARS AT SHARKS

Tera Mtembu spent 10 years at the Sharks, played for Sharks XV, Sharks Currie Cup and Super rugby over 100 games for all between; 2011-2020. Played SA 7's in 2010/2011 season and went to the Commonwealth Games in 2010.

Tera said he is looking forward to the opportunity to play for the New England Free Jacks and be able to live in Boston (America). "It's going to be a different challenge and I look forward to adding value where I can and learn a lot because you never stop learning. I enjoyed my time at the Sharks and I wouldn't change it for anything, I am going to make sure I enjoy my last couple months here and hopefully we get to play and end of on a high", Tera said.



Tera further stated that "It worked out perfectly because my Sharks contract was coming to an end at the end of this year. I obviously spoke to the Sharks, played open cards with them, and they were supportive of my decision."

Tera who also captained the Dale XV Team in 2008 and 2009, makes the American leap with high certainty but Mtembu said "the Free Jacks opportunity was one he couldn't let slip, I'll be joining the Free Jacks as a player and doing some coaching on the side. I'll be helping out at the academy as well. It's a massive opportunity and I couldn't let it slip. I cannot wait."

We as the Old Dalian Union wish him well on his new venture and career, we know that he will hold the Dale flag high and also be a good representative for the country as well.

PRO-COACH SINGATHA GCILITSHANA GIVES VIEWS ABOUT TRANSFORMATION IN SCHOOLBOY CRICKET

Lately on social media much talk has been had on transformation in cricket, however not much talk has been had about transformation in school-boy cricket. Pro-coach Singatha "OS" Gcilitshana and Old Dalian stated that "I can only speak on what I know through my experience and through what my eyes have seen. Cricket South Africa has put some guide-lines into play when it comes to school boy cricket.

For example the Coca-Cola T20 tournaments, of which many school boys from around different provinces take part. In this tournament, every school that takes part must have a player of colour or a black player on the field; however the weekend fixtures, school tours or festivals that make up most of the matches for a school boy cricketer have no guide lines.”



Many Old Dalian’s know that Dale college alone has produced some amazing cricketers in the past years of which some have not made it to the National Cricket team, then the question raised would be, why have they not made it?..

Mr Gcilitshana further stated that “In the Border region transformation in cricket is aided by the fact that most schools are transformed as it is. Getting players of colour or black players isn’t an issue. In most weekend fixtures seeing eighteen (18) players of colour in one match is a norm. But I feel that in our schools that are already transformed the challenge or struggle is at its early stages. Getting players from “rural areas” underprivileged backgrounds and putting them into your so called “model c” schools isn’t the goal. This should be a start, an opportunity for the youngster to make his mark at the school, but also an opportunity for the school to make an impact on the youngster’s life.”

Dale College is an institution for learning and not a cricket or rugby academy, this is an issue that many Old Dalian’s have raised on different social media platforms, however no real answer has been given due to different views of many, even though logic dictates that Dale College is a High School and its main purpose is to educate teenagers.

Mr Gcilitshana ultimately stated that “The language barrier is always a common issue, as talented as a cricketer can be he is still required to produce grades that will propel him forward. Investing in extra English classes and taking away some cricket time could be to the benefit of both parties. It’s sad to see young cricketers being spat out by the current schools system due to the lack of good academic results. A strong school system to help struggling students is needed not only to aid cricketers but all those that need it.”

Singatha “OS” Gcilitshana has vast experience with schoolboy cricket of which some include the following;

2019 Border Coke U19 Assistant Coach
2018 Border Coke Week U19 Assistant Coach
2015-2018 Durban High School (Director of Cricket & 1st Team Cricket Coach)
2018-2019 CSA U16 Tap Camp
2018 CSA U17Warriorsl Camp
Current Pro Coach at Dale College & Dale Junior
2018 -2020 Dale College 1st Team Cricket Coach

OBITUARIES:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Old Dalians that have passed on since June 2019, if there are any we have missed please let us know via email odu@border.co.za

Andries Pienaar 1966
George van Heerden 1964
Dolf Coetzer 1955
Pat Dysel 1969
Dr Colin Sparg 1959
Konrad Kolbie 1985
Brian Kemp 1964
Douglas Davey 1978
Charles Hart 1966
Raymond Nixon 1970
Desmond Kopke 1958
Charles Pope 1964
Bryan Hurn 1950
Dr Alan Harvey 1964
Litha-Lethu Gwangqana 2010
Thomas Sheard 1961
Jack Smith 1980
Kaunda Ntunja 2000
William Crossman 1956
Roy White 1981
Gavin Birkholtz 1968
Kenneth Hughes 1956
Dereck Buss 1968
Nomvuselelo Mbayana Hostel Staff

Social media group:

Old Dalians wanting to join a watsapp chat group which is solely for sharing good banter, it isn't a group for any filth, or negative chat, keep it clean the link is;

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/5Mga7nzQEgh5LqVkeSr2Z>

Old Dalian Union contributions:

For those that haven't or don't contribute and would like to, please follow the link below;

<https://simpletogive.org.za/dale-college/>

Thank you to those that do, it is much appreciated!

Kind regards.

Sinethemba Tsipa
National President
Old Dalian Union

