



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 25TH MARCH 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the Committee and Members to the 2023 AGM, which is being held as a physical and virtual meeting again.

The year 2022 held several highlights for the membership over and above the ongoing BAFSA Committee function, these include:

- 2 SA pilots participating in the World Hot Air Balloon Championships
- Harold Tjana obtaining his licence
- ZS-HPP (Sasol) once again airworthy

But more on these topics later.

Membership

The federation members for 2022 was 43, this is roughly in line with previous years indicating a rather stagnant growth scenario, which is typical of most aviation sectors in South Africa and which remains a concern to all aviators.

As all pilots should be aware, it is a requirement of the Civil Aviation Regulations that holders of a balloon pilots licence are required to be members of an approved ARO, which BAFSA is.

Aviation Recreation Organisation (ARO)

BAFSA successfully completed its annual audit with the CAA in October 2022, following which the approval certificate was issued:



This certificate is displayed on the BAFSA website.

South African Hot Air Balloon Championships 2022

The 2022 event was cancelled, following the set number of pilot entrants not being achieved.

This is indeed a sad indictment of the level of participation in sport and competitive ballooning.

Our national team is selected on the basis of achievements at the championships, should these events not be held, a team won't be selected and South Africa will no longer be represented on the international stage.

We hope a similar fate does not occur in relation to the 2023 Championships to be held from 21/05/23 – 26/05/23.

World Hot Air Balloon Championships 2022

This event was held over from the initially planned 2020 event which scuttled due to Covid. The event was held in September 2022 in Murska Sobata in Slovenia.

Marc Nuthall and Andries Steyn represented South Africa. The standard of flying and level of competitiveness was very high from most of the international teams, despite this, Marc successfully won one task, demonstrating that it can be achieved.

This event highlighted our lack of sport and competitive flying and much was learnt by our participants.

The cost of attending these international events is extremely high for the participants without meaningful sponsorship. BAFSA continues to offer limited financial assistance where possible. Our teams will continue to battle in the international arena without a strategic chance and increases sponsorship.

Well done to both Marc and Andries and their teams, you did us proud.



Training & Development

Following the successful awarding of “wings” to our first black female pilot, Sema Mathebula in 2021, Harold Tjana received his “wings” in late 2022.



The cost of their training was covered by the grant received via the Aero Club of South Africa and the Department of Sport, Art and Culture.

Both Sema and Harold received Aero Club Youth & Development Awards at the Awards Function.

Our last trainee pilot on the scheme, Bongo Makhubele is making slow but steady progress, having completed his radio licence in late 2022.

Funds are limited in terms of grant monies received to date and Aero Club has applied for additional funding for 2023.

BAFSA Balloons

With the renewal of the Authority to Fly of ZS-HPP (Sasol) being achieved in October 2022, BAFSA now has 2 well equipped, licenced, insured balloons, available for members to hire for recreational purposes. This is a first for BAFSA, for the benefit of its members.



Events

BAFSA Members attended events at:

- Aero Club Airweek 2022
- BHOBS Dinosaur Derby Event
- World Rally Flying Championships in Brits
- Aero Club Annual Awards Function 2022



BAFSA Committee 2022

Fantastic input has been received from your committee over the past year, with particular attention to our finances, communication and web site development (BAFSA and Championships website), CAA compliance and audits, training and development.

Thanks are due to:

- Martyn Evers
- Hanke Fourie
- Flip Steyn

Our continued thanks to our members, friends and supporters who continue to give of their time, energy and funding to the betterment of ballooning in South Africa.

Thank you



Richard Bovell
Chairman 2023

