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THE EARLY YEARS

CHAPTER I

The first aquatic meeting in Rhodesia was held in Salisbury in March, 1891, on a stretch of the Makabusi River. The chief attraction of the day was a diving competition for a bottle of whisky at the bottom of the river. The stream must have been a tricky one and malaria particularly rife at the time, for the meeting filled the four hospital huts and three tents and flattened out many more for whom there was no accommodation.

In 1898, the foundation stone of the Umtali swimming bath was laid by Lord Alfred Milner, but the bath was not built until 1925. A Manicaland swimming championship was held, however, a few years after the foundation stone was laid, and the venue of the meeting was a stretch of water on Raheen Farm, known then as Sunnyside, in the possession of Dick Harrison. The principal event was won by Jack Myers, then of the B.S.A.P.

On Saturday, January 31st, 1903, mainly through the efforts of Messrs. Knowles and F. L. Lister, the first aquatic sports were held in Bulawayo. They took place in the reservoir of the Electric Light works. There was great enthusiasm all round and as many as twenty entries for most events so that most heats had to be swum off the day before. The first race of two laps about 85 yards, was won in 1 min. 6,8 secs. by Leo. Robinson, who beat Trooper Simpson by nine inches. These two men in the order named were the best swimmers in the town.

In the Plunging event, M. Bitter won with 44 feet. Much amusement was caused in this event by some of the competitors who, knowing they could not beat Bitter, dived low and swam under the water. However, though the water was too thick to be seen through, the action of the strokes disturbed it sufficiently to betray them and they came up smilingly acknowledging their trick. In the water polo - won easily by Police - McGregor, a non-swimmer who wanted to play goalie, jumped in, thinking he could stand, and was nearly drowned.

Organised swimming in Rhodesia appears to have sprung from a meeting at the Commercial Hotel, Salisbury, on the 24th February, 1915. Delegates from five clubs were present as follows:-

Crocodiles A.S.C.	Mr. W. G. Moffatt (chair)
B.S.A.P. Club	Mr. G. W. Jackson
United Banks S.C.	Mr. F. W. Morgans
Pirates A.S.C.	Messrs. A. R. W. Davis and F. W. Windsor
Shamrocks Ladies A.S.C.	Mr. H. Green

As a result of their deliberations the Mashonaland Amateur Swimming Association was formed and it was decided at that meeting to hold a gala on Wednesday, 7th April, 1915, at 8 p.m.

Furthermore, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. W. Morgans, was empowered to draw up Rules and Bye-Laws of the Association. These were subsequently approved, the tender of Art Printing Works was accepted and 100 books were produced at sixpence each. It was reported that Mr. A. W. Partridge wished to present a valuable trophy and accordingly the Association accepted his generous offer and the trophy was inscribed, "Mashonaland Amateur Swimming Association Inter Club Challenge Cup".

The profit from the first gala was a somewhat staggering £45.6.6. This would equate to approximately \$1 200.00 in present day terms!

The Association decided, at a meeting held on the 16th April, 1915, to affiliate to the South African Amateur Swimming Union. At the same meeting it was agreed to purchase a stop watch, to be the property of the Association, and to alter the Water Polo goals to the correct size. Furthermore, it was agreed that the following items were to be placed before the Town Council for their consideration:-

- (a) That the present diving stage was unsuitable for the requirements of the public; plans and drawings of a suitable design were to be submitted.
- (b) That disinfectant in the latrines would be a very great improvement.
- (c) That the Council provide lockers, a notice board and a mirror in the Club Room.

The next gala was held in October, 1915, and the profits were donated to the Christmas Comforts Fund for the 2nd Rhodesia Regiment.

The Salisbury Boys' High School affiliated to the Association in early 1916 and applied for a gala in February and for permission to stage the Rhodesian Junior Boys' 100 yards championship. This event was staged annually by the school, later to change its name to Prince Edward School, until 1937 when it was incorporated in the Rhodesian Championships Gala.

In 1916 it was decided to enforce Rule 64 of the Association with regard to Ladies' races. The rule read as follows; "On leaving the Dressing rooms lady competitors over 14 years of age, must wear a long coat or bath gown before entering and also immediately after leaving the water."

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association, held in Meikles Hotel on the 27th February 1918, a notice of motion was unanimously carried changing the name to the Rhodesia Amateur Swimming Association, with the H.H. the Administrator being elected Patron and Capt. C. Douglas-Jones, President.

Our Association had its birth in difficult times as the following extract from the Annual Report of 1917 shows:

"Your Association reports many more swimmers leaving the town, answering the call of the Empire, and for this reason the most active club, Pirates, gave up all thoughts of holding a gala this season."

The report records with much pleasure the award of the Military Medal to Sgt. Craxton of B.S.A.P. Club; also the "Croix de Guerre" to F. W. C. Morgans of Banks Club and former secretary of the Association. It also reports with sincere regret the death in action of A. R. W. Davis, a founder member of the Association, "killed at sea whilst serving with His Majesty's Naval Forces".

Owing to the shortage of water in the Municipal Dam, the baths were closed from 31st March, 1917, to 13th December, 1917.

It is interesting to note that standard times for the Junior 100 yards were introduced as early as 1916. The time laid down for the 1917 championships was 1 min. 25 secs.

A gala to be held on 12th October, 1918, was to feature a Military race, "competitors to wear khaki, rifle, bayonet and bandolier". The gala, in aid of Red Cross Funds, was postponed till December owing to the outbreak of influenza. It was later abandoned owing to the fact that most of the swimmers were left weak from the effects of the epidemic.

The immediate post-war era saw a period of great development in Rhodesian swimming. The 1919 Rhodesian Championships, comprising the Men's 100 yards, Team race and Water Polo competition was won by Pirates Club who took the coveted Partridge Cup.

The annual report for 1919, "notes with pleasure the revival of water polo and trusts this branch will be fostered by all clubs; being the game that teaches endurance, alertness and all that is best in swimming, in fact being the completed education of a swimmer."

1920 heralded great things for Swimming and R.A.S.A. decided to enter representatives in the Currie Cup Tournament in Durban. J. T. Brown was entered for the 100 yards and Master Leslie Brown for the Junior championship. Mr. E. B. Shepherd, the secretary, was elected to accompany them and represent R.A.S.A. at the S.A.A.S.U. championship meeting. The following is an extract from a report by E. B. Shepherd on the Currie Cup.

"Owing to the number of entries the race was swum in three heats and our representative, Mr. J. T. Brown, was drawn in the first heat. From a good start it was difficult to pick anyone out owing to the bad light, but Gillham of Western Province was leading in the first 50 yards with Brown close up. Then Brown and Cook took the lead with Gillham lying third. In the last fifteen yards Gillham came again with a wonderful dash and won by a foot from Brown and Cook who dead-heated for second place. I must here mention that about twelve yards from home Brown had the bad luck to take a mouthful, which made

his performance a greater feat that it looked, and reflects great credit to Brown's will power, for such an accident, especially in sea water, has lost many a good man his race.

