

Book Reviews and Notices

SALT ON THE SAILS: 150 YEARS OF THE ROYAL NATAL YACHT CLUB

By FROST, Sally. With a Foreword by HRH The Duke of York

Durban: Royal Natal Yacht Club, 2008. 517pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0-620-41921-5

In her Author's Note, Dr Sally Frost sets out the vision behind the production of this book: 'to capture and record the history of the Royal Natal Yacht Club, its famous people and boats, and the role it has played in the development of Durban'. The vision, she says, was that of the RNYC commodore, her brother Chris Frost, and she has done an admirable job of making it reality.

That last clause of the commodore's commission might well be inverted. Certainly many members of the club played significant roles in local affairs, but more than showing how the club played a role in the development of Durban, Dr Frost shows how the development of Durban, both the physical development of the bay and the social evolution of the community, affected the fortunes of the club. Indeed, the influences of larger forces, such as the South African and World Wars, the apartheid ideology and the move beyond it, are also traced.

Throughout the book the author does a neat job of interspersing her chronologically ordered text with boxes that provide additional detail about the contemporary situation or insights into the recollections and personalities of significant members of the sailing community, extracted through thoroughgoing research into both the documentary and the oral records. Because the main text carries the weight of the account and the boxes provide supplementary information, there is some repetition of the points made. Evidently, however, it is not intended that the reader will follow every word from cover to cover but rather dip into sections of particular interest.

Even so, the text is very readable, so that for much of the early half of the book one is drawn into consuming it page by page. It opens with a brief history of yachts and yachting and then of the early settlement of Natal and Durban. The 1858 formation of the Durban Regatta Club is placed in this context, and it is to this group of enterpris-

ing sportsmen that the Natal (later Royal Natal) Yacht Club owes its origins. In the latter part of the book the affairs of the city are pushed further into the background and those of the club, and particularly of its sailing members, predominate, although developments at the club continue to reflect the social and economic trends of the changing times.

This reviewer is not without his quibbles. Some of the references to historical events are slightly misleading. For example, in dealing with the British fortification of the Port Natal settlement against Boer attacks, Dr Frost writes 'They [the soldiers] left ... on Christmas Eve 1839 with the defeat of Dingane by the Boers at Blood River' (pp 21-22). The battle had in fact been fought on 16th December 1838.

Also disconcerting is the appearance of the spelling 'councilor' for the word 'councillor' – a word that appears quite frequently because of the role played by people associated with the club in local government. No doubt the fault lies with an electronic spell-checker of American origin, but in the context of a consciously British colonial and post-colonial society and a club with a royal charter, the American spelling is jarring.

Obviously a book of this kind is likely to have a limited readership, and this is unfortunate. Firstly, it is far more than an account of the activities of a club that for much of its history has been a distinctly exclusive institution catering for a membership of decidedly privileged sporting and business people. Given that the RNYC has been one of the country's oldest and largest yacht clubs, it has played a significant part in the development of competitive sailing.

Consequently Sally Frost's book provides a full record of both national and international racing and cruising, particularly in offshore waters. Secondly, many old Durbanites with no particular connections with either sailing or the club will find interest in the account of the growing town and the references to the community leaders who helped shape its development.

Thirdly, the book is superbly illustrated with reproductions of paintings and photographs. Many of the paintings are drawn from the collection of Nigel Hughes, whose *Paintings of the Bay of Natal* was reviewed in *Natalia* 34, and many of the photographs come from the B.W. Caney collection – the Caneys being a family of photographers with long and close connections with the club and including two former Commodores. Over a thousand illustrations accompany the text, and the unusual combination of paintings and photographs provides a remarkable collection of images not only of yachting people and their boats but also of Durban and its bay. In this regard it is relevant to note that the quality of the reproductions is excellent, and the whole book – a sizeable volume with endnotes, select bibliography and indexes (the artworks being indexed separately) – is clearly laid out and strongly bound.

In sum, while primary appeal of the book will be to club members and then to people with a direct interest in sailing, it has much broader relevance as a remarkably well-illustrated account of the affairs of the port and its people.

MORAY COMRIE

SAVING THE ZULULAND WILDERNESS – AN EARLY STRUGGLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

by McCracken, Donal P.

Jacana Media, Johannesburg (printed in Singapore) 2008. 176 pp. Review copy boards, 27cm × 22cm, Octavo, sewn. ISBN: 978-1-77009-596-0.

