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SPORT

SPORT IN SOUTH AFRICA amongst Blacks continued to be administered on a two stream approach. First, are the traditional apartheid oriented sports associations catering exclusively for either Indian, Coloured or African soccer, tennis, rugby etc. And then there are those groups which have refused to attach racial tags to their sport and have open or non-racial constitutions. By and large this latter group attracts membership from the three black groups and remains open to whites, although hardly any whites play for any "non-racial group".

With the increase in organized boycott directed at white Springbok teams abroad and the growing isolation of South Africa in the sports' arena, the non-racial sports' groups have assumed a certain measure of importance in influencing the situation.

In the past year and a half, there has been an increasing trend for black sportsmen to join the ranks of the non-racial sports groups. This has been particularly noticeable in the field of rugby which is the most popular sport amongst the South African white population.

Tennis

In 1974 the Southern African Lawn Tennis Union which is the non-racial body increased the number of its affiliates to twelve and later to thirteen with the admission of the Little Namaqualand Lawn Tennis Union. In this way the Union succeeded to have active branches throughout the length and breadth of the country.

An application by SALTU to the International Lawn Tennis Federation for membership was unsuccessful. ILTF pointed out to SALTU that each country could only be allowed one affiliation to the world body. In the case of South Africa the white South African Lawn Tennis Union was already a member.

On the 19th May 1974 a meeting was held between the non-racial SALTU, the white SALTU and the mainly African South African National Lawn Tennis Union to try and thrash out problems related to administration of tennis in South Africa. At this meeting Mr.

Franklin, president of the white SALTU proposed that there be a federation to administer tennis in South Africa. However, there was a strong accent of control by the white SALTU in the Federation with a suggestion that the Southern African Lawn Tennis Union resort to a provincial status under the white SALTU. The implication also was that there would still be segregated administration of tennis with all the bodies meeting at the top. However, members of the Federation would be considered when it came to topics like sponsorship, selections etc.

It appeared that the proposal by Mr. Franklin had the backing of Mr. Reggie Ngcobo of SANLTU but however, Mr. M. N. Pather of the non-racial group refused to "sacrifice money for principle". He argued that integration had to go all the way to club level and suggested that the white SALTU had to change its constitution in favour of full membership rather than the federal membership outlined by Mr. Franklin. Mr. Pather went on to reject the suggestion of a steering committee comprised of two representatives from each national group to look into the matter of non-racial tennis in the country as suggested by Mr. Owen Williams. Only when the white SALTU had accepted completely the policy of non-racialism would the Southern African Lawn Tennis Union agree to serve on the Steering Committee.

In a report drawn up by the non-racial SALTU it emerged that SALTU was faced with the following problems in its bid to maintain strict non-racial tennis.

- That the non-racial body had to contend all the time with pro-apartheid tennis administrative bodies like the white SALTU and Mr. Reggie Ngcobo's SANLTU.

- The loss of contact with African groups due to prohibitive laws like the Group Areas Act which restrained non-Africans from entering African areas or vice versa.

- South African white tennis bodies adhered strongly to the Governments' sports policy "hence they did not want to stand up against "sports Apartheid".

- The main problem encountered by the SALTU was finance. Apparently SALTU received neither municipal, provincial nor government grants nor did it receive any subsidies from the State.

- SALTU has no newspaper which covers regularly its sports tournaments and policies. SALTU mentioned that the only newspaper in South Africa which reports on black sport was the supplement to the *Sunday Times* called "Extra" which was only distributed to black areas.

The non-racial SALTU has always opposed the participation of the South African Lawn Tennis Union in the Davis Cup. The cup, named

after the late Mr. Dwight Filley Davis, the donor of the cup, was given to the International Lawn Tennis Federation in 1900.

The non-racial SALTU called the Davis Cup competition a farce since the racial SALTU had participated in spite of the opposition from the Southern African Lawn Tennis Union and the non-racial South African Council on Sport. Consequently these two bodies asserted that not all South African tennis players had been represented.

