



MANICA

Grupo Desportivo de Manica ~ NEWSLETTER Volume 19 ~ Manica ~ Mozambique



GDM has arrived

On 30 September 2009 GDM was accepted as a Streetfootballworld network member. So, despite all our remaining challenges and opportunities, perhaps we can now finally say: "GDM has arrived".

Streetfootballworld is the official development partner of FIFA and the implementers of FIFA's Football for Hope programme. To become an official member of the SFW Network is something that is not only difficult to achieve, but also a great honour and privilege for any community based program that strives to promote development through football.

Therefore after close cooperation and interaction with the SFW team in Berlin, it was a historic and joyous occasion when we were informed that GDM would be the first Mozambican project to be selected as an official member of the SFW Network! Xavier Razo (GDM General Secretary) mentioned that "although we hope to gain from this membership we would also like to contribute to other members and very importantly represent Mozambique in a respectful way that will promote not only the Manica Province, but also the image of our country".

Special thanks go out to Susanne, Thomas and Mike for giving GDM a sympathetic ear and making this happen.

You can read more about the very impressive Streetfootball-world at <http://www.streetfootballworld.org/>



Another Season Another Championship!

This was the third consecutive year that GDM won the Provincial League in Manica. The first year, we were cheated out of it by our rival Vumba and the Federation in Maputo (after having received the trophy!), the second year, instead of being promoted to Second Division, the whole football structure in Mozambique changed and the National Second Division was dissolved with all the Second Division teams having to compete within their provinces. The third year, 2009 therefore saw a tough Provincial battle with all the top teams fighting to make it through to the end of the year 'qualifying tournament' against various other Provincial Champions. So, at the time of press GDM is preparing to face the champions of Zambezia, Tete and Sofala. Two games against each team and the winner will play First Division (Mocambola which is Mozambique's top division) in 2010!

Well done to the team, coaching staff and administrators; we realise it is never easy to win a league, not to mention three years in a row!



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FUTECO Park

Manica, with 40 000 inhabitants only have one football pitch. This has been a concern for GDM for years now and the local municipality under leadership of Mr. Moguele Candeiro gave 10 hectares of land to GDM for the development of football pitches.

GDM, however has a much bigger dream than simply creating a couple of playing fields. The project GDM envisions sees the integration of ecology and football under the name FUTECO Park. 3 Football Fields, one athletics track, 1500 indigenous trees, a stadium with gymnasium and classrooms, organic vegetable gardens, player accommodation, visitor centre and indoor centre are the main elements that will make this one of the best facilities in Mozambique where children can play and learn and where youths can compete in a safe and beautiful space.

A brochure of Futeco Park can be downloaded at www.fcmanica.com

Entrepreneurship



GDM's directors have recognised the need to raise money locally in Manica. There is however, due to high levels of poverty, no great culture of donating and this is why GDM wants to focus on income generating projects. Two projects have been identified:

Carpentry: This project will employ predominantly the wives of the football players who have expressed the interest and confidence necessary to become the best carpenters in central Mozambique! To purchase the needed tools and equipment we need to raise R 15 000 (US\$ 1900)

Workshop: This will include washing cars, fixing tyres, welding and minor repairs to cars, motorbikes and bicycles. Capital needed for the workshop tools is R 25 000 (US\$ 3125)

If you would like to become involved in these entrepreneurial projects, either through sponsorship or mentoring, please email us at gdm@fcmanica.com

Arsenal in the Community: *Walec 2*

For the second year our relationship with Arsenal in the community has led to a six-week visit by two ex-Arsenal Gap year students: **Will Stone and Alec Norton**. Will and Alec, or simply *Walec* as they are known went to Manica and assisted with coaching football and life skills. Nelson Veremo, GDM Project Manager asserted "this year *Walec* worked even harder and achieved an even bigger impact than last year".

Once again on behalf of GDM and the town of Manica, thank you *Walec*!

There are more articles and testimonials, as well as pictures of *Walec* available at www.fcmanica.com



Female and juniors joins provincial league in Chimoio

2009 saw for the first time in GDM's history three teams travelling to the provincial capital Chimoio every week to participate in Provincial leagues. In 2008 the Junior boys team won the National Championship to everyone's surprise and we obviously want to build on that success. The fact that the girls team now also travels and competes has added great motivation and morale to female football participation in Manica.

Schalk van Heerden reminded visitors to GDM "As outsiders we must remember that this increased participation is not something new, it is not a new idea or a new priority. This is the result of increased infrastructure and the consequence of purchasing a second hand bus from UJ at the end of 2008. Without the bus and petrol money from Laureus, it would have simply been impossible to give the boys and girls this opportunity."

Volunteers welcome and needed!

GDM is extending an invitation to people from Europe, America or South Africa to visit and volunteer in Manica. Visits can be anything from four weeks to one year. Areas of assistance include: Life skills training, computer training, English lessons, agriculture, restaurant/bar management, project management, enterprise development, accounting, art, sports coaching, etc.

We have a room available for one, two or four visitors and there are also electricity, warm showers, clean toilets and it is very safe in terms of security.

You don't need to speak Portuguese, but learning some words would definitely help. Thus far we have had volunteers from Germany, USA, England and South Africa.

If you are interested please email
schalk@fcmanica.com



SADC Capacity Building

Five GDM members took on the long road through Zimbabwe, to Jozi, RSA and received training in Monitoring and Evaluation, Strategic Leadership and Financial Management. The travelling team included three men and two ladies: Shortcover, James, Prisca, Ricardinha and Simango.

The group used the Laureus reporting and application forms to practice their articulation and put the theory into practice. James observed that "for a small club like us it is very important to communicate with our donors and others in a way they understand, so we all have to adapt." Simango added that "in our global village we need to learn how each person thinks and operates, sometimes its difficult, but for us to be successful it requires we become professional and learn these things." The last words belong to our accountant Prisca: "I think I understand my job better now, you know its not just knowing what to do, but also the confidence to enforce these things that is very important. Luckily the boys support me well."

Failures

At GDM we believe in sharing the good and the bad news. So it is with sadness and shame that we announce that in 2009 no official football games could be played in Manica since a spectator hit a referee after a game in the provincial league. These unfortunate type of incident sometimes happen in football, but the lack of security, order and proactive steps at the Municipal grounds did not help. This incident and subsequent decision by the Association to ban the field as a venue just gives GDM greater resolve to develop FUTECO Park.

One of our strikers, the 19-year-old Armando was expelled from GDM for bad conduct and improper behaviour. He is a very good player, but with his expulsion GDM's Directors showed again that football results is a means to an end and that setting a good example to the youth is more important than scoring goals.

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