

2010 has been an extraordinary year, marked by two momentous events. Firstly, South Africa hosted the Soccer World Cup and of course, more importantly, E10 came onto the field to play the final game of their school careers.

And just as the 2010 World Cup left a legacy for our country, E'10 have left their own legacy for Rondebosch Boys High School. It is said that you "can't leave a footprint if you are walking on tip toes" and I can say with absolutely certainty that E'10 have taken strong measured steps and left an indelible footprint.

It is not difficult to make an analogy between the preparations for the once in a lifetime hosting of the World Cup, the Bafana Bafana team's performance and our school life as Bosch Boys. It was twelve long years from the conception of the idea of hosting the World Cup in 1994 to the announcement that we had won the bid in 2006.

Similarly, twelve years have passed since the beginning of our school careers and the years of planning, preparation, work, coaching and mentoring culminating in our final farewell. During this time we have forged lasting relationships, built and honed our skills with hard work, rigorous training, excellent coaching and of course huge spirit.

And just as South Africa had a hard act to follow after Germany's successful hosting of the World Cup in 2006, E10's tenure at the top of the school followed a talented, high achieving E09.

I would like to reflect on what Irwin Khoza had to say about South Africa hosting the 2010 World Cup. He said:

"Africa is the home of limitless potential. Feel free to dream and, together, we will make it happen."

This is precisely what we did; and make it happen, we certainly did.

Whether on the World Cup organising team, on the soccer field, in the concert band or in the classroom, team work is the only way to achieve success. Babe Ruth, the baseball legend, puts it in a nutshell. He said,

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime."

Stakes were high and BMT had to be evenly matched with skill and spirit. Just as the country and the national team pulled together convincingly, so did E10.

We have learnt so much on our journey– not just knowledge but the skills required for life. We have learnt that we need self-discipline, tactics, a game plan and respect for others in the team.

We have also learnt, very importantly the ability to work innovatively within the boundaries set out by Rondebosch Boys High School. Just as SA built their stadiums, so too did E'10 build metaphorical stadiums for the future.

Building team spirit and cohesion is pivotal to success and the springboard for us was Cabaret. The E10's pulled together and raised their game. Who can ever forget Theo's Mustang Sally, Kyle Jordaan our very best bilingual student's rendition of "Die Verlore Seun" and the mom's favourite, Kyle van der Walt also known as "the cutest boy in the world"

Rhythm of this music kept us tapping for the next 12 months to the tune of the E'10 beat.

No significant event starts without an opening ceremony and our matric year was no exception. We broke with tradition and held our E'10 breakfast on the matric lawn, where we formed a circle of friendship, ubuntu and camaraderie. Our grade head, Mr Harmuth, got us to link arms and told us that every one of us was a link in a chain and it only took one of us to break it. "With unity," he said, "there is strength."

There is an old proverb that says "*when spider webs unite they can tie up a man,*" and when it came to the crunch time, E'10 consolidated and as one we threw ourselves into our finale with a spirit which grew exponentially, reflecting the way South Africa embraced the Soccer World Cup.

As we all know flexibility is important in the warm up to an event and Josh and Daniel demonstrated this convincingly. They brought the house down at our SNL performance when they morphed into brilliant female sopranos singing "I'm not your toy." Barely recognisable with makeup, wigs and dresses they demonstrated E10's ability to adapt to any situation – however outrageous.

Wearing the same kit creates an identity for a team and makes them easily identifiable. With special thanks Kae, this is exactly what we achieved with our

matric jerseys. They added style and originality. So many people asked what the jersey represented. For us, it represented the ability to work within non-negotiable guidelines, while adding our own stamp of creativity and flair.

Our first major sporting event was Paarl Athletics. As everyone scrambled for a seat on one of busses the tone was set for another great evening. What a privilege it was to be able to travel out with such a vibrant group filled with bosch gees, to support our top athletes in action. And Cameron certainly didn't disappoint with each of his breath taking javelin throws across a field...or two.

The highlight of summer sport in 2010 was definitely that we dominated in the pool. We won the Newlands gala for the 3rd successive year and we won the waterpolo Mazinter Cup for the 1st time in six years, to the spontaneous outburst of Great Heart from the supporters.

Our 1st cricket team put in a creditable effort in the day night cricket and this was no doubt in preparation for their highly successful overseas cricket tour which they undertook in June/July.

Our hockey team, so ably lead by one of our South African players, had an outstanding season. Of the 31 games played this season, there were 16 where not one goal was scored against them. The highlight of the season must have been beating Wynberg at Wynberg for the first time in 10years. Well done to Robin and Adrian for making it into the South African team.

