



OLYMPIC HIGH JUMP Champion, Dietmar Mogenburg (left) and Carlo Thranharat (right) both from the West German - National Athletics team are seen at Robinson Club Baobab together with its general manager, Rene Verhulst (centre). PHOTO: NETA PEAL

TWO WORLD famous 'high jump' champions from the West German National Athletics team - Carlo Thranharat and Olympic Gold Medalist, Dietmar Mogenburg have been spending a week 'quietly relaxing and bird watching' at Robinson Club Baobab on Kenya's south coast.

It was their first visit to Kenya, and they said they had particularly enjoyed some of the local food including Irio, Ndizi, Ugali and Sweet Potatoes which are prominently featured among the international cuisine for which this hotel is renowned.

They were guests of Robinson Hotels, West Germany, which are great supporters of their national athletics team.

Said Dietmar 'we have many years of friendship with Robinson Clubs, and the one near Marbella on the Costa del Sol used to be our Team's official training centre'.

Before coming to the Kenya

## German 'Track Stars' Relax After Mike Boit 'Classic' Invitation ...

coast they had participated in the Mike Boit Classic Athletics Meeting at Nyayo National Stadium, Nairobi, and were among the foreign athletic e.g. who had given some spectacular displays.

In the high jump Carlo set a new Kenya Open Record of

By NETA PEAL

2.25 m - the former record of 2.12 m being held by Nathan Rotich.

Dietmar the '84 Olympic gold medalist, was third with a jump of 2.20 m.

Both had been invited to Kenya by Mike Boit.

This special meet was the first to be organised by the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association to honour a Kenyan athletics hero, Mike Boit, who had been representing Kenya internationally since 1970 is retiring from competitive track running. It is understood he plans to become a Lecturer at Moi University, Eldoret, after obtaining a doctoral degree in physical education at the University of Oregon, USA.

This 37-year old runner won a bronze medal in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, and a gold medal in the 800 m 1978 Commonwealth Games, Edmonton, Canada.

In the LA '84 Olympic Games, Carlo Thranharat managed to get through to the finals and achieve eighth place after twisting his right ankle five days earlier while training with the West German team in the USA.

I was the first time for him to enter the Olympics for, in 1980, he was unable to do so because of W. Germany joining a boycott of the games with many other countries to protest the invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR.

In Kenya, it was Carlo who beat Dietmar Mogenburg, winning a gold medal.

In an interview at Robinson Club Baobab they admitted to having been 'pretty lazy' since arriving there but explained that for ten months of the year they have 'very hard training sessions - twice a day'.

Consequently, diet and training schedules have gone to the winds, as they enjoy a spot of relaxation on Kenya's tropical coast.

Said Carlo, 'with thirteen animators here there is a lot of action for they organise all kinds of sports during the day, as well as evening shows'.

However, they have not been completely inactive and have enjoyed some tennis volleyball

and football. They said they were looking forward to participating in a soccer match against the staff for the hotel boasts its own football ground.

They also took on guests in a 'high jump' competition, which they modestly revealed they had won although not trying too hard'.

As a handicap, Rene Verhulst, the hotel's general manager, permitted them only to jump from a 'stand' position, while guests were allowed to 'run and jump'.

It took place before a 'full house' on the hotel's jumbo-sized al-fresco chess board which had been suitably padded for the event.

### MAASAI LEAP

Carlo and Dietmar each jumped 1.80 m, the runner-up being a guest who achieved 1.70 m. Third was a hotel employee, Emmanuel Masha - a Maasai, famous for their Njinsky-like leaps. He jumped 1.65 m.

The hotel is renowned for staging its own shows with active participation by guests. Dietmar and Carlo were persuaded to appear as female cabaret dancers in one. Despite their make-up and costumes they were instantly recognised, their extremely long legs giving them away!

Said Carlo 'we are relaxing for a couple of weeks before serious training starts for a busy winter season when we also organise our own 'indoor' meetings'.

In summer 1986, he said 'we have the European Championships in Stuttgart.

### ROBINSON CLUB

Meanwhile, Robinson Club Baobab has just acquired two catamarans so as to add 'sailing' to its extensive list of sports facilities. These embrace diving, windsurfing, tennis (three floodlit courts), volleyball, football tennis, soccer, table tennis, pool billiards and swimming.

It is also planning to stage a very ambitious play called 'CATS' which is presently running in London and Vienna. It is being organised by the Chief Animator and his team who are making all the costumes and doing all the make-up themselves.

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