Cricket

In earlier issues of *Black Review* administration of cricket amongst Blacks was extensively discussed. The South African Cricket Board of Control which also is a non-racial body still emerged as the most powerful body for administration of cricket amongst Blacks.

Early in 1974 the strong-arm man of SACBOC, Mr. Hassan Howa resigned from presidency of SACBOC on the grounds that his executive had imposed on him conditions that he could not accept. Amongst these was the principle of consulting with the executive before making public pronouncements. It also appeared that members of his executive were highly suspicious of recent talks that Mr. Howa had had with the Minister of Sport, Dr. Piet Koornhof.

“There is a hardcore in SACBOC who disapprove of my talks with Dr. Koornhof because they believe that it may lead to a sell-out on our principles. Many feel resentment because they believe we have a position of strength and we may lose it if we compromise...I am not convinced that we should compromise with the Government but I believe the talks should go on”.¹

On the February 10, a meeting of SACBOC was held where Mr. Hassan Howa was firmly returned to his seat as the President of SACBOC. From a statement issued by Mr. Howa it appeared that a three-phased plan to put South Africa back on the international scene had emerged from Mr. Howa's talks with Dr. Piet Koornhof. The three-phased plan, for which there was no time limit stipulated, nor starting date fixed, was to start with Black-White matches between the South African Gillete Cup Champions, the SACBOC knock-out Champions, the Gillete Cup Champions from England and a cup team from another country.

The second phase would be a touring side playing SACBOC and white provincial sides followed by an international with a South African side picked on merit.

The third phase would be non-racial Currie Cup matches which would of necessity entail mixed cricket at lower level to select the non-racial teams.²

Mr. Howa announced that none of these plans were definite and had not yet been approved either by the Government or SACBOC and that

they would be discussed at a meeting of SACBOC later on. Commenting on the plan Mr. Howa said "As you can see the commencing phase could mean that SACBOC has to give in somewhat. I do not say that this would happen. I do not even say that SACBOC would even entertain the idea. But Dr. Koornhof impressed me as a religious and sincere man looking for a solution to South Africa's sports problems.³

Asked by reporters in an interview to comment on the position of African cricketers, Mr. Howa said that he had been told at the meeting that Africans should be left out because they are a different nation but he had insisted that all players under the control of SACBOC would have to be included.⁴

On March 21, 1974 a two-man delegation representing the South African Africa Cricket Board, Messrs Lennox Mlonzi and Moses Nyangiwe met Dr. Piet Koornhof to find out where they would feature in future plans relating to multi-racial cricket in South Africa. At this meeting, Dr. Koornhof assured the delegation that African cricketers under this body would not be overlooked in any natural development of the game in this country and promised finance for intensive coaching of Africans and also relaxation on permits so as to allow other teams to play with African teams.

Both black and white cricket administrations joined in an attack on Basil d'Oliviera who claimed when leaving South Africa that Blacks were not ready for mixed cricket in South Africa. Mr. d'Oliviera elaborating on his views said "I am of the opinion that it would be disastrous if they were allowed in just like that...My view is that it could lead to ill feelings among the white cricketers if the non-whites here just tried to move in and take over...I feel that our...chaps still have to learn a few things, not necessarily about the game but about other things closely associated with it, before they would be ready to play and mix with white cricketers.⁵

Mr. Hassan Howa claimed to be "completely puzzled" by this statement saying that he did not know what Mr. d'Oliviera was talking about. He felt that it would have been far more constructive for him to tell black cricketers what was wrong. On the other hand Mr. Boon Wallace, president of the White South African Cricket Association, felt that a take over by Blacks had never been the issue. He asserted that SACA stood for merit selection and felt that this would come about when opportunity was afforded for Whites to play against Blacks under fair conditions.

