

# DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 3/2014

## Dear BOTSFA members!

A beautiful summer kept us all in good moods in Sweden and, although Botswana's winter was, as usual, severe, rains had fallen in abundance at the beginning of the year. There can never be enough rainfall in Botswana and neither can there ever be enough sunshine in Sweden. I had the best of both worlds as I was in Botswana during the rainy season and in Sweden throughout the long hot summer.

Yet another pleasure marks my journey through 2014. I cast my vote in the elections in the Sigtuna kommun/municipality in Sweden for the first time, as a permanent resident, and will be casting my vote as a citizen of Botswana (through the Embassy of Botswana in Sweden) for the national elections in October. While my status would be strengthened by decisions based on the choice of dual citizenship, this completes the full circle of my active right to vote. Sweden provides for dual citizenship while Botswana does not.

This issue of Dumela presents an article on an initiative by one of BOTSFA's member's, Mats Ögren Wanger, in support of sports development for the underprivileged children at a SOS Children's Village in Botswana. The importance of engaging children in sports is further underscored by

Per Järtby, a former volunteer tennis administrator at a club in Gaborone. Also covered are presentations at the September 22 informal get-together; Botswana's 48th Independence Anniversary celebrations; and Ngamiland basket exhibition in November, in Stockholm.

PULA! SKÅL!



Julia Majaha-Järtby  
BOTSFA  
Chairperson



### Welcome to BOTSFA!

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Individual: SEK 175
- Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15 years of age)
- Student: SEK 100
- Institution: SEK 500

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# »Tennis 4 SOS Academy« in Botswana launched

TEXT **Mats Ögren Wanger** PHOTO **Petrus Molefe** AND **Mats Ögren Wanger**

**With 50 kilograms of tennis equipment gathered from The Royal Tennis Hall in Stockholm, Mr Tryggve Ehnberg, a tennis coach from Sweden, flew to Botswana in July for the launching of »Tennis 4 SOS«.**

–To get a chance to help orphans and underprivileged children is something I, for a long time, have wanted to do through tennis. Tennis is my passion and I like seeing it widely spread. When offered by a club member and friend, Mr Mats Ögren Wanger, I couldn't resist to grab the opportunity to make a contribution in supporting SOS Children's Village in Botswana, says Tryggve. »Tennis 4 SOS« is a small tennis academy for the Botswana SOS Children Village in Tlokweng just outside Gaborone. It opened in July 2014 and consists of a day-to-day tennis training and academic tutoring for the SOS Children.

–We want to bring sports to the underprivileged. Like all sports, tennis is a worldwide activity and the aim is to make the sport growing without any boundaries. The target is not to only to teach the basics of tennis, it is also our aim to develop the spirit of sports and to open sporting opportunities for the SOS Children. Tennis offers an opportunity for children to enjoy sport worldwide, irrespective of background. SOS Children deserve to be part of this, says the Motswana »Tennis 4 SOS« coach and former

professional ATP player Petrus Molefe. Twice a year the children will also be offered to go to Feline Fields lodge in the Kalahari Desert. Here they will develop their tennis skills in a very different environment at the Feline Fields tennis clay court in central Kalahari combined with a great experience to wildlife viewing.

–In Botswana there are three SOS Children's Villages (in Tlokweng, Francistown and Serowe). We are an independent NGO, a social development organization that cares for orphaned, abandoned, destitute, and traumatized children. Our role is to restore the balance in their lives, give them individual support and take them by the hand on the road from childhood to adulthood. Part of the upbringing involves engagement in sports. Sports go a long way to nurture: talent, leadership, teamwork and contribution to the development of healthy young men and women in SOS, says Mr Kitso Motshwari, director of SOS Children's Villages in Botswana.

The next coming project for »Tennis 4 SOS« is to build a ball wall at the SOS Children's Village yard in Tlokweng.