Listed price: R395 hard cover, R350 soft cover.

If, after reading the title, and knowing the reputation of the author, you were hoping for a solid academic meal of scholarly insight and a weighty reference shelf resource on the subject you may be a bit disappointed. It is rather more of a beautifully illustrated Swedish *smorgasbord* treatment of the subject, full of a diversity of beautifully decorated tasty tidbits arranged seductively on an ornate platter.

Professor McCracken is Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences and Senior Professor of History at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has published a number of Victorian period studies of botanical history and the history of the Irish in southern Africa. Notable amongst the former is his seminal *Gardens of empire: botanical institutions of the Victorian British Empire* (Leicester University Press, London and Washington, 1997) and (with Patricia McCracken) *Natal: the garden colony: Victorian Natal and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew* (Frandsen Publishers, Sandton, 1990).

His present offering is a coffee table journey through the literature, and illustrations, of the early colonial history of Zululand. It reflects an overview of the author's knowledge of the natural history, particularly botanical history, of the area. But it lacks the intense scholarship and detail of more narrowly-focused accounts by other historians working on the same area (such as, for example, the work by Shirley Brooks)

On the down side while the book has a good deal of meat to it, and a nicely laid-out finish, there are some patchy areas,

suggesting a last-minute rush to put it all together. Odd typographical errors crop up, such as Tescher (for Teschner) on p. 108, and referring to Ernest Warren as Charles Warren (end note 8 on p. 170) and again on p. 145, and *Typanosoma* (for *Trypanosoma*) when referring to the nagana microparasitic organism on p. 154.

It is also unfortunate that the author perpetuates the urban myth about Secretary Birds being snake eaters. In a comment below a fanciful Victorian engraving of a Secretary Bird attacking a rinkhals (p. 144) he writes: 'The Secretary Bird was one of the first to be officially protected by the colonial authorities. Its reputation as a good snaker was not exaggerated'. Snakes make up less than 1% of the largely insectivorous (mainly grasshoppers and locusts) diet of Secretary Birds.

The index is very light with fewer than 300 entries on a page and three-quarters. Books that could serve as useful reference sources often frustrate scholars because of either the lack of an index (John Hutchinson's famous 1946 *A Botanist in Southern Africa* is a particular case in point) or an inadequate index.

Professor McCracken's index falls on the borderline of inadequate. You would have to plough through the book to find any mention of that indefatigable champion of game preservation in Zululand, Alfred Duchesne Millar (p. 162). The index wouldn't help you.

But these criticisms are minor compared with the real value of the book. Despite the prolific scientific and popular literature that Africa's wild places, including Zululand, generated during the 19th Century,

relatively few useful overall reviews of this literature exist. Professor McCracken has drawn on highlights from his exhaustive knowledge of the subject to weave together a fascinating account of the wildlife of Zululand and the people who lived there, whether exploiters or ardent conservationists.

Professor McCracken adds a further sense of immediacy, colour and tone by generously quoting passages both from published literature as well as archive material.

He quotes for example from William Baldwin's account of a Zululand hunting trip in September 1853 when the hunter had had his shirt ripped by bushes while hunting an eland [near the Black Mfolozi River] and then being chased by a lone old buffalo bull:

I had to return to camp seven or eight miles in a woeful plight, minus my hat, and my shirt torn to ribbons, exposed to a fearful hot sun, and my whole body blistered and sunburnt, giving me great pain, and my throat and tongue parched up for want of water. I was well greased with eland fat from head to foot, which was great relief to me, but for several days I could rest in no position from the frightful extent of the sun-burns, than which I know nothing more painful, as every atom of skin peels off ... [William Baldwin in his *African hunting and adventure from Natal to the Zambesi ... from 1852 to 1860*, first published in 1863 by Harper & Brothers, New York]

The arcadian wilderness was far from being utopia as the author points out.

The book is lavishly illustrated. The author draws heavily on a variety of Victorian sources for his illustrations, including Angas (indigenous people), Sclater (mammals), and Parker Gillmore (hunting), but refreshingly introduces a variety of new (to publishing) illustra-

tions in the form of maps, sketches and photographs from a wide variety of other sources including the KwaZulu-Natal Archives. These include notes and sketches from Victorian naturalist and plant hunter Robert Plant's notebook records of his travels in Zululand (from his papers in the collection of a descendant, Mrs Joan Read, of Pietermaritzburg).