Early in 1975 Mr. Rachid Varachia president of the Transvaal Cricket Federation revealed that he had had discussions with Mr. Joe Pamesky president of the Transvaal Cricket Union (White) and that they had discussed plans to introduce multi-racial cricket at club level in 1976. This followed several meetings between various cricket bodies

in the country, especially in the Transvaal and an earlier decision by the Transvaal Cricket Union to throw its doors open to cricketers of all races at club level.

On February 2, 1975 it was announced by Mr. Rachid Varachia who had by then become president of SACBOC that there would be a third summit meeting between the white South African Cricket Association, and the non-racial South African Cricket Board of Control and the All African South African Cricket Board.

It appeared that the goal of this meeting was the formation of one multiracial national body. An earlier obstacle to unity had by now been removed in that all groups were now agreed that there could be no better path to merit selection than by mixed play at club level.⁶

Following the opening of its doors by the Transvaal Cricket Union, an Indian club the District XI Cricket Club of Landium announced plans to apply to play in the League of the white controlled Northern Transvaal Cricket Union next season (1975-1976) and indications were that the application would be successful.

Soccer

South African soccer administration still remains extensively divided on racial lines. Whilst there is a non-racial group, the South African Soccer Federation, the most powerful clubs amongst the black ranks are still to be found attached to the individual race-orientated associations, with the strongest being that for Africans, the South African National Football Association, under Mr. George Thabe. The Whites are still affiliated to the Football Association of South Africa under Mr. Dave Marais. Each of these soccer administration associations i.e. the non-racial, Coloured, Indian, African and White groups organize their own individual national league matches.

In an attempt to make South Africa acceptable for membership of the International Football Federation (FIFA) Mr. Dave Marais of FASA arranged a series of matches amongst top players from various race groups i.e. Indian, African, Coloured and White and at the end of the series arranged for the appointment of a twenty man squad selected by an ethnically integrated group to play an Australian team. The team was eventually selected and included six blacks. It was seen as a trumpcard by Mr. Dave Marais who was planning to send black and white representatives to the FIFA conference in Frankfurt on the 15th of June 1974.⁷ However it appears that there was no complete unanimity amongst the sports administrators in the selection of this team. Mr. George Thabe of SANFA in a statement rejected the so-called multi-racial squad which included six black players. He claimed that the move was meant to deride and frustrate him and his officials who were not consulted before the squad was announced, "I feel that here again as in

other aspects of sporting administration, we of SANFA have been given a raw deal". Mr. Thabe went on to say that if the squad were to be called out for training "today or tomorrow I would not hesitate to stop them (the black players)"⁸

In May 1974, a soccer furore was caused in Natal when a white soccer player, Mr. Crawford Mills joined a black amateur club, Reems of Isipingo, as trainer player. Reems is an affiliate of the South African Soccer Federation which is non-racial. Commenting on the issue Mr. Les Sulton, chairman of Celtic Football Club, expressed fears that this move might jeopardise the advance of soccer. "We all want mixed soccer but we must go about it the right way...Five years ago nobody envisaged multinational soccer. In another five years there might be a big step forward for soccer...I don't think that it would be in the interest of the people to break the laws of the land." Mr. Sulton further felt that FASA and SASF should meet and work out a formula to the benefit of soccer.

Replying to the debate Mr. Norman Middleton head of SASF claimed that there was no law which prohibited mixed sport except "the Englishman's law and that of the United Party".⁹

Towards the end of May 1974 it had become clear that the chances of FASA getting back into international soccer were getting slimmer. This emerged following a meeting between FASA and the various racial black soccer associations. After the meeting FASA issued a statement that the black bodies would accompany FASA to Germany to plead for South Africa's admittance to FIFA. One of the black delegates, Mr. Y. S. Meer who is head of the Indian Association stated that he did not plan to go and revealed that there had been a ferment in soccer administration circles before the meeting. Amongst other issues a letter had been written to FASA signed by Mr. Meer, Mr. George Thabe and Mr. George Peffer who is head of the Coloured Association. The letter amongst other things accused FASA of ignoring the blacks over the multi-national tournament; of blaming the government for sports isolation when it is the FASA administration which is at fault; of claiming that the top level committee had 'doubtful legality or validity' whilst using it as an example of racial progress, when corresponding with FIFA; of providing unequal facilities in the multi-national games; and keeping the top level committee in the dark about multi-national finances. The letter went on to say:

