



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Gauteng Institute
for Architecture

a region of SAIA



REPORTS:

- PRESIDENT
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GIfA President Arch Krynauw Nel



"Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable."
Kenyan proverb.

"No point in looking after a racehorse if the hindquarters have been eaten by predators."
Krynauw Nel to SAIA Practice Committee

There can be little doubt that after a prolonged downturn with COVID on top, the Built environment and architects are in serious trouble.

I find the main challenges to be

- A generally denialist attitude toward the severity of the challenges we face and how to address them. I am encouraged by the sleeping giant of SAIA waking up to the challenges of its members and practices – especially smaller concerns – and the value of opposing all those that threaten our profession. A new President and a new CEO are promising to get more involved. I see some light there and know that SAIA knows we are here for the duration.
- A lack of understanding as to the role and value of a Voluntary Association as a counter to all things government. And in terms of Government, we include SACAP, the CBE, NDPW, the CompCom, etc. Without VAs, a state can trample civil liberties, including those of architects
- The fact that 95% of our population has not had exposure and, therefore an understanding of the role and value of an architect over that of an engineer or other architectural professional.
- The slow transformation of the profession leading to a sometimes accurate idea of gatekeeping; a VA untransformed is going to have a tough time being heard
- A lack of understanding of the devastating effect all free work delivered by architects is having on the profession's sustainability. We cannot have 30 practices tender to the Government up to stage 2 and only have one Practice paid. With the above scenario and an R500m project, the loss on **fees** to the profession would be in the region of R145m or 30% of the PROJECT COST. This is clearly not sustainable. In the private sector, things are not much better, with deferred payment arrangements hardly ever being signed; even if it is, 70% of the work is done before any payment is released. AND this is on full fees as per Fee Guidelines by SACAP. Imagine the appointed Practice then doing work at less than 45% of the fee guidelines. The worse this cycle gets, the more desperate the profession becomes.
- The lack of understanding of how long exactly the knowledge level to confidence level - according to the Dunning-Kruger effect - takes to develop to flight one's own Practice.

The situation is dire and a bit like climate change; unless this is reversed, I am not sure exactly how hopeful we can be about the reversal.

It will require an enormous amount of activism, and the activism will have to be driven mercilessly by the VAs. And that is why – at this critical point in our profession, we need more members' activism, more paying members, etc.

GIfA has achieved a remarkable number of milestones, despite the unforeseen challenges of 2020.

Unfortunately, members can never fully be appraised of just how much GIFA does for them, but we have made several moves to increase communications with our members, such as revising the GIFA Newsletter, more frequent Newsflashes and particularly

Many of you have already attended some of our online events and can vouch for the quality and fun. We have contracted with Accuspec, the provider of tonight's sophisticated platform, as well as with CPDConnect, to bring you a range of CPD choices – some now available at your leisure. We have also contracted Kaboodlebox, an external Sponsorship company, to boost that income to keep membership costs down.

GIFA now has two members on SAIA MAncom and three on the SAIA Board. The election of our member, Singalaka Bongani Jojo, to the position of Deputy Treasurer at SAIA has changed SAIA's Mancom to 60% Black and 60% female for what we believe is a significant milestone in the history of Transformation at SAIA. At GIfA, we are fortunate already to have a long and successful history of transformation; for around a year, all six of our committees had female convenors. Our transformation is doing very well, and we are attracting new members, especially when architects attend our events, talks, and workshops and see the value we bring.

We are also hoping that our initiative to protect and increase the status of the title Architect, which has found broad support nationally, will soon have the permission of SAIA and that we will bring you a renewed sense of status – plus other benefits! We issued a special Certificate of Appreciation to our Education Committee convenor Architect Janet Saaiman for her incredible contribution to GIfA, the sacrifices that volunteers make in the service of our profession is truly remarkable. I am coming to understand the expression, "If you want to have esteem, you must do estimable things". It is gratifying to be in a service position.

GIfA's past president Architect Kumarsen Thamburan was elected as the new JBCC Chair, taking over the position from the outgoing chair, Architect Stan Segal, another GIfA member. I continue as the mandated SAIA director at JBCC.

GIfA achieved another two active committees this year in the form of Habitat and Marketing/PR, and you will have already learnt that these two and the other four committees work very hard and have even bigger plans for 2021. I believe we are now the most active VA in the country.

