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17 October 2019

**Attention: Mr. Richard Grant
Chairman of the NBAA**

NBAA DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT EVENT 12 OCTOBER 2019:

The NBAA continued the junior development initiative in collaboration with the Scouts of Namibia by hosting the second event as scheduled on 12 October 2019. Partnering with NALAA this time around, it cemented future initiatives with the Scouts of Namibia, the NBAA and NALAA. The aim of the events was to host a tournament format fishing event for the juniors, whereby NBAA and NALAA members would avail their time, their skills, their boats and tackle required for juniors to catch a bass.

Second event – 12 October 2019: Prior to the event

Arrangements for the event started in September 2019. Having the first event of 16 March 2019 as backing, proper planning went into administration of getting juniors registered for the event, obtaining fishing licenses, accommodation, transport, boat packs, and sufficient skippers for the event to mention a few.

As with the previous event, some tournament rules were altered for the event, with the focus of safety with juniors on board being the primary reason, and underlying that to ensure the juniors have fun and an unforgettable experience. A new addition to the rules were that all species are weighable, on the boat or at the weigh station, and that total length will count towards the final scores, in line with NALAA rules. This opened up the experience and competition for the juniors significantly.

Ultimately, 31 juniors registered for the event, of which 15 were scouts, and 16 were juniors from the NBAA and NALAA's side, where NBAA and NALAA members sparked the interest amongst their friends and families.

This led to the arrangements of skippers. We managed to get 8 NBAA and 4 NALAA members confirming their attendance as skippers, which was an excellent turn out, and shows the intent and commitment of members in developing not only bass fishing, but fishing in general, as a sport in Namibia.

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neil Engelbrecht (Tournament Director) • Johan Coetzee (Vice Chairman) • James van Rooyen (Development Officer) • Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer) • Pierre Fourie (Conservation Officer)



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The Scouts of Namibia committed to pay the launch fees at the campsite of the boats. This meant that the members' entrance was for free, however still availing the use of their boats and tackle, including costs for petrol and boat packs, which is in itself a significant contribution to the initiative, which is highly commended.

One of the key successes with these arrangements, was to work with Tungeni at Von Bach to get all names and registrations through, and have the payments made well in advance of the event, to ensure that the morning of the event goes down without a hitch.

Second event – 12 October 2019: At the event

The morning off the event was met with an atmosphere of excitement in the air. The Scouts camped over at Von Bach, and the first non-Scouts junior was at the gate of Von Bach by 05:45 am already.

Launching of the boats took place without any problems, and the juniors were extremely excited arriving at the launch and weigh station, seeing all the bass boats lined up for their day on the water.

Captains meeting was held as usual, with the alterations to tournament rules given through and reaffirmed.

Boat pairings were arranged for juniors who wanted to fish with family and friends, and the rest of the pairings were established by a "hat-draw" of normal tournament weigh tags.

This was followed by boat packs being loaded, juniors briefly being orientated on the boats, and pull-away commenced at 07:45.

All-in-all, an excellent day followed. The feedback from the juniors as well as the Scouts was that they had an absolute brilliant day out on the water, even though fishing was tough and it was a blistering hot day. Sunscreen had to be regularly applied, and a lot of fluids were consumed to ensure the juniors are well looked after.

In total, a whopping 2,470cm of fish were brought to the scales, with 24 juniors weighing in. Thanks to our generous sponsors, there were prizes for each junior participant, with prizes ranging from rods and reels to baits, sunglasses, outdoor tools, and this list goes on. No fish were lost during the weigh-in, which speaks to the conservation principles applied by members and the weigh master alike.

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The results were widely publicized through social and other media. Multiple enquiries were also received on the next junior development day, and even for joining the facets. It's clear that the response by the community is beyond belief, speaking to the success of the day and the need for such events from the fishing- and general community.

Conclusion:

The day was without a doubt a massive success, not only spreading interest in fresh water fishing, but fishing as a past time as a whole.

These type of initiatives and events promises to aid in securing the future of bass fishing as a sport, as well as fishing as a sport throughout all facets in Namibia.

As a final word of thanks, without the commitment of our members, our sponsors, the NBAA Exco and NALAA representatives, and the collaboration with the Scouts of Namibia, none of this would have ever been possible, and the success of this event is directly attributable to them.

It goes without saying that we very much look forward to the events scheduled for next year as per the NBAA calendar, and hope to see many more NBAA members and juniors attending the day.

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