"If FASA wants to control everything and ignore the top level committee, we must be told so and not let FIFA be under a wrong impression. Let us not purport a fraud on world opinion. We are either equal partners of FASA or we are to be told that we are mere puppets for the convenience of FASA."¹⁰

The appeal by FASA to the international body met with complete

rebuff and following this there was a marked change in attitudes of white soccer administrators towards multi-racial sport. In a statement towards the end of June, Mr. Vivian Granger, general manager of the white Football League of FASA, called for the inclusion of at least two black players in each of their first league teams. Mr. Granger felt that multi-racial soccer was inevitably on its way. This followed a statement by Mr. Dave Marais, president of FASA, saying that nothing less than multi-racial soccer at all levels would gain the country re-admittance into international soccer. Mr. Marais went on to say "The government has been most sympathetic and helpful towards us. But it will not be bulldozed into making changes because of overseas events. It has its own followers to consider and will only change if it is politically expedient to do so".¹¹

At the same time Mr. Norman Middleton, president of SASF, confirmed in Durban that several clubs under the control of his Federation were recruiting white players.

Mr. Middleton said that these clubs would be welcome to play in the Federation Leagues.

The demise of South African soccer in the international scene led to a number of top footballers seeking greener pastures through clubs in other countries. It was announced on July 17, 1974 that Jomo Sono, "Wonderboy" of African soccer and Nino Gomes, captain of Lucitano would seek inclusion with Porto, a soccer club in Portugal. Announcing his intention of going Gomes said "The doors to fulltime professional and international competition are closed in South Africa and I must take the plunge and go where they are available".¹²

In January 1975 Mr. Roger Sishi chairman of the National Professional Soccer League announced that his League would include non-African players after 1975. Announcing this Mr. Sishi said "We are strangling ourselves by playing racial sport. It is time we played integrated soccer...as it is we are already a big force. If all blacks can come under one umbrella we will probably be a giant force".¹³ Mr. Sishi's statement was welcomed by many administrators from the non-racial federation.

At the same time it was announced that the University of Cape Town had decided to field their team in one of the leagues of the non-racial SASF next season, whilst the Minister of Sport, Mr. Piet Koornhof had agreed that the next Champion of Champions series could be on a club basis.

When the final of Champion of Champions contest was held in 1975, emotions ran high as supporters of the African team Kaizer Chiefs became incensed with the referee for allowing what seemed like an off-side goal to a white team side, Hellenic. The referee in this crucial match only just managed to get the match completed. Following this display many

people throughout the country called for a complete mixing as the only solution to the current racial tensions in the field of sport.

Rugby

The years 1974 and 1975 saw a number of changes by sports administrators and Government officials in their attitudes towards the issues of race in rugby. There are four powerful bodies administering rugby in South Africa, the white South African Rugby Board (SARB) under Dr. Danie Craven, the all African South African Rugby Board (SAARB) under Mr. Grant Khomo, the all Coloured South African Rugby Federation (SARF) under Mr. Cuthbert Lorinston, and the non-racial South African Rugby Union (SARU) under Mr. Abdulah Abass. During the period under review SARU with its policy of non-racialism has emerged as the most influential body in rugby administration especially given the international attitude that is slowly consolidating in favour of boycotting South African all white Springbok teams, either touring or hosting other rugby nations.

As in other sports, the Minister of Sport, Dr. Piet Koornhof, has been slowly moving away from the original hard line Government sports policy of complete racial segregation. However, these moves concerning rugby are more noticeable and more emotionally regarded by the white population since rugby is the most popular sport amongst whites in South Africa.