GIfA has continued in its attitude of constructive dissent, not because we are confrontational or aggressive but because more vigorous opposition is required to stem the continuous creep into our profession by others such as Government, Financial Institutions and even other professionals.

At the beginning of the year – and despite pressure from other not to – GIfA continued to pressurise SACAP to become compliant with its own Act, Act 44 of 2000 and reliable sources reports that our actions led to increased drive at SACAP to comply with its essential two mandates:

Annual Fee Guidelines and IDoW (Identity of Work): We are pleased to see that these are now imminent and that SACAP's 5th term Council is much more compliant. This transpired after GIfA's close friends and allies at A4C showed some natural Black Excellence by having corrupt elements at SACAP removed and litigation instituted against same.

We are still negotiating on the new proposed offices at 158 Rosebank and hope to have that agreement done before the year's close. We hope to have an in-person housewarming and real 120th celebration there as soon as possible. As the premises are in Rosebank, close to all transport nodes and close to SAIA and other popular GIFA venues, we will also be able to host exhibitions and events at the new premises.

We have formed a much closer relationship with JHF and are becoming more involved in awarding JHF Blue Plaques. GIfA and JHF will soon confer 2 Blue Plaques to unknown Norman Eaton treasures in our city – a house in Sandhurst (his last) and an orphanage.

With JAG (the Johannesburg Art Gallery) being revamped, GIFA has also commenced an initiative with JAG called "Lutyens@Lutyens" by introducing the grand-nephew (Marcos Lutyens) of Edwin Lutyens - and a very famous international installation artist – to JAG with an eye on this future event. There is already much synergy, and we hope to get GIfA involved with some temporary structure or other contribution.

But it was not all a pleasure this year. We had to move onto Zoom quickly; COVID prevented us from having a big planned architectural festival. We will hopefully do it next year to increase our public exposure. Mancom started a process of increased performance assessments at the office, and our CEO resigned unexpectedly. We will continue this until we believe we can serve our members with the competence they expect and deserve.

And as I started my term, my main drive was immediately from day one to drive increased performance from our staff. It quickly led to a performance assessment which led to our Executive Manager's resignation. I shall not stop until our organisation is better equipped to deal with challenges, and I thank Mancom and our members for what I see as unconditional support to drive drastic changes.

And I hope, backed with pragmatic planning and action, it will take us another 120 years. And for your continued membership, we thank you.

We will not continue any free CPD events for non-members in 2021 and urge you to join us so that we can provide even more services and benefits to you. The changes at GIfA are visible, and we will continue until the goal of the country's most successful regional VA is again achieved. For that, we need your commitment and support.

We have started building solid interactions with many technical and other Built Environment magazines and will use this to get our members more content in these. It is my experience that editorial coverage means a lot more than advertorial, and while exposure via media does not result in much new work, it has a galvanising effect on the confidence of current clients.

GIfA Vice-President Arch Olivier Galenge



GIfA is the most vibrant and committed VA in the Republic of South Africa as we celebrate our 120 years of excellence, serving our members' interests in promoting a better environment in our discipline and creating greater awareness of Architecture and its challenges. 2020 has been a hard year for all sectors of the economy, and GIFA was not any different.

While our focus in GIFA continues to be on sustaining our momentum, creativity and innovation, we are mindful of these seemingly insurmountable challenges in the external environment.

We have put in place all the required protocols and procedures to mitigate any economic risk that COVID-19 may pose to the sustainability of GIfA. Despite the financial and operational woes experienced, it is essential to note that our membership retained its steadiness and drive to sustain the organisation. As we confront these challenges, GIfA will continue its engagement with stakeholders in crafting the future.

As an institute, we remain committed to focusing on the long-term view of strategic progress and innovative change. Like all other VAs, we face the challenge of navigating our way towards an unknown future. We stand squarely behind our mission: To serve our members' interests and promote a better built environment and a greater awareness of Architecture.

I thank all members of GIfA and partners for their support, GIfA champions for their hard work during this COVID-19 pandemic, and MANCOM for their excellent work and commitment.