The book is divided into four sections. The first section deals with pre-colonial Zululand and gives a good idea of the richness of the forest and wildlife resources that were later plundered.

The second section 'The Hunters' Road: The Destruction of Game' deals with the horrifying slaughter of wildlife made possible by roads giving gun-toting hunters access to the wilderness.

The third, 'Conservation', gives an interesting, somewhat more detailed, account of attempts to introduce effective legislation to establish game reserves to protect the wildlife. By the end of the 19th century five game reserves (Cape St Lucia, Mfolozi, Hluhluwe, Hlabisa, Umdletshe and Pongola) had been proclaimed and one, Pongola, deproclaimed.

The final chapters, grouped under 'Trouble in Arcadia', provide some very interesting material in the form of archived reports from magistrates and other officials on the difficulties of enforcing game protection laws at the turn of the century.

The arrival of the railhead at Somkhele in 1903 and the opening up of large tracts of land for sugar cane farming created further threats to Zululand wildlife and forests.

Some forests survived, others disappeared. By 1938 the once jealously preserved Mongosi Forest near Port Durnford had become a 'blackened waste'.

McCracken describes how a growing farmer (and cattle) population was now also facing a new threat, that of rinderpest,

followed soon after by the tick-borne East Coast Fever. Nagana, rinderpest and East Coast Fever contributed to the death of more than 80% of Zululand cattle, according to some estimates. Large wild mammals were targeted as being responsible. Between 1917 and 1950 more than 300 000 buck, zebra and wildebeest were killed in Zululand in a blundering attempt to curb the diseases.

It was only with the help of biologists and war-developed pesticides that the scourge was eventually halted so that the conservationists could once again begin building up Zululand's wildlife resource.

During this time many game reserves were deproclaimed, and then later reproclaimed, including Umfolozi. The authorities were swinging from conservation to extermination, and back, until equilibrium was established with the formation of the Natal Parks Board in 1952.

As the author says 'This is a story of survival: the overcoming of terrible odds and the laying of a foundation upon which the conservation of Zululand's indigenous forest, bush, game and birdlife would grow'.

PETER CROESER

SELECTED LETTERS, by ALAN PATON

edited and introduced by ALEXANDER, Peter F.

Cape Town: Van Riebeeck Society, 2009. 496 pp. illus. ISBN: 978-0-9814264-0-2

Paton is an important writer, and this is an important volume.

The main facts of Paton's life are well known from his two probing autobiographies and from Peter Alexander's fine biography: childhood, school and university in Pietermaritzburg; marriage to Dorrie; teaching at Ixopo and at Maritzburg College; the bold move to Diepkloof Reformatory, and what he accomplished there; the study journey across Europe and the US in 1946, in the course of which he wrote *Cry, the Beloved Country*; fame, and temporary retirement, in the hope of writing; political involvement through the Liberal Party, which was destroyed by government legislation in 1968; the death of Dorrie, and marriage to Anne; his last twenty years as a writer, respected public figure and troubled political commentator.

The whole of this life story is known in considerable detail. But the letters offer a new perspective, a new vividness. As the epistolary novelists of the eighteenth century were well aware, letters are inher-

ently dramatic: they are written mainly in the present tense, and they carry within themselves all the urgency and uncertainty of current reality.

Most good writers are good letter writers; Paton is certainly no exception to this general rule. In letters writers are able to relax and be spontaneous in ways that their chosen genres seldom allow. Letters present a picture of the writer in all his or her flexible and varied humanness, and they are thus able to offer some insights that cannot be found in biographies – even though most biographers rely a good deal upon letters.

(In this context it might be permissible to note, tangentially, that the arrival on the scene of e-mail, which is wonderful for instant communication but seems to encourage brief statements rather than the longer meditations quite common in letters, may turn out to be a disaster for the biographers of the future.)

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As one would expect, Paton's letter-writing style evolved as he grew older. The first letters in this volume were written when Paton was 19 and a student at what was then the Natal University College. They were written mainly in his vacations to his student friends, particularly Reg Pearse, and they show, with a young man's wit and exuberance, his great interest in the outdoor life and in Christian values; these concerns were able to be blended at the camps of the Students' Christian Association, at one of which he first met his older friend and mentor, Jan Hofmeyr. The student letters also show how fully Paton, science student though he was, was committed to the study and discussion of literature. He was confident that he would be a writer one day, and sometimes mentioned this aspiration half-jokingly or self-mockingly.