The first major debate arose because of the tour by the British Lions who were scheduled to arrive in South Africa in May 1974. First, there was some form of wrangle in the British political scene as to whether the Lions' tour should be allowed. Various arguments were put for and against the tour. Amongst those campaigning strongly for the cancellation of the tour was Peter Hain, chairman of the Halt All Racist Tours Committee (HART). Mr. Hain contended that the tour was not only repugnant from the point of view of principle but also had doubtful legality since there was the possibility of the team playing against Rhodesia. In addition to the opposition by Mr. Peter Hain, there was pressure being applied by members of the Labour Government who felt that the Labour Government had a duty to stop the tour.

Favouring the tour was the Committee organising the Lions' tour who felt that change was more likely to come from dialogue contact rather than threats and isolation. Also campaigning in favour of the tour just before the British Lions left was a black journalist Mr. Leslie Sehume who was assistant editor to the *World*. Mr. Sehume argued that the tour would aid Blacks to advance their aims. Mr. Sehume singled out Mr. Hain's attack claiming "he is a white man. How can he speak for the Bantu".¹⁴

There was also a threat from the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa to restrict all sporting competition against Britain either as teams or as individuals. The Supreme Council would press through African Governments for this boycott should the tour continue.

In spite of the opposition, the Lions did tour South Africa and played the usual matches against white provincial and national teams and also against the Leopards which is the national team of the SAARB and the Proteas which is the national team of the SARF. Just before the Lions came, there was speculation that the Lions would play a match against a mixed Quagga team which is a form of junior Springbok team. However, towards the end of May Dr. Koornhof dismissed this speculation saying that he wished "to put it very clearly that speculation of this nature creates unnecessary hopes and embarrassment and does not benefit sport in South Africa".¹⁵ Mr. Cuthbert Lorinston who had been the main mover of this suggestion claimed that the whole plan had fallen through because of unnecessarily extensive premature publicity on the issue.¹⁶

Following this issue there was an increased agitation for integrated rugby from white rugby quarters involving many current and recent white Springbok players. A survey published in the *Sunday Tribune*,¹⁷ showed that forty such players were in favour of the move.

Addressing a big multi-racial gathering in Veeplaas in December, Dr. Louis Babrow, former Springbok rugby centre and former coach said, "For years Dr. Danie Craven and the South African Rugby Board have misled the public and our sporting friends overseas. They say we would like to have a non-racial team but the Government will not allow it. I wonder what would happen if the Government would give its blessing. The board would probably turn it down".¹⁸

The debate on multi-racial rugby was once more resumed when the French team were due to tour South Africa in May 1975. It appeared that the French had insisted on an integrated match as a precondition to the tour. Mr. Albert Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Federation had made the request to the South African Government in the hope that this would pacify the French Government and anti-apartheid protest groups during the tour of France by the Springboks in 1975.¹⁹ The South African Government eventually capitulated and during the French tour which started in May 1975, an integrated South African invitation team, including four Blacks, played against the French at Newlands. These four black players were from the SAARB and SARF. The non-racial SARU refused to have any of its players considered either for the integrated match or for the now traditional racial matches that all touring teams play.

A side effect of the French tour that hit the South African rugby scene, was the quarrel that developed between officials of Bantu

Administration and SARU over the use of rugby fields under the control of Bantu Administration. This followed attempts by officials of the SAARB and Dr. Danie Craven to persuade the KwaZakhele Rugby Union (KWARU), the South Eastern Districts Rugby Union (SEDRU) and the Western Province Rugby Board, all units of the non-racial SARU to allow their players to be included in the Leopards team that was to play the French. It appeared that these units had been called to a meeting with Dr. Piet Koornhof and Mr. Punt Janson, officials of the SAARB and Dr. Danie Craven, where pressure was applied on them to reconsider their stand. All these units advised the Minister that any negotiations had to be conducted with their national body. They explained that their affiliation to SARU was no mistake and that they upheld the principle of non-racial sport and merit selection for all teams representing South Africa.²⁰