Thank you

GIfA Treasurer

Arch Patrick Nayler



AGM

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

At the commencement of Krynauw's tenure as the new GIfA President, the Treasury side of Mancom engaged with Financial and "Business Turn Around" consultants and undertook to design and construct a working business model and strategy for implementation for GIfA.

The modus operandi was to create and implement a simple and practical basis to carry GIfA into the next phase, financially stable and in a comfortable position.

The most basic criteria are – TO GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our current position not being as comfortable as I would have hoped.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
			2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	
1							
2		TOTAL MEMBERS					
3	PAID CATEGORY	FULL MEMBERS					
4	PRARch	Professional Architects	356	365	350	361	
5		paid	337	318	237	126	
6		new members	1	5	10	5	
7		lapsed	21	34	0	0	
8		moved to retired	2	4	5	0	
9		deceased	1	4	1	0	
10		transferred from other Regions	2	4	2	1	
11		transferred to other Regions	1	1	5	0	
12		resigned	4	2	6	3	
13		outstanding			113		

This table is indicative of where we stand currently.

The current scenario is such GIfA's operational and running costs have been trimmed to approximately ZAR 600 000 per annum. It includes rental, salaries, equipment, insurance etc.

For the cycle 2019 – 2020, which is being presented now, there were **350** registered members. It equates to approximately **ZAR 930 000** once the SAIA portion has been removed from the member's subscriptions. Of this amount, **113** members remain unpaid, equating to **ZAR 300 600**.

As a simple mathematic equation, after the operating costs have been settled, there is approximately **ZAR 30 000** to carry GIfA into the next cycle, 2020-2021. This amount will never cover inflation, salary increases and the like for the longevity of GIfA and the members.

An informative exercise has been getting the stats from SACAP. There are approximately **5085** registered members, made up of Pr.Archs, Candidate Architects, PSATs, CSATs SATs etc.

The GIfA membership, the largest Regional and most powerful VA in South Africa is at best 6,8% of that, and here lies the problem.

The new Business model is, therefore, primarily designed to focus on the incorporation of a new membership. GIfA has started offering incentives to existing members for enrolling new members. Five members enrolled per month on a 12-month cycle is a total game changer. Debit orders in place of periodic payments will stabilise our cash flows; these are simple examples of how we can sustain our organisation through the lean periods and build up a war chest for the future.

Anyway, that was the **PLAN**, enter COVID-19.

Practices have closed down, Architects (registered or not) have lost their jobs, the construction sector has been diabolically affected, and as a direct result of this, our membership is dwindling purely on affordability. GIFA is being inundated with requests to waive subscriptions, something we just simply cannot unfortunately grant. It will apply to current subscriptions and historical debt, which amounts to roughly a quarter of our annual turnover. We cannot set an unsustainable precedent; we can enter into an acknowledgement of debt agreements to alleviate the grief and stress being faced in the profession.

Unpaid subscriptions are slowly crippling GIFA; however, there is always a "HOWEVER". GIfA has unbelievably loyal and generous sponsors on board. In our darkest hours, these sponsors have carried us through. I want to offer my gratitude to our sponsors personally.

It identifies the two primary revenue streams that GIFA relies on, clearly the areas we must immediately focus on.

GIFA has taken this opportunity to enter a new dawn.

- GIFA is implementing the new business strategy from January 2021
- GIFA is in the process of securing our new home.
- GIFA is redefining the resources we have to capitalise on our strengths.

In summary;

- Membership is currently plateaued out, as previous cycles indicate.
- Outstanding debt has doubled.
- Essential Operating costs have escalated.
- Traditional revenue streams are being replaced with online options.
- Subscriptions are stressed.
- Sponsors and sponsorships have increased.

GIfA has to expand on all the opportunities available in an aggressive (friendly) and decisive manner. This approach will undoubtedly sustain our existence and growth for the next 100 years.

Many thanks.

GIfA Practice Committee

Dr Dustin Tusnovics



It is with certain anxiety that I am writing this report, as I have only been made convenor in the last months, and the work of the previous year was inherited from my predecessor **Stacey Leader** who did an incredible job. Thanks to Stacey, the entire team, and our President for putting me in this exciting and challenging role. I will continue to promote Architecture and make it the worthy discipline we know it is, but I have lost contact and credibility with the broader public.