And then there was our Rugby team. None of us will ever be able to hear "*Have you ever seen the rain*" without remembering Rayn Smit scoring one of his phenomenal tries. And there were 19 of them this year – unsurprisingly Rayn Smit was selected as the Western Province player of the year. Even though everyone thought the first team had no chance against that school round the corner, we went onto the field with the courage and spirit which epitomises our year to draw 19-19.

Who can ever forget the emotions invoked by the entire school as they belted out "*You Raise me up*" – when the chips were down and the team needed encouragement.

As the Bosch Boys of E10 we are all leaders. Leaders in our school, in our homes and most importantly leaders of ourselves. However, amongst us there is one group of leaders in particular that I would like to pay special tribute to, and that is

our prefect body. This group played an enormous role in subtly directing and guiding the team through our successful E'10 year.

Thank you guys for all your hard work and enthusiasm, and especially for all your support this year. Our game plan was to unify the team and thereby our supporters too, and you took up your positions on the field with enthusiasm and conviction.

Thank you for all the special moments together....the exciting, yet nerve racking soccer games in the Prefects Room where nothing was safe...; the no doubt hilarious entertainment we provided for the school while having a sokkie lesson before the Prefects dance;
and all that we learnt and shared during the countless discussions we had about dates before our dances. I think we will all agree that thanks to Taariq, Shakirah will never sound the same again.

To my friend and deputy in this team, Que, a special thank you. Thank you for your calm and collected presence. For always being willing to listen, ready to talk, give advice or offer support when needed.

To our "PA" (as she likes to call herself) Mrs Fowler, every group needs a "saviour" – someone who will provide shelter from the storm, help at the last minute when time is running out, a bright new idea when our minds are too exhausted. Thank you for your endless support, positive attitude, and fun loving spirit!

Mnr. Nel, no team can function fully without a coach. From the prefect body, I would like to thank you for guiding us so unobtrusively, taking us through our paces as we set about our various tasks. You always provided the solid platform to fall back onto when things weren't going our way.

This being your 10th year as coach of the prefect team, a special thank you for all the traditions you have built up over these years and for sharing them with us - the induction weekend at school, the relaxing weekend away in Greyton and the prefects dinner to reminisce on just a few.

We are a product of our coaches and it is said that there is,

“No such thing as a self made man, that we are made up of thousands of others. Everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, spoken a word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make-up of our character and of our thoughts as well as our success.”

Talking of good coaches, there is a special group of dedicated mentors and professionals who have been the E'10 coaches for this year.

Firstly to Mr Barker, I would personally like to thank you for your positive support and sound advice throughout the year. And on behalf of E'10, thank you for believing in us and thereby adding your stamp of approval to the activities that mattered most to us this year.

Mr Harmuth. Thank you sir, for your quiet, relaxed, yet firm approach to us matrics this year. You have given us the space to develop and experiment as a group, but at the same time have helped us to remain focussed on the real reason why we are at school. We are well aware of and truly grateful for all the hard work and planning that you have done for our grade this year.

I know that it is every parent's job to love their children, but I cannot thank my parents enough for their never-ending support, patience and unconditional love throughout this year. You were always there to add a helping hand and to remind me to enjoy myself. Thank you for this.

Our Matric dance organised so well by Daron and Gareth was one of the highlights of our year – a night we will remember forever. Our men of fashion were out in full force - Craig Starke in a kilt, Theo's latest GHD hairstyle, Ali's red, all stars and our very own Great Gatsby in the form of Kai Coetzee.

The unofficial after-party topped off a great evening. It was so festive that we even attracted the likes of the rugby legend Percy Montgomery who provided some tough competition for our date's attention.

No team is whole without team antics off the field and E'10 has been no exception. Over the last two weeks we found many new uses for balloons which

included the squealing symphony in assembly and we would like to thank the government for the unlimited supply of funny-shaped balloons which were more often than not filled up with water.

Dressing up was then taken to a new level with our participation in the international suit up day, and the day we cross-dressed into girl's uniforms. A special mention must go to Colli for his outfit. You definitely got some of us wondering who you had been visiting the previous day.

And so, as we come together today as a team, for the last time before the ultimate match of our school careers – our matric final exams – I would like to thank you all, the Bosch Boys of E10.

Thank you for the privilege of being able to lead you this year, for your never ending support and friendship, and thank you for the enthusiastic determination that you have all displayed in standing together and working together in true Bosch spirit in unity and with strength.

And now, as we leave the Memorial Hall for the last time, as the Bosch Boys of 2010, may we all be blowing our metaphorical Vuvuzelas in celebration and anticipation. As we salute our Alma Mater, let us reflect on the words of Nelson Mandela, one of the greatest men the world has ever known.

He said:

“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.”

Altius et Latius