



News from Mirror World Championships

#6—11th August 2005



Mirror World Championships- Östersund, Sweden 2005

Since I wrote last we have had a great day sailing yesterday (Wednesday) with three good races in medium to light winds. Generally grey with low cloud and rain on the way home after race eight. Our guys did fairly well with some bunching in the fleet around the forties and then the fifties. Interesting for me to see several SA boats close together - maybe we have a common problem?

We sent out Seiraj in the duck today and after the start of the second race (race 7) the shear pin of the prop broke, so he was unable to get closer to the action for the last race. He claims we set him up!

Our presentation last night for PE 2007 was absolutely brilliant - we caused a riot. The guys were there before 7, most by 18H45 - standing room only. We started off with uvuzelas outside doing a kind of dueling banjoes from either side of the car park (as only one note allows!) While this was happening we showed the Shosholoza video and then silence. Humming the national anthem, then taking off our black jackets to reveal our beautiful T-shirts with the whole team standing and singing. From there the SA video presentation, the PE presentation and then our brochure. At the end we were going to try and give out the T-shirts in an orderly (Swedish) way and all hell broke loose. There was a stampede and 172 T-shirts disappeared in 2 minutes and the evening's proceedings were disrupted forever. The Aussies after us looked lame. The show was a great hit and after the costs here, the wind and relative social restraints are considered, everyone is looking forward to the next Mirror World Championships in PE 2007. In fact, based on our great SA team spirit and the show (?) I am sure our guys' social program has become overloaded, they are invited all over and we battle to keep track of them!

Today (Thursday) was the lay-day and we have just returned from a full day up at a ski resort in the mountains. We did the cable-car up and almost all walked to the top of the mountain (7 deg, cloudy and windy) and then for two hours down to the town. In the town we went to a "holiday resort" which has brilliant indoor swimming pools, saunas and slides. We had lunch there and then spent the afternoon swimming. You can swim in the lake and then hop into the warmer waters to check out your heart function. Here the lakes are frozen for 7-8 months of the year so the indoor swimming resort must be a fantastic spot in winter. A real bad thing for us is that a beer (500ml) costs about R45! so not too much drinking!

If you think the Germans like things done on time - the Swedes work things even more precisely and we have clear instructions for the day. It was a great break for all, with tomorrow the last two races. As I type sitting in the middle of the gym using Eric's camping table, the place is unusually quiet - everyone has gone to see mooses(?) I guess these are the elk/reindeer things that we have been eating in various forms. It's already 9.30 at night and still broad daylight.

For detailed results follow links from www.mirror.org.za. I will do full final results tomorrow.