# Tennis in Botswana

Flashbacks by Per Järtby, former lecturer at the University of Botswana and volunteer tennis administrator



When I heard about the project »Tennis 4 SOS« in Botswana, I felt very happy. I and several other Swedes have had the pleasure of playing tennis during our stay in Botswana. Notwane Club, and the Botswana Lawn Tennis Association (BLTA) tennis courts, became my second home during almost 25 years. Here, I held a tennis racket, for the first time, in 1973 and after a couple a years I got heavily involved in the administration, organization of social tennis, national tournaments and league matches.

One of the driving forces of tennis in Botswana was Mrs Euphemia Tlhapane, now deceased, a businesswoman with an extreme dedication to the development of tennis for the benefit of the youth. She worked voluntarily and tirelessly as a coach and administrator. With help from the business community, she managed to get sponsorship for tours by young players, first to neighbouring countries and later to ITF junior tournaments as far as West Africa.

A milestone was when Botswana was included as a host country in the ITF Men's Satellite in the early 1990s. This gave young players in Botswana the opportunity to play against high ranking international players. The international exposure attracted professional coaches and, in 1996, Botswana entered a team in the Davis Cup. Players got scholarships to study in the USA where they could further develop their tennis skills. The most successful players during the early days were Michael Judd, Thato Kgosimore and Petrus Molefe. Amongst the girls, Leloba Seitshiro ranked highest. There were other boys and girls that left memorable impressions on me, among them Checks Lekalake, Boniface Molosi, Gavin Jefta, Mokgadi Nteta and Jennifer Seitshiro. These are now men and women who I trust continue to apply the discipline of a sport that requires intensive training in their everyday lives.

It is with great pleasure I now learn about the sponsorship from the Royal Tennis Hall in Sweden of the project »Tennis 4 SOS« and even a greater pleasure to know that one of the beneficiaries of the early years' tennis support, Petrus Molefe, is involved in the project.

I now live in Sweden but will forever remember the »good old days« when I was in charge of the organization of Botswana Open, Notwane Open, Notwane Closed and other tennis tournaments.

## INITIATORS BEHIND »TENNIS 4 SOS«

**Mr Mats Ögren Wanger** – Swedish journalist and member of the Royal Tennis Hall in Stockholm

**Ms Marjan Blom** – Director of Feline Fields

**Mr Petrus Molefe** – Professional tennis coach in Botswana and former world ranked ATP player

**Mr Kitso Motshwari** – Director of SOS Children Village in Botswana

The Academy is sponsored by private club members from the Royal Tennis Hall in Stockholm and Marjan Blom, director of Feline Fields Conservation.





# NOTICES

**On September 22, 2014 at the informal get-together at Grappa restaurant in Stockholm:**

- **Andrea Petitt**, BOTSFA member, presented work on her PhD project entitled »Breeding Change: Gender and cattle in Botswana«. The study, which drew lots of interest from the audience, focuses on cattle breeding in the Ghanzi District and the complex processes in the intersection of gender,

culture, 'race' and class in relation to the potential of ownership for women's economic empowerment. Andrea left for a two-month PhD visit to Guelph, Canada, soon after the get-together.

- **Tryggve Ehnberg** shared his experiences on the launching of »Tennis 4 SOS« (see *feature article*) and participation in the 2014 Y-Care Makgadikgadi Pan Walk.

- **Petra Rolinec**, a fashion photographer, entertained the audience with beautiful portraits from Botswana.



PHOTO Petra Rolinec



**Dumela wishes Andrea, Tryggve and Petra well in their future endeavours with projects in Botswana!**

On Tuesday **September 30**, the Embassy of Botswana hosted a celebration to mark Botswana's 48th Independence Anniversary. The guests were fabulously entertained by **Botswana Afro Jazz Trio** (Nnunu Ramogotsi, Shanti Lo and Kearoma Rantao).

Hultsfreds kommun (Sweden) and the North West District Council (Botswana) will have a **BASKET EXHIBITION** during **November 25 to December 23**, 2014 at Just Africa (www.justafrica.se, tel. 08-10 06 82) Södermalmstorg 4, Stockholm.



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