



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 7/2012
20 October 2012

NEWSLETTER



Mr Kosie Theunissen
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

After the Executive Management meeting and event held in Gauteng for Thatching Contractors, we would like to report as follows:

1. FINANCES

TASA is under financial strain as a result of outstanding membership fees. It must be specifically mentioned that the TASA management members pay their own travel and accommodation costs and that the largest portion of income is used exclusively to maintain the TASA's office.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The tendency is all the more common that members allow their membership to expire and do not pay membership fees for two or even more years. But as soon as a tender or contract requires proof of membership, it is expected of the TASA to immediately restore their membership.

A proposal to toughen membership requirements and the application thereof will be tabled at the next Annual General Meeting to be held in 2013 and will involve the following:

- Notice of renewal must be submitted two months in advance.
- A period of grace, no longer than two weeks will be allowed.
- Lack of compliance will result in forfeiture of membership. Members will then have to re-apply.
- A re- entrance fee of R500 will be payable

3. ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

To encourage Associate members to advertise on the TASA website and to make this kind of membership attractive, the same membership fee as for bona fide Thatching Contractors will be payable which will include advert cost.

At present membership fees for Associate members is R1 750 and advert costs R3 000.

4. TREATMENT OF THATCH ROOFS

It is re-iterated that TASA does not take a stand on the chemical treatment of thatched roofs. The onus rests with the manufacturers to prove the effectiveness

Unfortunately numerous complaints are being received from the public that chemicals sprayed on roofs caused damage although tested by the SABS. This matter will be taken up with the SABS. Ignorance exists to distinguish between the testing of a product as compared to it carrying the SABS mark.

5. ARBITRATION BY SATAS

The Executive again confirmed the standpoint that SATAS will accommodate complaints and arbitration on behalf of TASA. The involvement of Thatching Contractors is not advisable.

6. U-VALUES

Thatch and reed roofs must comply with the SANS 10400-XA and SANS 204 Standards and the correct U-Values must be provided to the Industry - but air permeable roofs such as thatch and reed roofs are not even mentioned in these Standards.

During discussions with the Thermal Testing laboratory at the CSIR, TASA was advised to take the matter up with the SABS to establish a test procedure to determine the thermal resistance of air permeable roofs.

The AAAMSA Group, owners of the Thermal Testing laboratory, also undertook to submit the problem to their American Consultants (NFRC) for their comment.

These tests will have to be financed. All relevant and involved parties will be approached for sponsorships.

Members will be informed of the outcome of the discussions.

7. INTERNATIONAL THATCHING SOCIETY'S CONGRESS

It has been decided at the International Thatching Society's congress in Germany that the next World Congress will be held in the RSA during February 2014.

The proposal is that it be held in Cape Town. Mr Abrie Visagie of Lucas Quality Thatchers will be the convenor.

Attendees indicated at the Congress that they want their spouses to accompany them and that they will come for an extended period so as to be able to visit other tourist attractions in the country.

8. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Special effort must be made to get Thatching Contractors together and that matters of relevance to the Trade and Contractor's problems encountered are discussed. Strong relationships can be built this way.

TASA is an Association of and for Thatching Contractors and aim to promote the interests of bona fide Thatching Contractors and the Industry.

This platform which is created for this purpose, must be utilised to its fullest extent.

9. **ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

Not only complaints are received re bad workmanship etc. These beautiful and impressive roofs were built by a new TASA member, Mr Dries Laas of Zambezi Thatching of Gauteng. He bought the business from Mr Will Andrews who immigrated to New Zealand.

It is encouraging to see member's achievements. Members are invited to provide us with information and photos on achievements and not only wait for the annual Photo Competition.



Kind regards

Kosie Theunissen
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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