The final was swum the following night and to quote the 'Natal Mercury', never in the history of local aquatics, have such scenes of excitement and enthusiasm been created. The men took the water at the start like one man, Brown and Biggs drew away with Gillham close up. Biggs, however, swam away to the left, while Brown kept as straight as a die and with three parts of the journey gone, Gillham started putting in his effort, and here the crowd worked up to a great pitch of excitement, and incidentally the writer lost his voice, shouting. Brown, however, managed to hold off the Westerner and won by a clear foot in the good time of 1 min 4.2 secs. The scream of excitement died down to dead silence while the judges consulted and when the result was announced, the Rhodesian Banner was displayed and the crowd accorded the victor a great cheer. And so ended Rhodesia's first entry and success in the Currie Cup Tournament."

Leslie Brown won the Junior S.A. championship in 1 min. 13.4 secs.

The 1921 Rhodesian championships were held on a Saturday afternoon and consisted of 15 events, 5 of which were championships. (Men's diving, 100 yards, 220 yards, Team race and Water Polo).

Gwelo and District Swimming Club affiliated to R.A.S.A. on 28th April, 1921, and in so doing became the first club outside Salisbury. The Rhodesian Championships of 1922 being held in their new bath.

Salisbury had the honour to stage the 1922 Currie Cup Tournament, which was held from March 11th to 19th. The S.A. Championship events were; Men's 100 yards, 220 yards, Diving, Team race, 500 yards, Water Polo and Ladies' 50 yards and 100 yards. In all, 7 provinces competed and all the men competitors were accommodated "quite comfortably" in the Drill Hall and the necessary catering was undertaken.

The following programme for the entertainment of the visitors was approved:-

10th March Friday	: Teams arrive by train.
11th March Saturday	: Tourney at 2 p.m. Theatre at night.
12th March Sunday	: Free.
13th March Monday	: Luncheon at 2 p.m. and Motor drives round suburbs.
14th March Tuesday	: Trip to Mazoe Dam and Citrus Estate by invitation of B.S.A. Co.
15th March Wednesday	: Tennis and Golf.
16th March Thursday	: Trip to Cleveland Dam and Tea Picnic.
17th March Friday	: Visit to a Farm.
18th March Saturday	: Afternoon - Guests at a Race Meeting.
19th March Sunday	: Picnic to the Hunyani River.

The tournament saw the emergence of 15 year old Freddy Flint as a top line swimmer. He won the Men's 220 yards freestyle and the Boys' 100 yards freestyle. Rhodesia also gained their first of many diving golds when N. V. Oxenden of Marandellas won the men's diving with Percy Gibbs third.

1926 saw the affiliation of the Bulawayo, Wankie and Umtali Swimming Clubs, and by 1929 the R.A.S.A. constitution was amended to allow for Boards to control their affairs in their respective areas. Accordingly the Salisbury A.S.B., Umtali A.S.B. and Midlands A.S.B. came into being and remained so until 1933 when the now familiar Mashonaland, Manicaland and Matabeleland Boards came into being.

Livingstone A.S.B. affiliated in 1932 and became Northern Rhodesia A.S.B. in 1933.

The Currie Cup of 1934 at Pretoria was used as an Empire Games trial and C. N. Forster's performance in swimming the Men's 500 yards and 880 yards freestyle earned him a place as Rhodesia's first swimming representative at the British Empire Games held in London. He gained a fourth place in the 1500 yards freestyle.

The following year in Port Elizabeth saw 'Peter' Foster at the height of his swimming career. In retaining his 500 yards and 880 yards freestyle titles he sliced 9 secs. off the S.A. record for the former and took the half-mile in 11 min. 18,0 secs. which was 25,2 secs. better than the existing South African record. 1935 also saw the commencement of an illustrious career in Rhodesian swimming for R. L. Foster. Richard, later to become "Mr. Swimming of Rhodesia" represented his country no less than 100 times in a competitive career spanning from 1935 to 1959.

Bulawayo was awarded the Currie Cup Tournament in 1936 and it is noted that the chief Immigration Officer of the Colony consented to allow all South African swimming teams "free and unrestricted access into Rhodesia" and waived the necessity for passports. Up until 1936 the Rhodesian Championships were held on a Saturday afternoon with the Men's events comprising 100 yards, 220 yards, Diving, Team race and Water Polo and the Ladies' 50 yards, 100 yards, 220 yards, Team race and Diving.

In 1937 the Rhodesian Championships in Bulawayo became a two day event, Friday night and Saturday afternoon, with the addition of championship events in the Men's 880 yards freestyle, 200 yards breaststroke, 150 yards backstroke, the Ladies' 500 yards freestyle, 200 yards breaststroke, 150 yards backstroke (dropping the 50 yards event) and the inclusion of the Boys' and Girls' 100 yards freestyle.

This format remained for 11 years and was changed only in 1948 when Boys' and Girl's 220 yards freestyle, 150 yards backstroke, 220 yards breaststroke and diving were introduced. Interesting snippets from the minute books of 1936 and 1937 concern a letter from Mashonaland A.S.B. requesting a clarification on "the wearing of trunks by men swimmers." R.A.S.A. ruled they had no objection whatsoever to the wearing of trunks but that only full costumes were to be worn in any competitive event.

In 1937, R.A.S.A. agreed at the A.G.M. to purchase two State Lottery tickets monthly "in an endeavour to obtain funds". It would appear that swimming has always been very short of funds.

The Currie Cup of the same year heralded another first for Rhodesia with Miss Val Aitken becoming the first girl to capture a S.A. title. She won the Girls' 100 yards freestyle in a new S.A. record time of 1 min. 7,6 secs. and together with Miss R. Baker was selected to represent Rhodesia at the 1938 Empire Games in Sydney, Australia.

Looking through the 1938 championship programme, the Men's 50 yards scratch race (filler event) records the entry of one P. C. Cartwright! He was not placed in the event, but his enthusiasm and dedication are still very much in evidence some 40 years later, as a regular bathside official at Mashonaland and Rhodesian galas.

Once again the outbreak of War had its disruptive effects on the swimming scene and it was decided to abandon all Men's championship events for the duration of hostilities. Accordingly no Men's events were held during the period 1941 - 45 in either Rhodesia or South Africa.

