



## Driver of the Year: Mabuto Bobi reigns supreme



Driver of the Year winner: Mabuto Bobi

On 29 March 2014 a very surprised Mabuto Bobi could not believe his ears when Golden Arrow Chief Executive Officer Nic Cronjé announced that he had won the 2013 Driver of the Year Competition. His wife Nomasiba was equally as taken aback as the entire venue erupted in unanimous applause. It was a magical moment that Bobi says he will carry with him always.

When we catch up with Bobi at the Arrowgate he is a far cry from the shy and taken aback man who appeared on stage to accept the Driver of the Year

Award, Overall Highest Score and Manouvering Trophy. He has an obvious spring in his step as he walks along the lengthy Arrowgate corridor as his colleagues joke good naturedly.

The whole experience, he says, was entirely surreal: "I kept waiting for my name to be called as it progressed from tenth to ninth to eighth place. I just kept waiting. When it was just Galieb Baker and I, I felt like I was in a dream." He has since gotten used to the fact that he is indeed the winner and describes his current disposition as "on top of the world".

Bobi certainly didn't expect to take gold on his first attempt. "I told myself that I should compete this year just so that I could get some idea of what is expected and what the most important things to win the competition are. For me winning was only something that could possibly happen in the future," he explains. Bobi is an interesting sort of character, humble but not shy. He loves two things above all; his family and his job.

When not driving the Hanover Park to Tygervalley service bus or the Hanover Park, Pinelands, Elsies River and Delft to Arrowgate caboose he can be found at home in Khayelitsha with his wife and three children; Sisonke and Awonke (9) and Mbasa (6). "I am a family man; I spend most of my time with my family. I like listening to music, reading the newspaper and surfing the internet so that I can keep up to date with what is happening around the world. I also lift some weights to keep fit," he says.

Although Bobi thoroughly enjoys his job there are a number of challenges. "Dealing with different types of people every day and managing to keep myself calm all the time can take up a lot of energy, but my main focus is being as safe a driver as possible. I am responsible for people's lives and I take that very seriously," he says. Now that he has taken top honours Bobi says the spotlight is really on him to achieve great things and to be an ambassador for Golden Arrow in everything he does.

# Driver of the Year Competition reveals new generation of talent

The 2013 Driver of the Year (DOTY) competition was held at the Southern Sun Cape Sun in Cape Town on 29 March 2014. The competition was introduced in 1986 by Golden Arrow's CEO Nic Cronjé as a way to entrench a culture of customer care, reliability and driving excellence.

In its 28th year, DOTY is one of the premier events on Golden Arrow's calendar and although it culminates in a top ten format awards ceremony, the road to the top requires exemplary conduct and driving throughout the entire year preceding the finals.

This year's finalists had 82 years of combined service between them, with six of the finalists finding themselves in the top ten for the first time. Arrowgate depot-driver Mabuto Bobi clinched the top spot, in a surprise first time entry win.

According to GABS CEO Nic Cronjé, this truly was a proud moment in the competition's history as two women made it into the competition on their own merit and Bobi is the first ever black winner. "It has always been my hope that each and every driver would give their all throughout the year and thereby increase the number of drivers participating in the competition. We are very proud of all our winners but it really is fantastic to see a new crop of talent emerging as competitors. This competition is not only for some of our drivers; it is a level playing field where talent and commitment alone determines who takes the crown," he explains.

In addition to the top ten, Rookie of the Year is awarded to a driver who has had less than one year's service at the time of the competi-



**Arrowgate Depot:** Rafiek lakay (area manager) Mymoena Buggs (8<sup>th</sup>) Mabuto Bobi (1<sup>st</sup>), Karl Fredericks (sbu manager), Melvyn Samuels (4<sup>th</sup>), David Martin (sbu manager), Anwar Ally (operations manager), Velile Konqobe (sbu manager), Jonny Diedericks (5<sup>th</sup>) and Zwelakhe Mahonono (sbu manager)



**Philippi Depot:** Mario Gaffley (area manager), David Thompson (6<sup>th</sup>), Adnaan Mobara (sbu manager), Sharon Reagan (7<sup>th</sup>/Female DOTY), Mervyn Pharoah (sbu manager), James Bezuidenhoudt (9<sup>th</sup>), Erifaan Manan (sbu manager) and Augustis Mnende (3<sup>rd</sup>)



**Southgate Depot:** Nolan Braaf (sbu manager), Siya Ndyamara (sbu manager), Armien Abduraman (10<sup>th</sup>), Alan Burgess (operations manager) and Ivor de Mink (area manager).

tion and was awarded to Tollgate driver Ghalieb Wehr. The Female Driver of the Year was awarded to Sharon Reagan for her exceptional driving record and skill in the competition.