Paton's acute and active awareness of the country's socio-political problems dates from his time at Diepkloof, but it is interesting to see him saying, in a letter to the President of the local SRC written from the Imperial Conference of Students held in Cambridge and London, to which he had been sent as the NUC representative: 'You in South Africa have of course the most serious questions confronting any Dominion, in fact any nation of the world.' (p. 36) That was in 1924, when Paton was 21. In the following year he writes to Pearse: 'I submit one or two things for your consideration, & should be glad if you can suggest a solution to the problem of whether I ever will write anything worth the time used in its production.' (pp. 39–40)

If he expressed his literary ambitions to Pearse, to Hofmeyr, in the next few years, he began to hint at his political ambitions. Perhaps 'ambition' is not quite the right word: Paton felt that he had it in him to do something for South Africa, the tragically divided land. His quiet hints to Hofmeyr continued right until the writing and publi-

cation of *Cry, the Beloved Country*, which seemed to set Paton in a new direction. Hofmeyr was a good friend, but he never responded to Paton's hints.

As the letters take one through many of the episodes of Paton's life, one is bound to remember that letters seldom cover the whole of a person's experience. They tend to be written to those at a distance or to loved ones from whom the writer is temporarily separated. For Paton in these years the person at a distance was often Hofmeyr, and the loved one from whom he was at times separated was his wife Dorrie.

As early as 1936 his liberal ideas were fully formulated, and he describes himself to Hofmeyr as 'loving South Africa as I do & intending as I do one day to have some sort of hand in the laying of her future foundations of policy'. (p. 70) Hofmeyr was enmeshed in the complexities of the political arena and was also a little timid: perhaps he feared Paton's passionate idealism.

Hofmeyr probably did, however, help Paton to get the post at Diepkloof. There he carried out bold and remarkable reforms; his experience as a teacher and his sympathetic imagination were fully engaged. But after a number of years there he began to feel, as he said to Hofmeyr, that he was meant for higher things than a reformatory. There seemed no chance of an entry into politics, but the literary aspiration was still there, now more sharply focused. Late in 1944 he wrote to Hofmeyr: '...it seems less and less important that I should occupy any distinguished position. I am finding greater satisfaction in writing, & think I shall do something about South Africa very soon.' (p. 100)

Then came the remarkable study tour of parts of northern Europe and of the United States, in the course of which he visited and discussed reformatories and prisons

during the day, while in the evenings he sat in hotel rooms or on trains and wrote his great novel. It becomes clear that it was the break from routine duties that enabled him to relax sufficiently for the novel which must have been germinating within him to burst forth.

The letters of this period are memorable. The ones addressed to Hofmeyr talk of prisons and politics. The greater number addressed to Dorrie tell the story of his trip and express his yearning for her, for his two sons, and for home. He tells us very little about the novel itself, and of course he had no idea how it would turn out. His remarks about the various institutions he visited are perceptive. Paton became aware of how advanced his innovations at Diepkloof had been; and he was turning himself into an expert in this field. But of course the irony of the whole trip is that his evening activities were rendering his daytime labours unnecessary: the success of the novel enabled him to resign from Diepkloof Reformatory, which was in any case, with its wicked liberal ways, under threat of extinction by the outraged Hendrik Verwoerd.

Paton reveals a great deal about his state of mind in a letter that he writes to Dorrie from New Brunswick in February 1947:

‘The thing I am looking forward to most is when the money comes from Scribner’s, & I can buy you a nice tailor-made costume & a fur coat for winter, & get presents for David and Jonno. It is significant for me to note that I was not allowed to write this book until I had lost any desire for money or possessions. I suppose you thought I was batty when I wrote & told you that it would seem I came round the world just to write this book. But it seems so now, does it not? What will happen now to the penology?...