An amusing aftermath of the war was the birth of a tradition of headgear for the Rhodesian Currie Cup Teams in the form of a bottle green fez. The 'fez' became standard headgear until about 1954 and was then later revived in 1965 at the Salisbury tournament when all team members and poolside officials were decked out in the most splendid fezes all diligently made by Pat Morgenrood. The origin of this strange piece of uniform is somewhat unclear but legend has it that the Foster brothers, Peter and Richard, were swimming in a gala in Cairo while on a spell of "R and R" and in the ensuing festivities following the event relieved some unwilling locals of their headgear and on their return to Bulawayo after the war, triumphantly displayed their souvenirs at their first local gala. Further research provided by Richard himself, however, gives the dubious honour of introducing the "fez" to Len Bell.

CHAPTER II

THE POST-WAR YEARS

By 1946, Rhodesia was once again fully represented in the Currie Cup Tournament and then, two years later, hosted the championships in Salisbury, where we won 3 individual titles and were placed second in the Ellis Brown Aggregate Competition. Margaret Peckover became the first Rhodesian to win a S.A. Women's title when she annexed the 100 yards backstroke championship in a S.A. record time of 1 min. 14,7 secs. G. Stott and H. B. Greenshields also took S.A. titles.

The post-war boom in Rhodesia was making itself felt in the swimming world and the development on the Copperbelt led to Northern Rhodesia hosting the national championships for the first time in 1949 at Luanshya.

The early 50's saw the development of such fine young swimmers as Mick Flint, Geoff Stott, Rex Killick, Joan Diamond and Ann Webb. Flint made sporting history when he won the S.A. Boys' 100 and 220 yards freestyle titles in 1949 emulating the successes of his father some 27 years earlier. Killick, Flint and Stott took the Men's S.A. 3 x 100 yards Medley relay title in 1951 at East London. Meanwhile Rhodesia was to see the emergence of two young girl swimmers who were to rewrite Rhodesian and South African record books and set the precedent for a string of top line women swimmers which was to continue until 1965. Joan Diamond in two short years broke 9 South African Senior and Junior breaststroke records, took 3 senior and 2 junior titles, while Ann Webb won 3 S.A. titles and was placed second on no less than eight occasions. Ann had the great misfortune of swimming against the fabled Joan Harrison, South Africa's first and only Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer.

The 1950 Empire Games team to Auckland, New Zealand, alas had no room for these girls who could very easily have been in among the medallists. However, diving was represented by Ian Grace and this move was later to pay dividends.

Meanwhile on the local scene, 1953 saw the presentation of the "Wooden Spoon" for water polo by Midlands and so started another tradition in Rhodesian swimming. Anyone who has been fortunate enough to witness the presentation of the spoon at the annual dance cannot help but be moved by this sporting spectacle. It is always a joy to behold the faces of young competitors attending their first "Rhodesians", when the lights are dimmed and the candle bedecked coffin is ceremoniously brought in for the presentation. In the ensuing years the R.A.S.A. minutes are full of requests for the whereabouts of the spoon, but, miraculously, it always turns up at the dance.

While Rhodesia's swimming strength was building up and competition was becoming ever keener, the Currie Cup tournament was still a reasonably lighthearted affair and was conspicuous for the team-singing every night. This probably reached its height in 1953 in Johannesburg with an impromptu recital by Ronnie Hooper and Brianie Biljoen of Natal on guitars and Kevin Fialkov of Western Province, with a mandolin, ably supported by a number of stalwarts, singing lustily on the 5 metre platform at Ellis Park. The S.A.B.C. commentary team were so impressed with this effort that their sound effects man climbed up with his microphone to get a live presentation for South African radio listeners. No sooner had he got into position, when as one man, the singers switched to a somewhat bawdy ballad and, in the resulting fracas, Kevin Fialkov was dumped, mandolin and all, into the diving well. This little interlude was given an added flavour by the somewhat ineffective pleas and threatening gestures by the distraught gala officials who were attempting to get the gala underway.

Perhaps the most brilliant piece of nonsense ever to disrupt a Currie Cup, took place in the Durban Currie Cup of 1956 when those two stalwarts of S.A. Diving, Willie Welgemoed and Basil Bowen, took up their positions on the Grandstand roof of the Beach Baths on opening night. The starter, immaculately clad in white with a red cap raised his chromium plated pistol preparatory to starting the first event. The gun boomed and from the roof, down came a plucked chicken, followed by a few handfuls of feathers and the death wail of a mortally wounded bird! Total chaos erupted in the stands, the false start rope was dropped, the race stopped, startled officials looked skywards but the miscreants had vanished. It was a full five minutes before order could be re-established and the tournament got under way again.

The second half of the 1950's saw International visits to Rhodesia on an unprecedented scale. Miss Ann Ross (U.S.A. - Diving) toured the Federation in 1954, De Robben Club Holland

came out in 1957 with World Record holders Mary Kok, Rita Kroon, Lenie Denijs, Attie Voorbij and Greetjie Kraan. Olympic Champion and World Record backstroke holder, Judy Grinham (England), came in 1958, and 1959 saw a tour by an Australian team comprising Beverley Bainbridge, Ilsa Konrads, John Devitt and Terry Gathercole.

In 1954, Northern Rhodesian freestyler and backstroke, Derek Fowler, went to the Empire Games in Vancouver, Canada, and took the S.A. backstroke titles in 1955 and 1956. Meanwhile a 13 year old "wonder" girl swimmer, Natalie Steward, had made her appearance on the Bulawayo and Rhodesian swimming scene. In her first Currie Cup in 1956 she was content to feel her way. In the next three years she was to win 4 S.A. titles, be placed 10 times, break the magic 'minute' barrier for the 100 yards freestyle, represent Rhodesia at Cardiff Empire Games together with diver Sandy Morgenrood, and, to crown her magnificent career, represent Britain at the 1960 Rome Olympic Games where she took a Silver Medal in the women's 100 metre backstroke and Bronze Medal in the 100 metres freestyle. In 1961, Miss Steward set a world record for the 110 yards backstroke before returning to Rhodesia and retirement in 1962.

CHAPTER III

THE GOLDEN YEARS

1960 was Olympic Year and Rhodesia had decided to enter a team for the first time. The Currie Cup was combined with Olympic trials and held in the Sea Point baths at Cape Town. Of the swimming team all eleven girls were under 16 years of age and six came from Northern Rhodesia. The team's performance in winning 7 titles and gaining 8 minor placings gave Rhodesia its first Ellis Brown Grand Aggregate win by 44 points to Eastern Transvaal's 36, after 40 years of competing. Of the title winners Hilary Wilson took two, Lynette Cooper, Rob McGowan and divers Jean Ward, Sandy Morgenrood and Tony Steele, one each; the divers collecting 16 out of a possible 28 points.

The Olympic team to Rome included swimmers L. Cooper, M. Miners, D. Sutcliffe, H. Wilson, and diver S. Morgenrood, and was managed by Rath Wilson with Pat Morgenrood as chaperone.