Congratulations to all the drivers; may you continue to serve all Golden Arrow's passengers to the best of your ability, inspire your colleagues and exemplify the Golden Arrow spirit.



**Tollgate Depot:** Gavin Johnson (area manager), Ghalieb Wehr (Rookie of the Year), Galieb Baker (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Howard Stafford (sbu manager).

# What's keeping you from enjoying sports?

## Community corner

information .. useful numbers .. first aid .. health

The idea of getting off the couch and pulling yourself away from the office to exercise may be a daunting and unappealing prospect to many. Too many of us get set in our ways, with a routine that involves coming home from work and then plonking ourselves in front of the TV to switch off from the outside world. Breaking that cycle of inactivity is not easy.

You are probably aware of the health benefits that being actively involved in sport bring. The idea of throwing yourself in at the deep end is scary one, but don't forget: you are not the first beginner that a club will have seen. Everyone has to start somewhere. Even the world's best in any sport were once novices.

If you are young, then now really is the time to get involved. How many people have taken to a sport in later life, only to wish they had started it when they were younger? My advice is: try out as many sports as you can until you find the one or few that you think are really for you.

For those who are older, my advice is: just give it a go. What do you have to lose? You may try something and find that it's not for you. The flip side is that you may find a sport that you love and wonder why you never tried it in the first place.

Not all sports are about competition. Many people participate for the love of the sport or just to be involved with other people, regardless of whether they win, lose or draw. If you used to be involved in a sport that you really enjoyed, but dropped it due to other commit-

ments, now might just be the right time to give it a go again.

The idea that everyone involved in sport is a sculpted Adonis is one that puts many people off getting involved. Dismiss that notion immediately. Any decent club will cater for participants of all abilities and fitness levels, and tailor a plan to improve both over time, while many of the more experienced participants are only too keen to pass on the benefit of their experience. There is no better ego boost to them than helping you on your way.

Don't worry if you are not particularly fit or are carrying excess weight. If your goal is to get fit, you will get there provided you show some commitment, and if the sport is one you enjoy. How many people do you see kicking a ball round on a Sunday morning in the park turning up week-in-week-out to play for their team regardless of the weather? Many of those are far from perfect specimens.

But where do you start if you are not particularly fit? And what if you have been largely inactive for several years and consider yourself out of shape and are worried about suddenly starting a sport?

A good place to start would be walking. It costs nothing, and can fit easily into daily life. You could try walking to work or the shops now and then. The experts say every minute you walk will add between on-and-a-half to two minutes to your life. Over time, you can gradually increase the speed or distance of your walks. Once you've improved your general fitness, you may find yourself ready

to tackle a more challenging sport.

Other sports don't require a particularly high degree of physical fitness, but require mental fitness, which most of us have the capacity for and are able to improve.

More and more clubs are tuning into the need to open up their sports to everyone, including those with disabilities. Blind or partially sighted people are able to compete virtually equally with sighted people in certain sports such as judo, because of the close contact involved.

The cost of a sport is rarely much of a disincentive to getting involved. Some sports such as sailing, golf, or horse riding may require a significant initial outlay, but there are still taster sessions for these sports to be found to try before you buy.

There is a sport out there for all of us. The only thing stopping you having a go is you. Try to think what your goals are – whether it is to improve fitness, aiming for competitions, gaining competence in sport, or just enjoying yourself – and think what you realistically could do.

If you are not particularly confident or a bit wary about going alone to give a sport a try, take a friend. At the very least you will both probably have a laugh at each other's initial effort. Then, if you both get a bug for the sport, it will be easy to keep it up with both encouraging one another.

Being involved will not only improve your health, but help you to realize that old adage about a healthy mind in a healthy body.

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