



The “Skilled Crafts Fund” for development cooperation

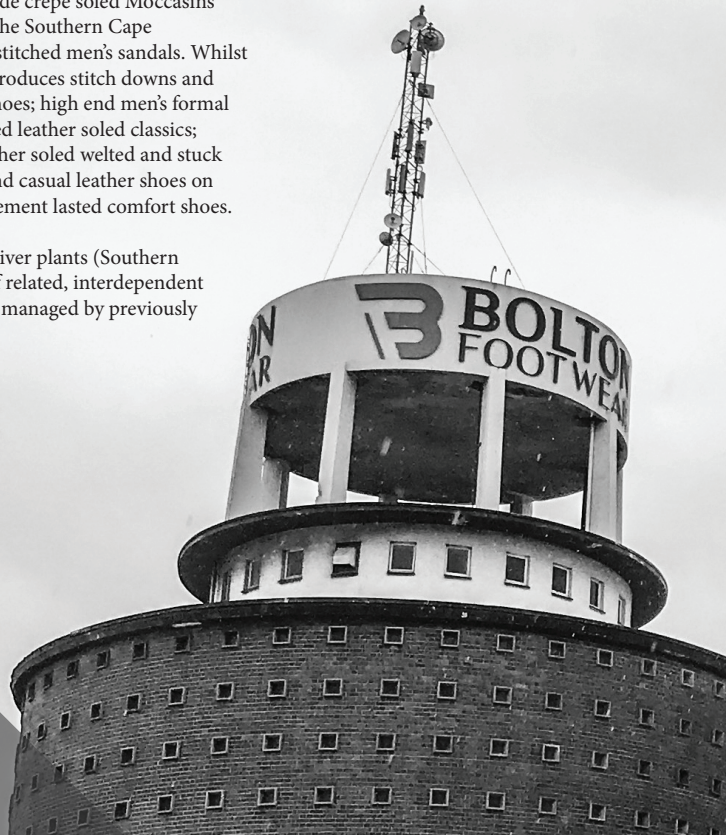


Bolton Footwear Company Overview

Bolton Footwear is a third-generation family-owned business (founded in 1859) which is active in the footwear manufacture and wholesale trade. It is one of Southern Africa's foremost footwear companies, comprising three ISO certified factories with an unparalleled ability in the manufacture of quality footwear. The group's footwear production plants can produce more than 6 000 pairs of high-quality leather footwear per day and offer the versatility of being able to manufacture a variety of men's footwear constructions as well as a selection of ladies' comfort styles.

The men's construction types include crepe soled Moccasins which are solely manufactured in the Southern Cape production plants as are the hand stitched men's sandals. Whilst the Cape Town production plant produces stitch downs and California construction comfort shoes; high end men's formal Goodyear welted, and cement lasted leather soled classics; men's affordable classic formal leather soled welted and stuck on product; classic men's formal and casual leather shoes on units and a small range of ladies' cement lasted comfort shoes.

The Oudtshoorn and Great Brak River plants (Southern Cape) are supplied by a network of related, interdependent small enterprises, each owned and managed by previously disadvantaged South Africans.



Company Consulting Work



After a three-year process because COVID interrupted it, Mr. Bernd Franke (pictured above) visited our Cape Town factory from 28 March to 7 April. We had put our needs for expert intervention to GIZ and they identified and connected us with Bernd.

After this his first visit, we were not disappointed and were amazed at how much value he could add. Bringing in an expert from outside our business was very helpful to be able to see improvement opportunities that we never see because we live our way every day. Some of the work that he started will need long term involvement by him. All his input had immediate impact and will lead to still better efficiencies, particularly when he next visits and can take those and others to the next higher level.

As “Business Scouts” discussed the results of the visit and our next needs with us, they could guide us into the SEQUA program which would be a better continuation of our Expert process. All parties have committed to this and we look forward to the continued relationship towards improving our international competitiveness.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE EXPECTED FROM BERND ON HIS VISIT, WERE MAINLY:

1. Create a special shoe for people living with diabetes that will serve the African population but also be marketable in Europe: Spend up to a week to build a program that can successfully manufacture these shoes in our Cape Town factory in collaboration with the South African international expert in this field Dr Anette Thompson and selected designers from our Cape Town factory.
2. Observe the Cape Town shoemaking factory processes and give improvement suggestions for machinery layout, manufacturing method and the skills supervision we use.
3. Look at the shoe ranges for the various brands and make suggestions on styling as well as design efficiencies for manufacture.
4. Look at our footwear training school curriculum and suggest any better methods and gaps in teaching.
5. Examine our leather cutting efficiencies and suggest how to get a 10% better cutting yield. This will involve looking at the leather cutting (manual and auto) at all our factories including a visit to our tannery. This leather cutting project could result in Bernd suggesting that a leather expert (tanning) should also get involved through the program.

All the above made an impact with the special shoe development being the one that will have a very significant ongoing positive financial impact on us.

All of these will also benefit from a next visit by Bernd.
We are extremely grateful to all the institutions that make this possible.

Bernd's Observations



Improve glueing process.



Do cork filler differently?



Too much cork filler?



Water base/latex glue?



Plan for off-cuts?



Clear access routes.



Glue wastage.



Shoes to be completed at the end of each day.

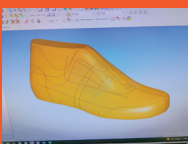


Lasting fault



Too much machine pressure.

Shoe project for people living with daibetes:



CAD.



Adjusted last.



Sole.



1st Prototype