Our Ellis Brown triumph heralded the Golden Era of Rhodesian swimming and we were undisputed champions of South Africa for the next 6 years, winning the title a record 7 times in succession; a feat unequalled in the history of South African swimming.

So complete was our dominance the following year in Kimberley, we won by 77 points to Natal's 50 taking in all 10 firsts, 11 seconds and 6 thirds. The Women's 110 yards freestyle was the greatest triumph ever in the history of Rhodesian swimming. Out of the 9 finalists, Rhodesia had 6 and finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th. We also took first three places in the Women's 440 yards individual medley, 1 metre and 3 metre diving, and Elaine Griffiths, in taking 3 individual titles and one relay gold, was awarded the Susan Roberts Trophy for the outstanding Women's swimmer of the tournament. Once again our divers took 16 points out of a possible 28 and in filling first 3 places in both Women's events, set another first in South African swimming. This performance was steadily improved upon and in the years 1964, '65 and '66, our diving team tallied an incredible 27 points out of 28 to totally dominate the South African Diving scene.

Also in 1961 the Rhodesian championships were hosted by Umtali for the first time, in their magnificent new Olympic size pool, without doubt one of the most picturesque locations in Southern Africa, perhaps only rivalled by Cape Town's Newlands bath. Later on in the year we once again had a visit by an Australian Swimming Team, this time including the famed Konrads twins, Jon and Ilsa, with Neville Hayes (butterfly) and Jan Hogan (breaststroke).

1962 was an Empire Games year, and the Currie Cup was held at the coast, this time in the new Newlands pool in Cape Town. By now the familiar "bottle green and white" Rhodesian team had swelled to a record 42 members, the first of the really big teams that later on became a R.A.S.A. policy. Defending our Grand Aggregate title had by now become an obsession and Dottie Sutcliffe led the way with 4 titles, Hilary Wilson retained the 440 yards individual medley title for the 3rd successive year, and Marilyn Sidelsky burst into the lime-light with a record breaking win in the Women's 110 freestyle and two relay titles. For the first time since 1948, a Rhodesian was to win a Men's freestyle event. That honour went to the "Mangula Flyer", Willie Wilson, who took both the 220 yards and 440 yards titles. Sid Gibbons took the Men's 110 yards butterfly and was the first of many great Rhodesian flyers who came to regard this event as their exclusive stamping ground. Meanwhile, in the diving pool, a slim 13 year old girl from Bulawayo, Lindsay Grant-Stuart, captured the Women's titles to start off a career that took her to 13 S.A. titles and total dominance over the Women's diving scene for 7 years.

The 1962 Empire Games were held in Perth, Australia, and Rhodesia was represented by Marilyn Sidelsky who was placed 8th in the Women's 110 yards freestyle, Shelley Butler, Dottie Sutcliffe, Robin Cartwright, Jenny Wood, Willie Wilson, Bernie Parkin and diver Lindsay Grant-Stuart who was placed 4th in the Springboard event. The team was chaperoned by Mrs. Moira Foster and managed by J. "Cammie" Freer.

This was also the year of a tour of Rhodesia by a great Japanese team comprising world record holders M. Fukui (freestyle), M. Shigematsu (breaststroke), O. Nakahara (backstroke) and I. Nakajima (butterfly).

1963 dawned and it was Mufulira's turn to stage the National Championships, and a host of metric records were set up in this, the only, long course metric facility in the Federation at he time. A most successful tournament was almost turned into disaster on the Saturday after-

noon when the heavens opened at about 12.30 p.m. Some 125mm of rain fell in the ensuing two hours and when we arrived at the pool for the final afternoon session it was to find the pool absolutely pitch black. The lawns had been carefully top-dressed some weeks before and the floods had deposited nearly all the top-dressing into the pool. However, in the true Rhodesian spirit, the Gala proceeded with the Governor of Northern Rhodesia, as guest of honour, entering into the spirit of things by rolling up his trouser legs and signalling for the start of the Men's 100 metres butterfly, duly won in record time by a somewhat begrimed Syd Gibbons.

Largely as the result of the untiring efforts of the irrepressible Cammie Freer, we had a wonderful tour of the Federation in February by Anita Lonsborough, the British, Empire, Olympic and World breaststroke record holder and champion.

The National side travelled to Pretoria for the Currie Cup tournament and duly won the Ellis Brown trophy for the fourth time. Marilyn Sidelsky proved herself the top freestyler in Southern Africa by retaining her 110 yards title and adding the 220 yards freestyle event to her list, both in new S.A. record times. A new star at this tournament was Jenny Wood, also of Matabeleland, who took the Women's 110 yards butterfly title in a new S.A. record of 1 min. 13.0 secs. Added to these titles, Rhodesia again won the Women's freestyle relay and took 12 minor placings. Meanwhile our divers were coming closer to a grand slam with Lindsay Grant-Stuart retaining both her 1 metre and 3 metres titles and Tony Steele his 1 metre title and the team adding 23 points to the overall points position.

At about this time R.A.S.A. felt the need for a definitive Association Colours badge and in 1964 accepted the design by Ron Ward of the now familiar "Lion and Tusk surrounded by Laurel Leaves". In the same year Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland competed in their last "Rhodesians" and, towards the end of the year, terminated their fruitful affiliation with R.A.S.A.

Shortly after the 1964 Rhodesian championships we had a tour of the country by two Canadians, Mary Stewart, the World butterfly record holder, and Tom Dinsley, who won the silver medal at the 1962 Empire Games in the Springboard diving event. Currie Cup was held in the new Newton Park pool in Port Elizabeth and this tournament saw Marilyn Sidelsky and Jenny Wood retain their "sprint" titles in new South African record times and Caroline Fairbairn coming to the fore and annexing the 110 yards breaststroke title. The girls retained their freestyle relay title for the fourth year. In the diving pool Lindsay Grant-Stuart retained her titles for the third successive year and a new Men's champion was born. For the first time a Rhodesian man took both Men's titles and this honour fell to the breezy, blond Terry Rossiter. In so doing, Rhodesian divers scored another first by taking all four diving titles and the team scored an incredible 27 points out of 28. This was Olympic year and three divers, Lindsay Grant-Stuart, Sarie Bezuidenhout and Terry Rossiter were selected along with Marilyn Sidelsky and Jenny Wood to compete in the Tokyo Olympiad. The trip was particularly tragic for Terry who was hospitalised after hitting the board in practice and then learned of his mother's death at home. His indomitable spirit prevailed and in spite of everything he still dived in the competition and finished 27th.

