



LIFESAVING SA

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CIRCULAR 86/07

**TO: PRESIDENT
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DIRECTORS/IMB MEMBERS
PROVINCIAL CHAIRMEN/SECRETARIES/COMPETITION OFFICERS
CLUB CHAIRMEN/ SECRETARIES/COMPETITION OFFICERS
STILLWATER SQUAD MEMBERS**

FROM: DIRECTOR: COMPETITION

DATE: 04 OCTOBER 2007

SUBJECT: WORLD WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE 2007

Hello to all in the movement.

I have arrived back in my own office today as well as back to assume the presidency of the movement. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to John Julyan and Helen Herbert for holding the fort in my absence.

I would also like to thank the movement for affording me the opportunity to be present at the inaugural World Water Safety (WWS) Conference held in Porto, 27-29/09/07. Thanks must go to the Portuguese Lifesaving Federation (ASNASA) and ILS who funded the airflight and four nights of accommodation.

The conference was a resounding success in terms of its organisation and execution. Papers were presented from all parts of the globe. Sadly, the representation from Africa and parts of Asia, the two areas that experience the largest numbers of drowning, was very poor. My two papers constituted two-thirds of the papers presented from Africa. (The other one was from Kenya).

However, to sum up the report on the conference would mean writing up a whole new paper on its own. There were many valuable presentations, but as the papers were presented in parallel sessions (3-4 streams) so I missed quite a few. As Keith Matthew was also present (on behalf of his city) maybe he can share on what he observed.

I would urge all of you to refer to the WWS Conference programme on our website to get a sense of the range of presentations. I have brought back a hard copy of the Book of Abstracts of all the papers and poster presentations and this will be available at Surf House as of this afternoon. There is also a CD of some of the papers and poster presentations contained in there. (My two papers are included in the CD).

The organisers in ILS have promised to have every paper as soon as they have received copies from the presenters (and possibly the power point presentations) placed on the ILS website in due course. Maybe, my presentations can be placed on our website as well (or if there are gaps during the AGM weekend, the presentations can be shown to all in attendance?)

The WWS Conference took various resolutions and made recommendations as well. All will be captured in the reports promised to the federations. Of importance, the inaugural World Drowning Report done in conjunction with WHO will be released shortly.

I made a special plea) in the closing plenary) that AFRICA needs to be prioritized by the ILS as it is the one region that is lagging behind organizationally (possibly have a regional conference before the next world Conference in four years time). I heard informally before leaving Porto, that the ILS Board was going to make some key decisions one Africa in their meetings during the days immediately after the conference. Maybe Jelle will come back with some of that good news from the ILS Board meeting, on his return from Portugal.

Please refer to the article in that attachment, which I picked up on trying to scan the newspapers which I missed during my trip abroad. I will also present one of my papers at the Institute of Environmental and Recreational Management (IERM) conference in Pietermaritzburg on Friday, 05 October 2007 on behalf of Lifesaving South Africa.

My apologies for a brief report, but I am desperately trying to catch up lots of my paid work and lifesaving work that has backed up. I will have to find a way of providing a comprehensive report to the movement or wait for the ILS report to send around.

Yours in voluntary lifesaving

(unsigned – electronic copy)
DHAYA SEWDUTH
President
Lifesaving SA