‘You know I came on this trip, incidentally to study institutions, but really to look

at SA from the outside, & to find what to do with the rest of my life. For I’ve always felt, partly out of ambition, but partly not out of ambition at all, that I had great gifts not being used. I’ve always felt that Hoffie either couldn’t or wouldn’t see. I thought my gifts were political, but you know there was never the slightest move in that direction. Nor did there seem even to be any move to some more responsible position in the Public Service. Could it be the novel, I thought? And yet every time I started one, I got discouraged or had no energy & went to sleep. Now the judgement of this man Perkins [the famous editor at Scribner’s] has restored my faith in myself; I find it showing in little things already, like going in & out of hotels & trains with more confidence, & not worrying if I’ll get safely to the other end...’ (pp.159–160)

After the publication of *Cry, the Beloved Country*, the range of his correspondence increased; he was now a national and an international figure. We see him determined to become a full-time writer, working now in Anerley and now in California, but often lacking inspiration. The letters are as always honest, self-analytical, at times painful. He had hoped to move away from public life, but in a 1947 letter to Neville Nuttall, who had said that he was a poet who called himself a scientist, he had confessed: ‘That’s not quite true. I believe that the real conflict in me is not between art & science, or between intellect & emotion, but between duty & self-expression, between affairs & books, between the world of men & that of art.’ (p.163) Before long, with the inexorable unfolding of events under the apartheid government, he found himself drawn into politics, with the founding of the Liberal Party in 1953.

In the fifteen years of the existence of that party Paton wrote many letters on matters political, to people in South Africa

and elsewhere. But political considerations didn't wholly dominate: he wrote also on more specifically personal, religious and literary subjects. The letters exhibit a variety of tones. To his friend Leslie Rubin, to Uys Krige and to Herman Bosman he wrote with good-humoured irony. Paton travelled a good deal too, but from 1960 to 1970 the government confiscated his passport.

Some of the eloquent political letters remind us of the degree to which the Liberal Party had foreseen our current constitution more than 30 years before the event. In a letter to *The Times* in April 1963 Paton writes:

'The Liberal Party of South Africa stands for the complete rejection of Dr Verwoerd's Bantustan policy and of those racially discriminatory laws which constitute apartheid. It stands for the creation in South Africa of a non-racial and democratic society where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be honoured, every South African will have a say in the election of his Government and every person will be free to live, work and enjoy full civil rights and liberties anywhere.' (p. 305)

But political life was not just a matter of making statements. The liberal cause was a difficult one; it often seemed quite hopeless. There were inevitably tensions among those who opposed the government; and in these years many of Paton's friends emigrated. It is at times distressing to read through the letters of this period. But Paton never abandoned hope.

In the last twenty years of his life he remained an acute commentator on political and other matters and maintained an international correspondence. In this selection there are letters to many famous people, including Mary Benson, Trevor Huddleston, Canon John Collins and his wife Diana, Eleanor Roosevelt, Laurens van

der Post, Robert Kennedy, Jo Grimmond, Jeremy Thorpe, Mary Campbell, André Brink, Helen Suzman, Todd Matshikiza, Z.K. Matthews, Malcolm Muggeridge, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Walter Cronkite, Cyrus Vance, Karel Schoeman, Beyers Naudé, Nadine Gordimer, Bernard Levin, and others.

In the 1980s, when political events were beginning to move quickly, Paton found himself in partial disagreement with a few of his old political friends. For example he agreed with Buthelezi and not with Desmond Tutu and some other liberals about the validity of economic sanctions, though in other fields he had favoured boycotts as early as the 1960s. He was accused by some of moving to the right. In my view that was not so. He maintained his old positions consistently, but in these years there was a general movement to the left, which left him looking a little more cautious than he had appeared in the past. At all events, he would undoubtedly have been overjoyed by the great events of 1990 and 1994. And he might well have sensed, correctly, that in the end with his life and work he had indeed had, in the words of that 1936 letter to Hofmeyr, 'some sort of hand in the laying of [our] future foundations of policy.'



Professor Alexander's editing of the letters is admirable. Of the 2 500 letters available to him he has chosen 344. Every one of these is interesting in its own way; one can have little doubt that he must have had to make some difficult choices, and that there are still many letters that would be worth reading.

He has divided the letters into five chronological sections, to each of which he has written an introduction. The footnotes to the letters are just right, offering necessary identifications and explanations, but

not saying so much that the letters are in danger of seeming almost less important than the annotations. It is remarkable that, working from Australia (though with the help of willing assistants in this country), he has achieved such accuracy in such a vast number of details. In the whole volume I spotted no more than five minor errors.

The volume is handsomely produced, and it represents something of a break-

through into new territory for the Van Riebeeck Society for the Publication of Southern African Historical Documents. Their previous volumes have reprinted texts from some time ago. Alan Paton is history, but only just; many people who are still alive knew him. We must congratulate the VRS for bringing history to our very doorstep.