It was Rhodesia's turn to stage the Currie Cup in 1965, and this was held in the new 55 yard pool built at Salisbury's Les Brown Pool. The wonderful era of top class Rhodesian Women swimmers was drawing to a close, but, to compensate, a new breed of Men swimmers had arrived on the scene. Marilyn Sidelsky lost her "sprint" title when she was beaten into second place by Ann Fairlie in a fever pitch race, with both swimmers recording the same time, but Marilyn took the 220 yards freestyle title and was once again part of the freestyle relay team which retained the title for a record 5th successive year.

This brought Marilyn's S.A. title tally to 11, five of which were individual titles. Jenny Wood continued to dominate the butterfly events and retained her "sprint" title and added the 220 yards event. John Keyter burst on the scene with fine wins in the Men's 110 and 220 yards butterfly events to embark on a career which was to make him one of the all time greats of Rhodesian swimming. The divers scooped the pool with Terry Rossiter retaining both his titles and Sarie Bezuidenhout at last being rewarded with the 1 metre title. In all Sarie competed in 8 Currie Cup tournaments, won 1 title and was placed 2nd no less than 13 times! Lindsay retained her 3 metre title and young Don Liebermann gave notice of great things to come by taking a bronze in the Men's 1 metre. Another 27 points from the divers gave Rhodesia the Ellis Brown trophy for the sixth successive year.

1966 Currie Cup was the scene of our last triumph in the Ellis Brown Trophy, largely due to a good all-round performance in which the team took 6 titles and 22 minor placings. Titles

went to John Keyter, Tony Fisher, Lindsay Grant-Stuart (2) and Terry Rossiter (2). By now the storm clouds were on the horizon and our Empire Games Team was refused permission to participate in Kingston, Jamaica; but, largely due to the efforts of the President, Bevis Barker, Rhodesia mounted its first independent Overseas Swimming Tour. A team of 5 swimmers and 3 divers toured the United Kingdom and participated in the A.S.A. Championships. Lindsay Grant-Stuart was placed 2nd and Terry Rossiter 3rd in the A.S.A. Springboard championships at London's Crystal Palace, and John Keyter was placed 3rd in a controversial finish in the Men's 110 yards butterfly in which the first four swimmers were all clocked in with the same time.

On the lighter side, the tour had its hilarious moments. After considerable correspondence with the Blackpool Publicity Department, who arranged our hotel accommodation in Blackpool, in which we had clearly asked for rooms with private bathrooms, we arrived in Blackpool to find that we were booked into a "boarding house". Our rooms were on the third floor in the attic and neither John Keyter nor Chris Sherwell, both well over 6ft. 3ins., could stand upright in the room; Team Manager, Ron Ward, had to share a double bed with Terry Rossiter; we found only one bathroom and one toilet to serve some forty people and our first breakfast was a boiled egg and toast! After some rather cryptic and somewhat irate comments to the press, A.S.A. officials and Publicity officials as to the quality of British hospitality, we were swiftly accommodated in one of Blackpool's best hotels. Apart from the Rhodesian team, the entire hotel was booked out by delegates attending the annual T.U.C. Congress. This led to some amusing asides as U.D.I. was still very fresh in everyone's mind. The Team requested an early morning swim in the sea opposite our hotel but after what seemed an hour's slogging through the mud we couldn't find the Irish Sea. It was obviously low tide!

On the domestic scene, as a result of representations by various provinces in South Africa, S.A.A.S.U. saw fit to eliminate diving from the Ellis Brown Grand Aggregate Trophy. A move, construed by some people, to prevent Rhodesia from continuing its dominance of the Ellis Brown Trophy.

The 1967 Currie Cup championships in Johannesburg saw the flowering of a fine team of men swimmers with John Keyter (2), Ant. Mellon (2) and Chris Sherwell among the title winners and the men's team taking the medley relay title. Jean Burden was the only woman to shine and took the individual medley title. The diving pool saw Lindsay Grant-Stuart recapturing her 1 metre title and retaining her 3 metre title for the sixth successive year and Don Liebermann taking over the Men's titles from Terry Rossiter. The divers won both Men's and Women's Inter-Provincial shields and the new Hendrick Verwoerd Trophy for overall champions. With the advent of a Canadian Women's team at Currie Cup, a triangular test was arranged for the Saturday with Rhodesia fielding 5 women swimmers.

The year ended on a high note with an International Water Polo match against a Holland team in Salisbury.



RHODESIA'S MR SWIMMING
RICHARD FOSTER

CHAPTER IV

STORM CLOUDS

1968 was once again an Olympic year and as a result of a somewhat indifferent Currie Cup performance where only 4 swimming titles and 2 diving titles were taken, only Keyter and Liebermann were selected for the Olympic Team. The trip to Mexico City was called off as a result of the Mexican Government refusing to issue the Rhodesian Team entry visas.

Meanwhile at home the Rhodesian Championship programme, which was a 3 day affair, was recovering in depth and entries from the withdrawal of Northern Rhodesia in 1964 and 1963 saw a further session added thereby extending the tournament to 3½ days. 1968 saw the commencement of a Swimming Test series against South Africa, initially restricted to 5 men. This was the forerunner of the present four discipline series which has now become an annual event between Rhodesia and South Africa.

1969 saw a continued improvement in Men's swimming and at the Cape Town Currie Cup, John Keyter retained both his butterfly titles, while two new swimmers Bob Hatherly and Rodney Hamilton each took titles.

For the first time in 7 years, there was to be a new Women's Diving champion and Lena Pretorius continued Rhodesia's superiority by taking both titles and so setting out on a winning trail that was to last for 5 years, netting her 10 S.A. titles, until she retired, undefeated. In the Men's diving a great battle took place between reigning champion, Don Liebermann, and former champion, Terry Rossiter. In his come-back bid Rossiter took the 3 metre title while Liebermann retained his 1 metre crown. In the wings, a new Diver, Robin Liebermann, placed an unexpected third, to give notice of things to come. Highlight of the 1969 season, was the visit to Rhodesia of the last Official International Team from U.S.A. The team comprised World and Olympic class swimmers in Jan Henne, Sue Pederson, Pam Kruse, Linda Gustavson and blonde High-board diver, Anne Peterson.

Swimming was further honoured in 1969 with John Keyter being awarded the country's highest sporting accolade, Sportsman of the Year. The sport had been fairly well represented in the past with Natalie Steward (1957), Marilyn Sidelsky (1963), Terry Rossiter (1966) and John Keyter (1967), reaching the last five finalists. In later years Don Liebermann (1971) and Bob Hatherly (1972) were also to be honoured by making the finalists.

The Test Match series was extended to include 5 women swimmers in 1970, and the Rhodesian championships became an 11 session tournament over 4 days. Currie Cup was held in Pretoria and once again Keyter successfully defended his butterfly titles, while Hatherly was to add the 200 metres breaststroke title to his collection while retaining his "sprint" crown. This was John Keyter's last tournament and he retired undefeated with a record 14 South African titles, 11 of them individual ones. This year also saw the introduction of Synchronised Swimming as a fourth discipline in the South African championships. A much depleted Rhodesian diving team captured all four titles, shared between Lena Pretorius and Don Liebermann.