Following this, a decision was taken by the Cape Midlands Bantu Affairs Administration Board to bar KWARU and SEDRU from use of fields under their administration. This decision was discussed at a meeting of SARU in Port Elizabeth in June 1975. SARU decided to support the stand taken by KWARU and SEDRU. In a statement the secretary of SARU Mr. Ebrahim Patel said, "Both units confirmed that they would play their remaining South Africa cup matches on open fields rather than join up with SARB...The Government now has its grounds and we have the right to believe in non-racial sport."²¹

In general, 1974 and 1975 saw a continuation of a trend set earlier where black rugby clubs continually broke off from the SAARB to join units under the non-racial SARU. This trend was sparked off by the breakdown of the Port Elizabeth clubs that went on to form KWARU, followed by Grahamstown clubs that formed SEDRU and King William's Town that formed KADRU.

Early in 1975, three East London clubs, Thembu United, Winter Rose and Boiling Water, broke their link with SAARB to join SARU. Also joining this trend was the Star of Hope of Uitenhage and the Head of Lion of King William's Town. Thus the Border African Rugby Union of the SAARB has been the hardest hit as more defections are being openly planned.

In the Northern Cape around towns like Queenstown, Aliwal North, Glen Grey, Dodrecht, a new Union called the Frontier was formed and was admitted as the nineteenth union of SARU.²² In 1973 attempts were made by officials of Fort Hare Rugby Club, an affiliate of SEDRU to form Victoria East Rugby Union (VERU) which would affiliate to SARU. This Union finally came into existence in 1974 and has been playing with the other affiliates of SARU though it has not yet officially affiliated to SEDRU. There was also talk of the Transkei considering

the possibility of joining SARU. Throughout all this SARU has emerged as a force to contend with in black rugby administration.

Swimming

In their 9th Council meeting in January 1974, the non-racial South African Swimming Federation discussed the expulsion of the white South African Amateur Swimming Union from FINA, the world swimming body. Both South Africa and Rhodesia had been expelled on the grounds that they practised racial discrimination. At the same meeting the SASF decided to renew its application to the world body. However, the executive agreed to delay the re-application pending further negotiations with the white body for an integrated administration of swimming.

Following this, the Federation made attempts to have a meeting with the white swimming Union. This eventually took place on May 7, 1974. After this joint meeting SAASU met to discuss matters arising from an ad hoc Committee which would look into the introduction of mixed swimming in South Africa.

The issue of the banning of Mr. Morgan Naidoo, president of the Federation continued to receive attention in 1974 with more people calling for the withdrawal of the banning order. A letter from the Federation was written to the Minister of Justice calling for the lifting of the banning order. Nothing came of this other than an acknowledgement from the Minister. It appeared that the Federation was keen to have Mr. Naidoo involved in their negotiations with the white body. On the other hand those who regarded Mr. Naidoo as a hardliner hoped that his absence from the negotiations would lead to a softer line being adopted by the Federation.

The question of facilities continued to be a problem for the Federation. Besides the existence of the Group Areas Act, facilities were generally scarce for the black community according to a report tabled before the 10th Council meeting in Port Elizabeth in January 1975. It was revealed that Blacks have no Olympic-size pools whilst Whites have sixteen. In addition it is not at all easy for Blacks to obtain permission to use white pools under their own terms. An example was an incident which occurred in August 1974 where the Minister of Community Development refused the non-racial Griqualand West Amateur Swimming Union permission to use the "Whites only" Karen Muir swimming pool in Kimberley. The Union had planned to stage a national swimming championship event for the Federation. In his reply the Minister stated that he would favourably consider the application if the competition was restricted to "Coloured swimmers" only, before "Coloured spectators". The union decided to withdraw the application.²³