But this year, it will be the voices of the team members and the President to make the central part of the contribution to this AGM.

Krynauw Nel: SAIA has always been an exclusively Pr Arch organisation. No one can be a Pr Arch without being a SAIA member.

All committees are valuable, but Practice always has the most significant influence and power, so much so that the SAIA Practice chair is a Board member at SAIA.

This GIfA committee has, for instance, even sometimes taken on the SAIA Practice Committee: e.g. in overturning an initiative by "SAIA" to sanitise the DOC agreements. And to have SACAP withdraw their support for this document. The Title "Architect" is also an initiative from this GIfA committee.

I am immensely proud of what GIfA Practice Committee has done for our members AND others. GIfA Presidents and VPs were also responsible for the unseating of the corrupt SACAP Registrar and the resignation of the SACAP 4th term President. This committee has often led the SA profession. Even under pressure from SAIA to stand back from SACAP issues, GIfA has consistently refused to sign an MOU with SACAP until such a time as SACAP becomes compliant with its Act regarding Fee Guidelines and IDOW obligations

- leading directly to the rush by SACAP to become compliant this year.

Thank you again, and take courage from the history of this committee - you ARE making a difference to the profession nationally

Maria Paschini: This year was a holding-the-fort year due to Covid and losing our convenor. Progress made with council, architect title, PPE course and SACAP. We should strategise the way forward at one of our next meetings.

Rudd van Deventer: The Practice Committee is a core part of the support for architects that is part of the offering from GIfA and SAIA. GIfA is our immediate port of call, and we hope to reach all architects through SAIA/GIfA.

The Practice Committee has not yet realised its ability to assist, especially in these Covid-19 times. There is a need to broaden our base.

Christo Vosloo: Practice Committee has become increasingly relevant during this period and can potentially improve our dire situation.

Practice Survey: Further, I like to point out that the **Practice Survey**, started by Stacey, is being handled brilliantly by Maria and is due to be sent to all members beginning of November.

Professional Practice Breakfast: The most prominent public presence is given by our regular **Professional Practice Breakfast**, where **Mia Jeffrey** is handling the challenging job, and we are about to present the calendar for the next year with one very relevant theme on Practice' issues that will be combined with one 'sexy' topic even further to enlarge the circle of visitors, currently on Zoom, but soon to be hosted in an actual venue again.

GfA Education Committee

Arch Janet Saaiman



Members: Ariane Janse van Rensburg, Antoinette Kloppers, Nomonde Gwebu, Max Phori, Keitsitse Losaba, Samantha Aserman, Judith Ojo-Aromokudu

2020 presented a lot of challenges and changes. Being forced to meet and work online soon became the norm. We missed our visits to the universities and welcoming some of the students to our meetings. The Education Committee met once a month on Zoom.

CPD: We had to re-think and re-organise our CPD events. Before lockdown, we could organise two visits to the award-winning 140 West street by Paragon Architects and 1 Discovery Place by Boogertman & Partners. It was a pity we had to cancel our other visits, but we hope to host these online as virtual tours. The Marketing committee are working on these. The Steelcase series moved online. Regent Lighting presented some courses to the big firms, and Paragon started with their programmes of Masterclasses. We established relationships with CPDConnect and e-CPD to offer webinars, online courses, and workshops. We have investigated these before, and being forced to fast-track was a bonus. These ongoing relationships will present another option to get CPD points. We are working on a system to issue CPD certificates more timeously.

Website and social media: The website needs an update, and we are investigating doing this in-house.

There also seems to be a need for blogs with more relevant updates from the different committees, and we are looking at establishing these. Our Facebook page has 3700 followers, and we try to use this as a platform to advertise events and promote architecture and our members. A LinkedIn account was created, and we currently have 230 followers, which is growing weekly. Marketing is doing a stellar job with our Instagram account. We are also actively lobbying for better communication between GfA and our members.

Bursaries and Student Interaction: Unfortunately, our bursary scheme was shelved due to the economic downturn closely followed by the Covid-19 lockdown. Last year, one of our bursary recipients was one of the top performers at Wits. Previous bursary recipients are active in the Education committee. With Wits's collaboration, we organised an information session on SACAP, VAs and the rules and ethics of architecture presented by Krynauw. It was well-received, and we will offer this annually.