The following year saw the introduction of metric distances in the Rhodesian championships and only Bob Hatherly (2), Lena Woodard (nee Pretorius) (2) and Don Liebermann (2) took S.A. titles in Cape Town.

International competition was becoming more and more difficult; however, owing to the unstinting efforts of the then President, Col. Don Grainger, a very successful "13 swimmer team" toured Greece, Portugal and Switzerland in May 1972 as a prelude to the Munich Olympics. Our Munich team suffered the heart-break of actually getting to the Games but, once there, being debarred from competing. It was at the F.I.N.A. Bureau meeting in Munich that the subject of Rhodesia's expulsion from the world body was first mooted. After heated debate, our enemies accepted with ill grace that a F.I.N.A. commission visit Rhodesia and investigate allegations of racial discrimination in our Sport and report back. The commission was headed by F.I.N.A. President, Harold Henning (U.S.A.), vice-President, Xavier Ostos (Mexico) and Bureau member, Ezz-el-Din (U.A.R.), and it was obvious from the start that they had come to find sufficient ammunition to expel Rhodesia in the "interests" of World Sport. Their report was tabled at the Bureau meeting in Belgrade in 1973 and in spite of President Grainger being present, Rhodesia was given no opportunity of putting its case, nor was the commission's report made

public, and we were summarily informed of our expulsion. Politics had truly taken over our sport and in the face of the Communists and third world countries (none of whom compete regularly), the "interests of swimming" were well and truly served!

Meanwhile on the home front, 1972 Currie Cup was a further triumph for Bob Hatherly who added two more titles to his collection and confirmed his position as "breaststroke king" of South Africa. B.S.A. Policeman, Ken Borain, became the first Rhodesian to take the Men's 100 metres freestyle title for 24 years. Rodney Hamilton demonstrated his versatility by taking over from Keyter and winning the 100 metres butterfly. Rhodesia took both the Men's medley and freestyle relays and diver, Lena Woodard, retained her 1 and 3 metre crowns. A fantastic battle was fought between the Liebermann cousins, and in a nail-biting last dive Robin won the 3 metre title by 556,50 points to Don's 555,75. This was the highest ever score in a South African championship and remains so to this day. It was also the highest standard of diving ever witnessed at Currie Cup. Don had the consolation of retaining his 1 metre crown.

The 1973 swimming season saw the introduction of synchro swimming in the Rhodesian championships, a discipline that was to confound its critics by growing into the third largest swimming sport in the country. The R.A.S.A. Annual General Meeting of that year was one of the stormiest on record. The motion to sever affiliation with the S.A.A.S.U. generated heated debate and lasted for over an hour. The movers of the debate based their argument on the almost certain expulsion of South Africa from F.I.N.A. and felt that Rhodesia had a better chance of retaining F.I.N.A. membership by "going it alone", while their opponents felt that the interests of the sport would be better served by remaining affiliated to South Africa. In the end the "ayes" won the day, and Rhodesia took the fateful decision to sever ties with South Africa after 59 years of close and fruitful affiliation. Fittingly the 1973 Currie Cup was held in Bulawayo, and two home town swimmers Paul Broster and Rita Klei delighted their partisan audiences by taking S.A. titles. Bob Hatherly retained his breaststroke pre-eminence for the fifth consecutive year and retired at the end of the season.

The Rhodesian water polo team, who had just completed a tour of Europe, put up one of their best ever showings and took third place in the Currie Cup Water Polo competition. Lena Woodard took her tally of medals to 10 gold, by retaining both diving titles for the fifth consecutive year and Robin Liebermann took over the mantle of dual champion from his cousin, Don.

A small Rhodesian team was selected to participate in the 1973 S.A. Multi-National Games in Pretoria and Robin Liebermann excelled himself by winning both "diving golds" against a star studded field including West German champion, Norbert Huda, who placed 8th in the Munich Olympics of 1972.

By now the Terrorist War in Rhodesia was definitely beginning to exact its toll on swimming and "call ups" were playing an ever increasing part in the disruption of training programmes and non-availability of swimmers, coaches and officials.

The National team did not participate in the 1974 and 1975 Currie Cup tournaments but South Africa issued invitations to top competitors and during this period Rita Klei, Carolyne Wilde and Val Walls came to the fore. 1974 saw the first full scale Test Match between South Africa and Rhodesia, including all four disciplines, take place in Durban.

At home the development of age group swimming had outstripped all expectations. Short Course National Age Group championships were introduced and in 1975, R.A.S.A. introduced the Under 14 and Under 12 age groups into the National Championships programme. This necessitated a complete review of the Rhodesian Championships and it was decided to separate the tournament into a Junior championship meet of 10 sessions over four days and the Senior events comprising 7 sessions over three days. For the next few years controversy raged over the format and timing of the tournaments and it was finally decided to combine the two meetings into what we now have as a 17 session, six day National Championships programme. A far cry from the 4 session, two day meet of 1957.

The South African Swimming Union issued a standing invitation, in 1976, to Rhodesia to partake in the Currie Cup tournament, as guests, with the proviso that Rhodesians would be awarded medals for placing in events, but that the First South African home would be credited with the title and trophy. This move was welcomed by all, and once again the "green and whites" were very much in evidence at the South African championships.

The 1976 Currie Cup in Durban was a triumphant comeback for Rhodesia, with the team

winning 7 swimming, 3 diving and its first synchro gold medal. In addition the team took 19 silver and bronze medals. Among the gold medal winners were Rita Klei (5), Guy Goosen (2), Debbie Hill (2) and Dave Parrington (1). Rita Klei had a brilliant tournament, and set a Rhodesian record by winning 5 gold medals, 1 silver and 3 bronze.

The Rhodesian synchro team, in only its fourth year of competition, won the Group event, was placed second in the Duets, and Su Ward gave notice of great things to come by placing second in the Solos and third in the Figures. Overall the Rhodesian team was by far the most successful provincial team at the tournament and had it been included in the Ellis Brown Trophy would have won it hands down.

As a result of his two wins in the Individual medley events, Guy Goosen was awarded an Athletic scholarship to the University of Texas, where he joined Don Liebermann who had gone over the previous year. They have subsequently been joined by "flyer" Dave Lowe and divers Debbie Hill and Dave Parrington. Goosen and Lowe were both ranked in the World "top twenty" list in 1979 and Debbie Hill was awarded her "All American" accolade in 1978 in her first year of competition in the U.S.A.

