

## **CFU FARMING OSCAR AWARD 2018**

*The Zimbabwean "Farming Oscar" has a long and proud history, having been introduced in 1961 by the late Mr. C. G. Tracy during his term as Vice President of the Commercial Farmers' Union as an award in recognition of "those who have generally done well for agriculture." Over the years, winners have been chosen from the practical and scientific disciplines of agriculture, as well as from the administration and leadership roles, with winners selected in recognition of having contributed significantly to the agricultural progress in Zimbabwe in its widest sense.*

*This year's winner is no exception and fits the required profile as having given outstanding service in the advancement of Agriculture.*

*Our 2018 recipient was born in Gatooma on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1952 and grew up on his grandfather's Farm in Chegutu, where the family lived until moving to Middle Sabi in 1969. From 1966 until 1971, he attended Guinea Fowl School near Gweru, where he excelled in rugby, playing first team for three years as well as being selected for the national Craven Week side in 1970 and 1971. He was always very quick to pass the ball to the right person for the job required at any given time...an ability he has retained off the rugby field ever since!*

*After leaving school, as a prerequisite to attending Gwebi Agricultural College, he worked on Donnington Farm for Keith Kirkman's father, who proved to be an exceptional and much-admired mentor, setting a solid foundation for his successful participation from 1974 to 1976 in Course 26. To this day, whenever he meets someone, invariably the opening conversation is about which school or agricultural college the person attended and he uses humorous nicknames for the other schools and rivals he used to compete against.*

*His love of farming during those difficult years of the 1970s led him to joining Internal Affairs as an Agricultural Officer for two years where he gained vital experience in extension working with small-scale farmers on how to grow cash crops and rear cattle in the arid Chiredzi District.*

*From 1978 until 1980 he spread his wings overseas working on oil rigs and farms in Canada and the USA before travelling through Australia and New Zealand. He took over the family farm in Middle Sabi in September 1981 after his father retired. He married Susan Glenny in July 1983 and their wonderful relationship produced three beautiful daughters who grew up in Middle Sabi. In 1989 the family moved to Mondoro Game Lodge until moving back to Middle Sabi in 1993.*

*Aside from being a successful farmer and devoted family man, he has given time and experience to serving the community in various roles, amongst them:*

*1981 - 1983 Councillor on Chipinge Rural Council*

*1983 - 1985, 1993 - 1994 Chairman Middle Sabi Farmers Association*

*1986 - 1987 Chairman Middle Sabi Sports Club*

*1987 - 1990 Cotton Councillor - Member of Zimbabwe Cotton Producers Association*

- 1993 - 1996 *Chairman Wildlife Producers Association (Member of CFU Council)*
- 2000 - 2002 *Served on Manicaland branch of the ZINWA Committee.*
- 2007 - 2011 *Chairman FIT/ ARAC, Represented both on CFU Council.*
- 2011- 2014 *Vice President of Commercial Farmers Union.*
- 2014- 2018 *President of Commercial Farmers Union.*

*As for many ex farming families the move from their farm and home in 2002 as a result of compulsory acquisition was traumatic; it is testament to their deep faith “that the Almighty God always has a plan for every situation” and their commitment to the country and the industry they love, that they have remained in Zimbabwe and continued serve and contribute to the agricultural sector. Although he no longer had any land on which to farm, he set about building a seed potato business, aptly called Matapiri Seeds. This business has brought fresh growth and vitality to the potato sector, which, over the last several years, has become a significant contributor to the national food basket.*

*To his absolute credit, he stepped forward to lead the Union at a time when others were reluctant to do so and in recognition of the financial situation your Union has faced in recent years he has offered his services completely without recompense during his tenure of office as President.*

*The continuing building of relationships and unity with the other agricultural unions has been one of his most difficult tasks, the progress to date is an absolute credit to his hard work, diplomacy and tenacity.*

*He believes very strongly that compensation and the resuscitation of our industry go hand in hand and cannot be driven individually.*

*At heart he is a great conservationist, who also has a passion for Vetiver Grass to curb erosion. The growing of Industrial Hemp has also become one of his areas of interest.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour to present the Commercial Farmers’ Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award for 2018. I kindly ask our guest to step forward and present this award to a person affectionately known as “Chunky”:*

***Mr Peter Louis Steyl.***

*Awarded with gratitude during the 75<sup>th</sup> Commercial Farmers’ Union Annual Congress on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Richard Winkfield Auditorium, Art Farm, Harare.*

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***A. Pascoe, Vice President***

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***P. B. Purcell-Gilpin, Director***