Careers Fairs: We only could attend the Careers Day at Benoni High School at the beginning of the year with the assistance of Paragon. We realised that we would have to re-look at reaching a wider audience and preferably younger scholars. Paragon once again assisted and compiled a short video featuring work from our members, which we launched on World Architecture Day at the beginning of October. We want to adapt this as a promotional video for schools.

Mentorship: Quite a few options were explored. We are looking forward to working with the Transformation Committee on these initiatives.

We look forward to continuing our mission of promoting architecture to scholars, students, architects and the general public in 2021.

GIfA Transformation Committee

Arch Preetya Bhikha



This year, the committee has focused on understanding the roles and responsibilities of the Transformation Committee within GIfA and the wider architectural community.

Aims

- To transform GIfA and the greater architectural community by highlighting the role of transformation in the profession.
- To provide visibility, knowledge, cultural sensitivity and change perceptions.
- To drive SAIA transformation.

Events

- Transcom assisted with the Women's Day Event and Heritage Day Event.
- Transcom members have attended the Education Committee meetings to see how we can collaborate on future events. Transcom is particularly keen to assist with the planned mentorship programme for students requiring assistance with their coursework and graduate training.
- PIA has asked GIfA TransCom for assistance in setting up a committee of their own. 2 meeting sessions have been held to discuss PIA's work so far.

Proposals for Future Events

- Transcom plans to develop a mandate for the committee's role, including outlining its objectives and aims.
- Collaboration opportunities with other committees or transformation committees in other disciplines must be identified.
- Transcom aims to assist in advertising the University of Johannesburg's *Transformative Practices* lecture series.

Goals for 2020:

- We are aiming to recruit more members to join the committee. It will involve confirming interest with past members and inviting GIfA members to join Transcom, and this is currently underway.
- Towards the end of 2020, we aim to see how we can collaborate with other GIfA committees and begin planning events for 2021.

GIfA Heritage Committee

Arch Sue Zenha



GIfA Heritage Committee serves as the "link" between the various heritage authorities, associations and GIfA and its members. Heritage protection and engagement are most active in the voluntary bodies; The Johannesburg Heritage Foundation, city interest groups and Residents' Associations. PHRA_G, the provincial legal custodians, are under-resourced. We encourage GIfA members to join or participate in the JHF's numerous tours and talks which assist them in creating awareness and funding heritage preservation. Since the lockdown in late March, GIfA and the JHB Heritage Foundation have implemented and hosted virtual tours/events.

Recent event:

We hosted the GIfA online 120-year celebration on 23 September for Heritage Day.

Current events:

"From Aasvoelskop to Northcliff: The Work of One Man and the Rich followed" (JHF), and Jacaranda Walks started (JHF members only)

As the 60-year-old building category rapidly expands, there are insufficient resources to review heritage applications and monitor heritage preservation. Numerous suburbs have no active residents' associations or heritage conservationists, and we encourage members to establish these and create awareness in areas which lack support.

Objectives 2020

Monthly, continued representation, engagement with the JHF and their three JPCs, and liaising with affiliated heritage groups.

Engage with PHRA_G for architectural representation – Link Brian Kent McKechnie

Keep members informed of evolving municipal application procedures. Ongoing engagement with the CoJ regarding its Reform Action Plan and the proposed digitalisation being implemented. Collaboration with Professional Practice Committee. Severely hampered by Covid lockdown.

Maintain updated heritage contacts, procedures and association details.

Promote JHF and similar interested groups' events and links – request a shared promotion of GIfA events and tours.

Collaboration with Marketing Committee.

Brian McKechnie will call for assistance regarding capturing and archiving municipal records. Long-term objectives to assist them with mapping and expanding heritage. Currently no access to records at the municipality anticipated for the balance of 2020. Meet with JHF Resources Centre postponed.

PR/Marketing Committee

Arch Kay Hausler



Our aim for 2020 has been to renew our online presence and to promote GIFA to members and non-members alike. The marketing strategy has been to promote the industry as a whole, give the all public access to South African architecture and support our members in terms of networking opportunities, CPD events and by creating and sharing educational content.

