



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 5/2015
31 July 2015

NEWSLETTER

Dear member

International Thatching Society's Congress

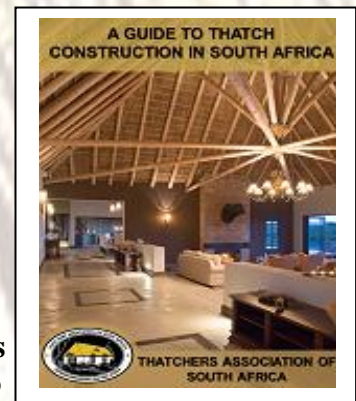
It is with pleasure that we can report that the TASA will be represented by the following members during the International Thatching Society's 2015 Congress to be held in Sweden during September:

Recon Thatchers	:	TASA National Chairman
Theunissen Thatching	:	TASA National Vice Chairman
Biggarsberg Thatchers	:	TASA representative : SABS committees
Hoffmans' Thatching Specialists	:	Founding member
Lucas Quality Thatchers	:	Founding member
Jason Lucas Master Thatchers	:	Founding member

The TASA "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa"

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to those members who over the past ten years have attended almost every Annual General Meeting regardless of where in the country it was held. These members have literally spent thousands of Rands to place the Thatchers Association on the map and the ultimate fruit of their selfless labour, cost and effort is the TASA's very valuable and very necessary "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa!"

After ten years they leave a legacy which can guide the Industry to new heights.



The TASA is currently working on the final touches to this manual which will be free of charge and downloadable from the TASA's website. It has become an urgent necessity to protect the Thatching Industry at all costs against contractors who are also responsible for insurance claims not being met.

We want to empower our members by putting information and photographic evidence at their disposal - not only to serve as the "Guide" as a marketing tool - but also setting out the **reasons** why it is so important for the prospective customer to make use of the right contractor.

Our members signed a Code of Conduct and Ethics in which they undertook to comply with the SANS 10407 specification requirements. Therefore we make an urgent appeal to our members to pull their weight. It's disappointing to have a member's name on the website "Hello Peter.com" and to receive complaint after complaint regarding that member.

Members who are guilty of such practices' membership will be suspended and they will be asked to first put their houses in order. The document "The Choice of a Thatched Roof Contractor" is always sent to prospective customers. It does not just contain the guidelines for building of a roof without construction problems, but encompass all areas.

Examples of Original Insurance Claims

IS YOUR CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FACT THAT YOUR INSURANCE CLAIM IS NOT MET?

The following is an example of complications due to re-thatch onto original faulty construction:
The size of the roof is 43 m² and the length of the fiberglass ridging 4,5 m.
The roof was designed at an angle of 35° where the optimum for thatch is 45°.



Roof built at 35 degrees



The rafter spacing is between 900 and 950 mm whereas the maximum should not be more than 800 mm.

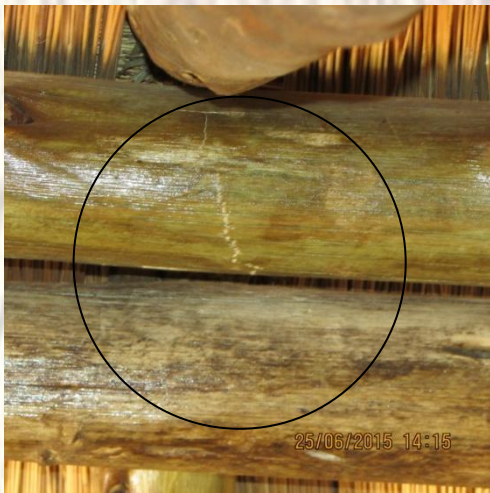


The clear span of ridge beams in the apex of the roof is 4 m where it should not exceed 3 m.



With only one layer of thatch the above might still have been in order but when the second layer of thatch was added on the added stress of the excess weight ($\pm 1,700$ kg) became too much for the existing poles. That is the reason the one rafter as well as the ridge started cracking.





The solution is to remove the existing two layers of thatch as well as the pole construction **and reconstruct the entire roof**. The flashing against the gable also needs to be resealed or replaced if necessary.

The following is an example of extensive incorrect brushing and combing:

The size of the house is 212 m² including the overhang.

According to the owner there was a severe hail storm and the thatch was damaged. The insurance company appointed a thatching contractor to brush and comb the roof.

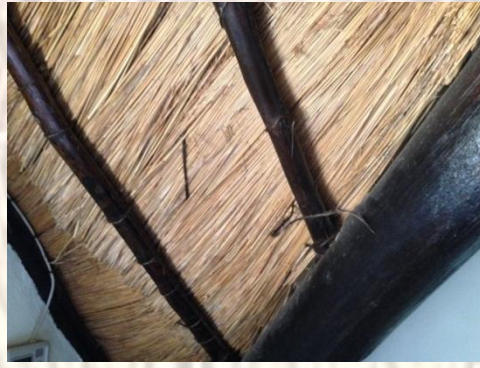
Presently the roof is well below the accepted average thickness of 150 mm and the client is complaining about leaks all over.



As there is no horizontal wire (sways) visible on the surface of the roof we tested the compaction of the thatch from the inside by pulling the twine. To our surprise, in five different sections of the house the twine was broken and we pulled out pieces.



It is difficult to determine whether the twine has been cut or if it was natural deterioration.



The result is that some of the thatch is now not secure. In our opinion the main cause of the leaks. The solution is to re-thatch (overlay) the entire house. The second layer must be secure through the existing thatch onto the laths on the inside.

On the two verandas the existing thatch layers need to be removed because a second layer on top of the existing layer will make the overall thickness of the thatch higher than the window ledge.





The TASA's "Guide to Thatch Construction in South Africa" can prevent that more projects end in disaster

The Mark of Excellence!



Kind regards

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NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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