



MISASA

Microlight & Light Sport Aeroplane Association of South Africa
Chairman's Report 2020/2021

Dear members & friends, here we are, another lengthy period has passed and still, we find ourselves intertwined with unforeseen challenges. That the COVID pandemic has changed the way we do things is for certain but can only hope that we can return to a sane form of normality soon. Our industry remains under severe pressure. We face dwindling membership numbers; a sudden flurry of new ARO's dividing representation and the ever-increasing age gap of members. The lack of the younger generation joining our ranks, the majority of our membership ages ranges from 55 to 81. This is disconcerting.

Transformation & Development

We have identified a suitable candidate and have started the required vetting process to assist with SRSA funding using our performance/achievement based retroactive funding. The new candidate will if successful, definitely take an active role MISASA team.

BlueBoxOnline Portal

The BlueBoxOnline payment portal and MISASA administration is still in the capable hands of **Thelma**. We manage minor problems with the system as they arise. Kindly contact **Thelma** should you have issues that you need assistance with, preferably on e-mail admin@misasa.org, or alternatively on **071 656 2027**.

Events, Fly-Ins & Competitions

Brett Hickman was at the helm of the Numbi Africa Cup. The event was again audited by a CAA team and received a clean bill of health. As with any event, there are always items that can be improved on and the CAA actively engaged the team on this but the most important aspect was that it was incident-free and safe. **Santjie White** as Guest speaker and did a vital S&R presentation. The event received media cover by PilotsPost's **Jaco Pitout**. Go have a look at the article at <http://www.pilotspost.com/arn0002567>. We also covered the event on our MISASA Facebook page. We appreciate the efforts and attendance of both **Santjie & Jaco** for being a part of our prestigious yet super fun event.

Donald Hicks has sincerely tried kick-starting events but COVID persists to hamper planning and attendance but more of that in his report.

SACAA & ARO Audits

Since the last AGM held, MISASA has had 2 Full Audits and one Ad Hoc. The MISASA team attending the audits is made up of **Rowena Kraidy** as QA, **Yolande Combrinck** as QA co-opted and myself, Accountable Manager. In all fairness to CAA and their audit teams, audits have evolved from an initial confrontational experience to one of symbiosis as we all understand and apply the regulations better. I sincerely hope this prevails. If one could take one positive out of the challenges that the state of disaster has given us then it is the adoption of Zoom & MS-Teams meetings and utilizing these virtual platforms for audits, webinars, sub-coms and a multitude of other applications. For one, it has benefitted us as volunteers that normally would have to take time off from our daily routines and families to be able to satisfy the demands and rigours. I can just imagine the cost-saving from a catering and venue perspective that CAA is experiencing and a "tongue in cheek" comment that some hungry mouths will not be happy about this, not forgetting the associated logistical nightmare.

Training & DTO's

DTO's (Declared Training Organisations) were established in Europe several years ago under the European Union Aviation Safety Agency or EASA. The local concept has been long in the making and is championed by CAA's **Blake Vorster**. The concept for local adoption and application would not have been possible without our industry assistance and input. I can vouch that our MISASA representatives - **Kevin Story, Stefan Coetzee, Yolande Combrinck & Nico Willemse**, played vital role in its adoption, implementation and setting of standards. When called upon, they stepped up to the plate. Thank You to the team – super proud of all of you! The webinar is available on the CAA website under: <http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Personnel%20Licensing/Urgent-notice.aspx> - Training Notices

The MISASA & SAGPA Amalgamation/Merger Concept

The concept has been bandied around for quite a while. In 2021, SAGPA hit a major bump in the road with regards to the ARO's status. I do not want to discuss the reasons, dynamics or merits of this failure. What need to mention is that we made an effort to assist in this that a proposal was made that we merge and in so doing assist not only the members to be legally compliant but also to increase our recreational aviation stake. **Brett Hickman** had presented our concept to the SAGPA members that attended the North meets South event held at Gariep. The process never gained traction thereafter. Several discussions were held around the concept to me finally convening a final meeting with the MISASA committee on the specific topic. The outcome of the meeting was promptly conveyed to the SAGPA Chairman, **Andre van Zyl**.

RESOLUTION: MISASA DOES NOT pursue the motion of the absorption with SAGPA. The supporting arguments are that BOTH ARO's would be diluting our Recreational Aviation VOICE, REPRESENTATION & VOTING POWER within all the structures we serve, for example, The Aeroclub, Sub Coms, ILF's, AP Panel etc. but not limited to.

PROPOSAL 1: MISASA extends the hand of co-operation and assistance where possible in getting the SAGPA ARO status back to current as soon as possible.

PROPOSAL 2: A proposal is presented insofar that a bi-lateral agreement to be entered on to accommodate pilots that happen to also be active WCM, LSA (NPL) pilots. This would merely require the minimum admin to keep track of. It would effectively entail that the pilot, that happens to own and fly a gyro, would have the choice of which ARO he wishes to belong to considering that the MISASA ARO MOP makes provision for all factory-built NTCA's up to 1663kg's excluding Gliders and Aerobatic aeroplanes.