In November 1974, the president of the white SAASU; Mr Roy Glegg, announced that an inaugural meeting to bring about the formation of a single governing body to control swimming in South Africa had been held. Present at this meeting were, Mr Reggie Baines and Mr Clifford Rigney representing the Coloured South African Amateur Swimming Association and Mr Jock Scott and Mr Roy Glegg representing the South African Amateur Swimming Union. The non-racial Federation had decided, according to Mr Glegg, not to take part in the discussions. Arising out of this meeting was the formation of a new body called the Amateur Aquatics Federation of South Africa. It was further decided that the non-racial Federation would be invited to join the new body. As a sequel to the meeting it was decided that Coloured swimmers belonging to the SAASA would be allowed to compete at the South African Open National Championships to be held at Ellis Park in February.²⁴

The non-racial Federation went on to ban all participation by its units in the multi-national swimming contest held at Ellis Park in February 1975. Announcing this, Mr A. A. T. Hulley said that five Transvaal swimmers belonging to the non-racial Federation had been named on a team by the Coloured SAASA. Mr Hulley said that SAASA's participation in the multinational tournament through the Federation's swimmers, showed the "Coloured body's total inadequacy in a field which is obviously still outside its depths". Mr. Hulley said that the Federation would like to express its shock and concern at manoeuvres by white swimming officials in Kimberley who attempted to persuade some of its local swimmers to give support to the white SAASU.²⁵

"We have made it clear that we will have nothing to do with the multinational tournament from the rest of the world and FINA, the world swimming body. True sportsmen and God-fearing people cannot countenance such an unreal situation which creates artificial temporary and honorary Whites or Blacks. Our stand is non-racial swimming from basic level onwards".²⁶

Athletics

Early in 1974 the *Natal Mercury* reported that Blacks would be allowed to compete in the Comrades Marathon provided that entries were received from more than two overseas competitors. The assumption here was that if more than two competitors from overseas joined, then the event would be a multi-national one. The Comrades Marathon is an annual event run between Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The 1974 event which would be the 49th such event was scheduled to be run on May 31. The event was organized by the Collegians Harriers. Indications had been received from the Secretary for Sport, Mr.

Beyers Hoek, that there would be no reason why the organisers could not hold a multi-national event provided that more than two overseas competitors took part. The organisers of the event however, at the last moment decided to exclude Blacks. This sparked off a lot of controversy with former winners of the event publicly decrying the decision of the organisers. In a statement to the *Daily News*, Mr. Bill Cochrane, winner in 1935 and 1936 said "I am afraid this controversy and the reluctance of the officials to open it up, has obscured the spirit in which the Comrades was begun. The race was initiated in 1921 in remembrance of those who fell in the 1914-1918 war. Winning it has never been the primary thing. It's the whole experience, the comaraderie and co-operation that counts".²⁷ Defending the decision to exclude Blacks Mr Gordon Baker said, "all participants in our events must be registered in clubs registered in the South African Amateur Athletics Union. Black runners simply are not".²⁸

There was strong speculation "that a group of unknown Durban men" would cause a disruption of the Marathon using their cars. Reaction came from Mr Rajendra Chetty, president of the Natal Road Runners' Association, who said that the Government was not alone in its attempts to keep the races apart.²⁹

In the middle of 1974 a South African team comprising of six Whites and one Black was involved in a dispute in Naples where they sought to compete against 22 other nations. The South African team met stiff opposition from Tunisian, Kenyan and Ugandan teams who refused to run against the South Africans. The controversy was only resolved by the withdrawal of the South African team from the competition.³⁰

Towards the end of August, the International Amateur Athletics Federation reaffirmed its decision to exclude South Africa from international athletics. This happened in spite of the assurances made by Professor Botha, the official delegate of SAAAU that multi-national events were being held in the country.³¹ The exclusion of South Africa brought an end to speculation that South Africa would clash with Kenya in an athletics meeting. The world body ruled that the ban applied both to individual matches and the Olympic Games.