A team of 59 competed in the 1977 Cape Town Currie Cup and once again a golden harvest was reaped. Val Walls and Dave Lowe both took 4 gold medals, Carolyne Wilde (1), divers Debbie Hill (2) and Dave Parrington (1), and synchro swimmer, Su Ward, became the first Rhodesian to win a S.A. Synchro title when she took the gold medals in the Figures and Solo events. In addition we brought home 15 minor place medals.

The departure of champions Guy Goosen, Dave Lowe, Carolyne Wilde, Val Walls and Debbie Hill over such a short period of time proved a gap which has been exceedingly difficult to fill.

The 1978 Rhodesian Currie Cup Team left this country for the first time in nearly 20 years with only two reigning S.A. champions in the team. As a consequence, newcomer Amanda Martin won the only individual swimming gold, Dave Parrington had a disappointing tournament, finishing second in both his diving events, and Su Ward took 3 seconds and a third in the Synchro events. On the bright side a new starlet twinkled briefly when Antonette Wilken continued Rhodesia's dominance of the Women's diving scene by taking gold medals in the diving events.

Much the same story was repeated in 1979. In our 60th year of competition at Currie Cup, minus Amanda Martin and Dave Parrington who had both gone over to the States, we had to settle for only one swimming gold. This honour fell to Lynne Tasker who took the Women's 100 metre breaststroke. Diver Lesley Smith, competing in her sixth Currie Cup won both the Women's 1 metre and 3 metre events. This performance culminated a fantastic epoch in Women's diving where a Rhodesian has won the Women's 3 metre title on every occasion for the last 21 years, bearing in mind that Rhodesian champion, Lindsay Grant-Stuart won the title for Transvaal in 1968 and that Rhodesia did not participate in 1974. In all since 1959, Rhodesians have taken 40 Women's titles out of a possible 42. A truly stupendous achievement and a fitting end to 60 golden years of swimming.



*Standing: C. Brown, S. Brooks, H. Robinson, T. G. Edmanson, D. D. Fraser, N. Fereday.
Sitting: G. Hodgson, E. B. Shepherd (Manager), J. W. Brown, A. E. Ward (Capt.), A. Wicks.
In Front: J. T. Brown, J. Hick.*

CHAPTER V

FAMOUS RHODESIAN SWIMMING PERSONALITIES

In any sport there are numerous people who can lay claim to a SERIES OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE AUTHOR TO RECORD DETAILS OF THESE PERSONS WHO ARE PERHAPS UNIQUE IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO Rhodesian swimming.

NATALIE STEWARD

Undoubtedly Rhodesia's greatest ever swimmer, Natalie competed in her first Rhodesian Championships in 1956 when she won the Girls' and Women's 220 yards Freestyle and Women's 100 yards Butterfly. She made her Rhodesian debut the same year, being selected for Durban Currie Cup. The following year she took the Girls' 100 yards, 220 yards, Women's 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards Freestyle titles and a silver and two bronze medals at the S.A. Championships in the same events. Also in 1957 she broke the South African Junior 100 yards Freestyle and Butterfly records and set 23 Rhodesian Senior and Junior records. In 1958 she took the Rhodesian Women's 100, 200, 400 and 800 metres Freestyle, 100 metres Backstroke and 100 metres Butterfly titles and was placed 2nd in the S.A. 100 Freestyle and Backstroke and 3rd in the 220 yards Freestyle and 100 yards Butterfly. During the season she set 5 South African and 17 Rhodesian records and was selected to represent Rhodesia in the Empire Games at Cardiff.

The following year she took 6 Rhodesian and 4 South African titles. Her S.A. titles were 100 yards Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly and 400 yards Medley indicating her tremendous versatility. After the 1959 Johannesburg Currie Cup she left Rhodesia for a spell in Britain, where she represented England on several occasions and set a new British record of 1 min. 5,5 secs. for the 110 yards Freestyle.

The highlight of her career came in 1960 when she was selected for the British Olympic Team and took a Silver Medal in the Women's 100 metre Backstroke and a Bronze in the 100 metres Freestyle and then again in 1961 when she set a new World Record for the 110 yards Backstroke.

In all, Natalie's short career included 21 Rhodesian titles, 57 Rhodesian records, 4 S.A. titles and 11 South African records in the space of 4 years.

RICHARD FOSTER

If ever anyone has earned the title of "Mr Swimming of Rhodesia", it must surely be Richard Foster. His competitive career commenced with being selected for the Rhodesian Water Polo team in 1935 and thereafter an unbroken run of 14 successive Currie Cup Tournaments followed. After missing the 1955 Currie Cup he again made the team in 1956 and during that tournament he had the distinction of playing his 100th game for Rhodesia, 69 as Captain. In 1959 he was player and Team Manager. He managed the Rhodesian Currie Cup Team from 1960 to 1964 during which period we won the Ellis Brown Grand Aggregate Trophy four times.

Just after the war, while still representing Rhodesia in the water, Richard took on the post of Secretary of R.A.S.A., a position he held from 1946 to 1959, with the exception of 1953 and 1954 when he was elected Vice President of the Association. He was awarded his Rhodesian Meritorius Award in 1950 and ten years later was given a similar accolade by the South African Swimming Union.

Richard managed the first ever International Rhodesian Team against Japan in 1962 followed by similar posts against the Holland Water Polo Team 1967, Wursburg (W. Germany) 1968 and S.A. Games 1969. His exploits as a player, captain and manager were numerous and he became a legend in his own lifetime. He has held nearly every administrative post possible including Matabeleland Board Chairman, Council delegate, Chairman Rhodesia Water Polo Board of Control, Selector, Rhodesian Colours Control Board member, R.A.S.A. Secretary and Vice President, as well as being active in other sports at a National level. Richard produced the first effective historical handbook of Rhodesian Swimming, is a life member of R.A.S.A. and was awarded the M.L.M. for his services to sport in Rhodesia. In all Richard has attended over 32 Rhodesian Swimming Championships, with at least 17 as a player. A truly memorable career!

The Flint Family

FREDDY FLINT

In all sports some families seem to dominate and in Rhodesian swimming we have a unique case of 3 families where both parent and child have become South African Champions.

At the age of 15 years, Freddy Flint burst on the Rhodesian scene, when, at the 1922 Currie Cup tournament in Salisbury, he won the S.A. Boys' 100 yards and Men's 220 yards Freestyle championships. Freddy represented Rhodesia from 1922 to 1930, was National Men's 100 yards Freestyle champion from 1925 - 1929, 220 yards champion 1922, 1925 - 1928 and Rhodesian record holder for both events. He also took the Boys' 100 yards Freestyle titles in 1921 and 1922. It must be remembered that at this period of time the only swimming event for Boys was the 100 yards Freestyle and similarly the Men's programme was confined to two individual events, the 100 yards and 220 yards and a Freestyle relay. Freddy was thus "King of Swimming" in the Colony for a five year period. So good were his times that his 1929 100 yards Freestyle record of 58,4 secs. stood for 19 years! An all time record. His 220 yards record of 2.37,0 made in 1926 stood for 11 years before being broken.

