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Black Bass XIII World Championships

Team Namibia competed at the XIII Black Bass World Championships hosted by the South African Bass Angling Association on the Vaal river from the 2nd till the 8th of October 2017. This is the biggest team bass angling tournament in the world. The tournament was held on a 52km stretch of water on the river. It was Namibia's first time competing at an event of this magnitude. Each participating country had 3 boats on the water with 2 anglers each.

The event was organized by the South African Bass Angling Association (SABAA) under the guidance of FIPSeD (Fédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive) & CIPS (Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive). The organization of the event was impeccable and the word was that it outclassed some 1st world countries that had hosted in the past. The media coverage was phenomenal with live updates being broadcast all over the world including the on the famous FLW Youtube Channel in the USA. Every day's full weigh in was broadcast live on the web and fans and family tuned in from all corners of the globe. The full weigh in videos are available on Youtube under the Just Fishing channel. What SABAA managed to accomplish, under the leadership of Mr Craig Fraser, is astounding and left a permanent stamp in the minds of all competitors and organizers. A dream come true!!!!

Team Namibia was represented by:

1. Alec Williams (Captain)
2. Jacques Marais
3. Max Pieper
4. Richard Grant
5. Anton de Wit
6. Ricoardo Abrantes
7. Jurgen Geiger (Reserve)
8. Andre van Vuuren (Manager)

The following countries competed at this event:

1. South Africa
2. Zimbabwe
3. Zambia
4. Swaziland
5. Namibia
6. USA
7. Croatia
8. Germany
9. Italy
10. Mexico

Executive Council:

*Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
Malcolm Goosen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)*



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11. Russia
12. Portugal
13. Spain

The Namibian team went to practice at the venue 2 weeks before the cut off date as part of the preparation for the event. This proved to be very valuable experience gained during the tournament.

The tournament consisted of 5 days angling which were made up from 2 practice days and 3 tournament days.

The team arrived at the Emerald Resort on Sunday the 2nd of October. Monday was the official registration day and Tuesday and Wednesday were practice days. During these practice days the team went out to improve on the fishing patterns established on the prefish trip.

Day 1 of the tournament the team woke up to a very different Vaal river as we encountered rainy conditions with very cold weather. The rain started at 06:00 and poured until 10:00. Team Namibia was cold and wet but still continued to fish in the miserable conditions never once putting down a rod. The hard work paid off and all the Namibian boats managed to catch their limit for the day ending Namibia in a very respectable 5th position ahead of the USA.

Day 2 offered better weather conditions but fishing became a lot more difficult mainly due to boat pressure and the change in the barometer. It was not as easy to fill up all the boats, but the team worked together very well and in the end managed to get all boats to fill their bag limit. One of the boats unfortunately had some misfortune as their biggest fish died minutes before weigh in. This resulted in Namibia moving into 8th position.

Day 3 saw the weather taking a turn and bad weather conditions were to prevail. All the Namibian boats however managed to fill their bag limits which landed us in 5th position for the day and an overall 7th in the tournament.

One of the Namibian boats with Max Pieper and Ricardo Abrantes on board managed to finish in overall 4th place in the individual standings. Max Pieper also caught the 4th biggest fish of the tournament weighing in at 2.26kg.

The final results were as follows:

1. South Africa
2. USA
3. Italy
4. Spain

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5. Zambia
6. Zimbabwe
7. Namibia
8. Germany
9. Swaziland
10. Mexico
11. Portugal
12. Russia
13. Croatia

The NBAA would like to thank the Namibia Federation for Freshwater Anglers (NFFA), the Namibia Sports Commission and all the sponsors that made it possible to for team Namibia to compete at an event on a global stage. Team Namibia would also like to thank their wives and families for all the support and for making this event a special and memorable event.



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Ricardo Abrantes (Left) Max Pieper (Right)

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Richard Grant (Left) Jacques Marais (Right)

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Alec Williams (standing) Anton de Wit (Seated)

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