The 1975 Comrades Marathon was also an all-white affair with promises from the organisers to have the 1976 Marathon open to all races. A side event of the Comrades Marathon was an incident in the Pretoria Marathon where a black marathon runner Mr. Isaac Thoka was ordered off the road by a traffic officer. The Pretoria race was a qualifying event towards the Comrades Marathon. Mr. Thoka decided on his own to join the race and actually did run in spite of the all-white nature of the race. The Transvaal provincial secretary, Mr. J. G. van der Merwe, in explaining the event claimed that Mr. Thoka had been a

double law breaker in that he was running, first unofficially and secondly in an all white race. No permission had been sought for him from the Department of Community Development.

Table Tennis

The non-racial 1974 Silver Jubilee South African Table Tennis championships were held in 1974 in Durban where officials and players from all parts of the Republic assembled. The South African Table Tennis Board (SATTB) had been established in Durban in 1948 and was therefore celebrating its 25th year of existence. Present at the Silver Jubilee Championship were the eight SATTB affiliated unions.

It was at this tournament that the SATTB clarified its policy of non-racial sport, free from any discrimination on the basis of colour, race or creed. It emphasised its belief in merit selection preceded by equal facilities, equal opportunities and equal coaching.

The SATTB is a member of the International Table Tennis Federation, the president of which, Mr A. Roy Evans, praised the SATTB for its effort to stand for its principles despite the great difficulty under which it lived, and despite the frustration of being denied international competition. He applauded the SATTB's continued determination to exist, and pointed out that the Indian Table Tennis Federation looked forward to the day when the players of the SATTB would be able to take their rightful place in the world of table tennis.

The Counsellor of the African Table Tennis Federation, Mr. Amin Abon Heif, extended his federation's congratulations to the SATTB on its 25th anniversary. He encouraged the non-racial policies of the South African Board, stating that he never believed that "Spirits would be affected by the political trends" and the little success showed by the SATTB gives hope to the future of table tennis.

Dr. Koornhof, Minister of Sport and Recreation, gave his blessing to the non-racial SATTB representing its country in the world championships which were held in Calcutta, India in February 1975. This breakthrough in sport, completely contradictory to the multinational concept, was reached in Pretoria. However, the Indian Government barred the SATTB from participating in the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships on the grounds that any South African team was a symbol of the South African's apartheid policy. The Indian Government decision was based on a policy "not to permit any sport teams from South Africa to play in India until the apartheid policy of the South African Government changed".³²

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- ⁸*Star* 24.4.74.
- ⁹*Daily News* 10.5.74.
- ¹⁰*Post* 26.5.74.
- ¹¹*Sunday Tribune* 16.6.74.
- ¹²*Rand Daily Mail* 17.7.74.
- ¹³*Post* 5.1.74.
- ¹⁴*Star* 1.3.74.
- ¹⁵*Rand Daily Mail* 28.5.74.
- ¹⁶*Rand Daily Mail* 20.6.74.
- ¹⁷*Sunday Tribune* 30.6.74.

- ¹⁸*Daily News* 10.12.74.
- ¹⁹*Natal Mercury* 3.3.75.
- ²⁰*Evening Post* 31.5.75.
- ²¹*Cape Herald* 14.6.75.
- ²²*Evening Post* 25.4.75.
- ²³*Past* 25.8.74.
- ²⁴*Rand Daily Mail* 20.11.74.
- ²⁵*Daily News* 17.2.75.
- ²⁶*Ibid.*
- ²⁷*Daily News* 1.2.74.
- ²⁸*Daily News* 6.2.74.
- ²⁹*Rand Daily Mail* 6.3.74.
- ³⁰*Rand Daily News* 22.3.74.
- ³¹*Cape Argus* 17.6.74.
- ³²*Rand Daily Mail* 31.8.74.
- ³³*Daily News* 3.2.75.