Social Media: We have increased our presence on social media, using the Facebook and Instagram platforms as mechanisms to share industry information, learning platforms, CPD events, local and international industry news and to promote GIFA award-winning work.

Online CPD Events: This year, we have focussed on creating a series of online events in place of our regular GIFA networking and educational / CPD events. We established relationships with two online platforms, CPDconnect and ECPD, to host our online events, meetings and seminars.

Together with the Education and Professional Practice Committees, we held a series of successful online, inter-committee strategy sessions and professional breakfasts.

Together with Janet Saaiman of the Education Committee, we launched our online 'Architecture As A Day Job' lecture series, which focuses on developing successful, profitable architectural practices. The series comprises practical lectures and "lessons learnt" discussions with various experienced architects. The first, a lecture on Fees by GIFA president, Krynauw Nel, was a great success. We have several exciting and relevant topics to cover and look forward to continuing these into 2021.

Building Tours:

Together with the Education Committee, we promote tours of GIFA award-winning buildings. During the lockdown, we took the opportunity to begin filming these architectural tours. We hope this will make these tours more accessible to a broader audience. We are working on having the various tours sponsored by associated suppliers or contractors.

Aim for 2021:

Architecture for Non-Architects:

We aim to market the GIFA community's work to architects and the public. We have identified that there is an opportunity to connect non-architects who have a passion for architecture to the work we (as a profession) are designing and producing in Gauteng. We aim to extend the reach of our marketing, events, tours and exhibitions to these groups, as well as to potential clients, students, contractors, suppliers and specialists to enhance collaboration, knowledge-sharing and support for the profession.

Habitat Committee

Arch Nadia Tromp



This committee was formed just six months ago, in May 2020, as a regional response to SAIA Habitat Committee being established. The work has to be generated from a regional level and filtered up to have the most meaningful impact.

Purpose and Charge:

To promote the work of architects, designers and communities, creating better environments for its inhabitants through projects demonstrating innovation in design.

To build better relationships with government structures, to start lobbying for the importance of architects in the planning of housing developments and sustainable urban environments, and To contribute to the inclusion and quality of life of all those impacted by an inequitable built environment.

The committee is dedicated to advancing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular emphasis on SDG 11: Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. With current estimations stating that by 2030, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities, urban environments must develop in harmony with the UN's guiding principles.

Achievements to date:

COVID-19 CA+HR Volunteer List

A call for volunteers to assist with efforts related to the COVID-19 crisis was launched in South Africa on Thursday, 26 March 2020. It followed President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement for a countrywide lockdown period of 21-days, which commenced at midnight Thursday, 26 March 2020. To date, we have **+100 volunteers** who have offered their assistance and volunteered their time. Volunteers consist of architects, engineers and students. This database was shared with SAIA to form part of a national database that would be called upon should any need or opportunity arise for architects to contribute to projects arising from the pandemic.

This database was also shared with the UIA Central crisis centre, to which this work will contribute. We recognise that better planning and spatial management of the relief efforts must be implemented to have the intended outcomes of saving as many lives as possible. Architects have a unique skill set that could benefit our country during this crisis. We are calling on all architects and practices to come forward and support.

World Architecture Day: Toward a better urban future

On Monday, 05 October 2020, we celebrated World Architecture, and I spoke on **Housing for All**. I did this as the director of UIA WP Community Architecture and Human Rights (CA+HR). I was honoured to represent my UIA WP, SAIA, and GIFA on this international platform.

Filling of Positions of volunteers on this committee

The committee is made up of the following volunteers:

Nadia Tromp (convenor)

Benjamin Kollenberg

Dominic Pryce

Janet Phillips

Lloyd Bussio

Suzette Mathew

Shyam Patel

All volunteers have formally committed to GIFA and this committee and signed the volunteer agreement for 2020/21.

Proposals for Future Events and Goals for 2021

A webinar in collaboration with SAIA, UIA CA+HR in February 2021 focuses on habitat, social and spatial justice with local and international speakers.

We will coordinate contributions to the CA+HR exhibition, UIA RIO21 Conference, in July 2021.

It is a very new committee with challenges brought on by the Covid pandemic during its inception; the committee has not had the opportunity to work together on an event.

We look forward to collaborating and planning future events in a collaborative spirit. We thank each member for their commitment shown and their continued support.



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