COLIN GARDNER

SPORT, SPACE AND RECREATION: POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN PIETERMARITZBURG

by CHRISTOPHER MERRETT

Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 2009.

The book is based on the author's PhD thesis, which has been reworked into a most readable book accessible to a general public. The subject matter is the provision of sporting facilities in Pietermaritzburg over the last century, with this being employed to throw light on wider issues involving the general historical development of the City.

Christopher Merrett was for many years Librarian at the University of Natal and KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, and is now Letters Editor at Pietermaritzburg's daily newspaper *The Witness*. A prolific academic author in the fields of censorship, academic freedom and the political history of South African sport, he has also addressed a wider readership over many years with campaigning newspaper articles and letters.

He is particularly well qualified to write this book as he has been an activist in the field of sport, in particular cricket, for many years. He stood as an umpire for many years in local South African Council Of Sport-aligned club and inter-provincial matches. A stalwart committee member of the Aurora Cricket Club for a long time, he was also secretary of the Maritzburg

District Cricket Union in the early 1980s and played an important role in the growth of this as an activist sporting body.

The book is organised in an historical fashion, stepping through the different eras of Pietermaritzburg's history and recording and analysing the patterns by which the authorities have provided recreational facilities for their citizens. From the beginning racial patterns of allocation are revealed, with sport in colonial times playing a strong ideological role in the imperial project. Successive chapters describe continued channelling of sporting resources to the white community in the first half of last century, at the expense of black sportspeople. The racial discrimination against black sports groups becomes increasingly codified with the coming of the Nationalist government in mid-century. The Group Areas and Separate Amenities Acts, along with forced removals turn the screws even tighter until virtually all sports grounds are reserved for different race groups and the newly-elaborated Nationalist sports policy – that sport should be played separately by different population groups – is complied with.

The Pietermaritzburg City Council is given its due for putting up some resistance to intimidation from central government to segregate its parks and bus service. However, this section of the book also reveals the City Council's racially skewed allocations of funds to sports organisations of different race groups. In the last few decades of apartheid, rates garnered from all communities were channelled massively to white-only sports bodies such as golf clubs and the Collegians Club. Thus public funds were employed to develop private white-controlled facilities which, to this day, have only a tiny black membership.

In telling this story, the author shifts smoothly between considerations of the political and administrative history of Pietermaritzburg and an analysis of the geographical growth of the city as influenced by City Council investment patterns, forced removals and the imposition of group areas legislation. Interspersed with this are the stories of local black and overtly anti-apartheid sports organisations as they reacted to the difficulties placed in their paths.

Meticulously researched, this book will surely be the standard reference work on the subject. Readers are given a penetrating insight into the origins of the geographic layout of Pietermaritzburg, and of how this evolved. It is entertainingly written, with the author managing to impart a vivid sense of the spirit of the eras covered. It is also written with passion and a palpable sense of moral outrage arising, no doubt, from the author's involvement with the events covered in the later period. The importance of this to the author is illustrated by the dedication of the book to the cricketers of the Maritzburg District Cricket Union.

The book reminds the reader, firstly, of just how single-mindedly successive white city councils pursued the monopolisation

of resources for the benefit of their white constituents. Time and again one is shown how much effort they had to put into ensuring that no stone was left unturned in their project. For white South Africans this is a perhaps timely reminder of just how venal the apartheid system was, and how far we've come since 1994.

Secondly, the reader is reminded of the non-racial spirit of the anti-apartheid struggles of the 1970s and 1980s. This was certainly evident in the sport sphere in Pietermaritzburg over this era. The Maritzburg District Cricket Union always described itself as the non-racial cricket union in Pietermaritzburg, and the body never shrank from disciplining those contravening its non-racial constitution. The adoption of SACOS's Double Standards Resolution, designed to limit the co-option of sportspeople into the tricameral system, brought significant numbers of sportspeople into the broad anti-apartheid struggle.

These sports bodies were later formally aligned with the UDF, where all communities were very visible and out of which grew the rainbow nation. One is reminded that the vision has slowly become more monochrome, and that non-racialism has slipped further down the national agenda. This is perhaps understandable, given the priorities of the challenges of poverty and crime, but one is left with the feeling that something has been lost.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal Press is to be congratulated on publishing this book, its second on the anti-apartheid sport struggle. One hopes that this, along with the earlier Desai, A. et al *Blacks in Whites*, signals the intent to source and publish a series of works in this often neglected area.

MIKE HICKSON