MICK FLINT

Mick's swimming career started just after the second World War much in the same way as his father's had started after the first World War. He was selected to represent Rhodesia in his first Currie Cup in Salisbury in 1948; Freddy's first Currie Cup was Salisbury 1922. Both were Freestyle sprinters and as fate would have it, the ever good-humoured Mick was to emulate his father's performance by winning the same race, the S.A. Boys' 100 yards Freestyle title, 27 years later in 1949. Mick also took the Boys' 220 yards Freestyle at the same tournament. Unlike his father, he never won a Senior S.A. individual title but was a member of the Rhodesian Men's 3 x 100 yards Medley relay team that took 'gold' at the 1951 Currie Cup in a South African record time. In all Mick represented his country at five South African Championships from 1948 to 1952 and, during his career, captured 12 National titles, 3 South African titles, one South African and 14 Rhodesian records.

Mick has done duty at many Rhodesian Championships at the Water Polo table and was elected Secretary of R.A.S.A. in 1977, a position he still holds.

The Hill Family

JOAN HILL (DIAMOND)

Joan was born into a very swimming oriented family and was the third of the Diamond sisters to specialise in Breaststroke and Backstroke and to swim for Rhodesia. She came to the fore in 1950 when she won the Rhodesian Girls' 200 yards Breaststroke in a Rhodesian and South African Junior record time of 2 min. 53,4 secs. She was selected for the Rhodesian Currie Cup team to travel to Kimberley, but before leaving for the tournament she lowered her S.A. record by 2,2 secs. At the S.A. championships she once again bettered her record, and in winning the Women's 200 yards title set a new Senior and Junior S.A. record of 2 min. 47,1 secs., slicing 6,3 secs off the time in 6 weeks!

Joan took two titles, and was placed second in the Girls' 150 yards Backstroke. The following year she retained her Rhodesian Breaststroke titles, adding the Women's 100 yards Backstroke, and at East London Currie Cup retained her Women's and Girls' 220 yards Breaststroke titles in new S.A. record times.

She was undoubtedly "Queen of the S.A. Breaststroke Pool" and it is only a pity that the 100 yards was not swum as a championship event either in Rhodesia or South Africa.

1952 saw Joan setting new Rhodesian and S.A. Senior and Junior marks for the 100 yards Breaststroke, but after retaining her Rhodesian titles she was surprisingly beaten into 3rd place at the Cape Town Olympic Trials. However, she was part of the Rhodesian 3 x 100 metres Medley relay team that won the S.A. title in a new S.A. record time, and swam second in the Women's 100 metres Backstroke to Joan Harrison who some five months later won South Africa's first and only Olympic Gold Medal.

In all Joan won 5 S.A. titles, 4 silver and bronze, 11 Rhodesian championships, set 9 S.A. and 32 Rhodesian records and was to see her Rhodesian marks stand for 11 years.

She continued her interest in Swimming and after marriage and a family became a well-

known swimming teacher in Bulawayo. In 1974 she was instrumental in starting Synchronised Swimming in Matabeleland, was elected to the National Synchro Board and in 1978 was appointed National Synchro coach to the Rhodesian Test Team.

DEBBIE HILL

Debbie as a youngster was also a fine Breaststroke swimmer but showed an interest in Diving and continued a fine tradition of Bulawayo girl divers started by Lindsay Grant-Stuart. Her introduction to diving at a national level was dramatic to say the least. She won the Rhodesian Junior 1 metre and 3 metre titles in 1974, the year after Rhodesia had officially withdrawn from the Currie Cup Tournament. She was selected as third member of the Rhodesian Test Team and promptly proceeded to win the 3 metre event against South Africa. From that date onwards she continued an unbeaten run in Southern African Diving competitions. She took both Girls' and Women's titles in 1975, won both test match events and made her Currie Cup debut in 1976 when Rhodesia was once again invited to take part. She convincingly won both South African 1 metre and 3 metre titles with a dive to spare. In 1977 she moved to Salisbury and won the Rhodesian Highboard event at her first attempt.

The following year she was awarded an athletic scholarship to the University of Houston and in her first season of diving in the U.S.A. was in the final twelve on both boards at the American Women's University championships, being awarded her "All American" accolade.

In 1979 she had wins over Olympic silver medallist, Cynthia Potter McIngvale, and is currently regarded in the top 5 women divers in the U.S.A.

Debbie's career in Rhodesia included 13 Rhodesian titles, 4 South African titles and 7 wins in Test matches.

The Ward Family

JEAN WARD

Jean arrived in Rhodesia in 1958, having been S.A. Diving Champion from 1954 - 1957 while living in Natal. After a break of two years while starting her family she came back to diving and in 1960 won the Rhodesian 1 metre championship. She was selected for the Rhodesian Currie Cup team to travel to Cape Town and won the S.A. 1 metre crown and was placed 3rd in the 3 metre. The following year she dived for her country in Kimberley placing 3rd on the 3 metre and seven months later gave birth to her third child.

Her continued interest in the sport led her to being selected as chaperone to the National Team in 1965, 66, 67 and 68. In 1971 she was appointed Diving Manager to the Currie Cup team. At the 1970 Currie Cup Tournament she was invited to judge the Synchro events, being held for the first time, and this stimulated an interest which was to reap rich harvests for Rhodesia in ensuing years. On her return, she started synchro in Rhodesia and by 1973 was appointed National Coach to the Currie Cup team, a position she filled for the next four years.

In 1976 her coaching was to pay its first dividends when her team took the Gold Medal in the Group events at the Durban Currie Cup, and since then has produced a South African Solo and Figure champion and numerous silver and bronze medallists.

Jean's competitive career started in 1949 and included 8 Currie Cup Tournaments, as a team official she has attended 13 more; she held 5 S.A. Diving titles and was placed on three occasions. She is currently Convenor of the Rhodesian Synchro Board of Control, a National Selector and was awarded her Rhodesian Meritorius Service Award in 1978.

SU WARD

Su could swim almost before she could run, and at Junior School showed promise as a good all round swimmer setting a number of school records. She was a better than average dancer and these two activities were welded together when she decided to concentrate on synchro in 1972. She won the first ever Rhodesia Solo, Figure and Duet titles in 1973 and was selected for the Rhodesian Currie Cup team the same year. The following year she retained her Solo and Duet titles and was a member of the Mashonaland Group team which took "gold". She was Captain of the Rhodesian Test Team in 1974. In 1975 she spent the year in the U.S.A..