Subsequently to this, SAGPA held their AGM and a new committee has been elected with **Weidie Vorster** as Chairman and **Dr George Coetzee** as his vice-chairman. **Thelma** has been re-contracted to resume the administrative role after the previous committee had terminated her valuable services. **Yolande** has also been contracted to resolve the validity of the ARO. I have made good on the MISASA offer of assistance to the SAGPA team on behalf of MISASA and look forward to a renewed vigour and partnership between MISASA & SAGPA.

AEROCLUB of SA

I convey our most sincere appreciation to Aeroclub's **Rob Jonkers & Marthinus Potgieter** that have continuously and actively sacrificed hours and hours with their engagement with CAA on several matters. The battle is relentless and they have most definitely risen to the occasion. They spend hours on and in Virtual Meetings (and still do) and have been a part of facilitating and fighting to benefit all of us in the recreational aviation industry! I was hoping that we could have provided some really good news with regards to the Part 96 issues regarding flipping operations but that is still a work in progress. MISASA also adopted an approach of using the Aeroclub's Newsletter as our official mouthpiece during COVID. As things are changing back to normality, we will be resuming our MailChimp Newsletters along with content from SAGPA and vice versa.

MISASA & GASS

I was forced to withdraw from the GASS - Devolution of Power Focus Group due to the relentless diluting of my contribution and attendance on behalf of MISASA. Apart from this, valuable time was wasted by persistently revisiting previous meetings and briefing newcomers to the meetings. This was in total contradiction to the terms we had agreed on at the onset of participation. In terms of our MOA with AeroclubSA, **Rob Jonkers** now fulfils this role. Post my departure, which may have rattled some cages, we were finally asked to formulate a concept for the DOP. MISASA along with other Aeroclub ARO's contributed our long-standing "wish list" as a foundation or departure point for the group. I may add that the majority of the salient points had been relentlessly presented by several Aeroclub ARO's the past couple of years as we engaged in workshops and liaison forums. My personal opinion is that there is a serious disconnect within CAA. I find it troubling that for example, in the case of DTO's that one CAA department can actively use inputs and guidance from industry and work as a harmonious team whilst another rebukes our expertise in favour of a monotonous "this is our forum, you are here, by invitation" narrative. It is thus my assumption that this is merely a tick box exercise and I need to "run for the hills" by even daring to make the comments.

AP Panel Representation

Rowena, assisted by **Stefan**, has had this responsibility since the inception of the panel. **Rowena** sacrificed hours upon hours prior to its initial official implementation and was an integral cog during the document sifting & sorting process post RAASA. **Stefan Coetzee** will now take the lead role as MISASA representative on the AP Panel whilst **Rowena** still heads up the technical portfolio. She will now have more time for the Quality Assurance role within the ARO. We are busy with the sifting process of identifying someone to assist **Stefan** going forward. Noteworthy that this person is not required to serve on the MISASA committee but is ultimately bound by the TOR and accountable to the committee.

Finances

We have “frozen” our membership fees at R 410 for 7 years now and we are most definitely not going to change that for 2022. We have weathered the storm and the MISASA financial position remains healthy. It is for this reason, I will not be calling for an increase, however, **Brett Hickman** can report on the AGM.

Committee Matters

Dale de Klerk has decided to step down and not be available for re-election. We sincerely thank him for his valued contributions on the committee and the at times vibrant yet constructive discussions we all had. Best wishes to you Dale. The rest of the current committee comprising of **Donald Hicks, Brett Hickman, Rowena Kraidy, Nico Willemse, Marius Nel and Stefan Coetzee** have all made themselves available to serve on the committee for another year. **Thelma** will continue in her valuable administrative role including taking care of the SAGPA administrative function, adding to the renewed working relationship between MISASA & SAGPA. Depending on the outcome of the AGM, there may be a slight portfolio shuffle. Both **Kevin Storie & Yolande Combrinck** are available for their co-opted roles. Needless to say, **John Boucher** is available to duty in the hot seat again. We have a well-oiled, well-balanced, smooth operating representative MISASA TEAM!

In Closing

Our AGM dates have been ever so slightly disrupted by the COVID period but we are now aligned with the Aeroclub AGM window again.

To my fellow committee members and without singling out any individual, on behalf of the MISASA membership, please accept my sincere appreciation for your unselfish and un-wavering sacrifices during a challenging period in our lives. We have persevered and delivered and I am proud to have been able to lead you.

Last but not least, each and every valued & esteemed member, on behalf of the committee, our most sincere appreciation for the loyal support and the trust you have vested in us as a committee.

And now, sounding like CR1, I THANK YOU ☺

John Boucher – Chairman