



**OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
OPERASIONELE NAVORSINGSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT  
GOUDINI SPA, ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2002**

**Present:**

S Berjak	D Coleman	R Cruywagen	O de Wet	I du Plooy
T Evert	W R Gevers	J Greben	M F P Harmse	H W Ittmann
H Krüger	P Kruger	J le Roux	M Louw	Z Mahiti
N Manson	I Meyer	H Nel	I Nieuwoudt	P Potgieter
M Setshedi	M Strydom	L Tomé	M Turpin	FE van Dyk
W van Hoepen	J JvRensburg	J van Vuuren	A Venter	G Wessels
K Wolfaardt				

**Proxies :**

PduT Fourie	I J Knight	MJ Sekhasimbe	HR Westtroyffer
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**Apologies:**

D Evans	P Fatti	P du T Fourie	P Gouws	K Koch
D Petkov	T Stylianides	S Visagie		

**1. WELCOME:**

Hans Ittmann welcomed everyone present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 17 SEPTEMBER 2001**

The minutes were approved.

Proposer: Paul Kruger

Seconder: Wim Gevers

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None

#### **4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

See attached report. Hans Ittmann gave an overview of the report and it was accepted.

Proposer: Wim Gevers                      Seconded: Marita Turpin

#### **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

See attached report. The accounts will be formally audited and circulated with the newsletter. A new auditor needs to be appointed. The meeting delegated this task to the Exec.

#### **6. EDITORS' REPORT**

##### **6.1 Newsletter**

Stephen Berjak reported that the main aim was to get a quality product, which has now been achieved. He thanked Hans Ittmann, Jan van Vuuren, Wim Gevers and Philip Fourie for their assistance and urged everyone to send contributions. The next edition will also be posted as a pdf file to the website and an email notification of this will be sent to members.

##### **6.2 ORiON**

Volume 17 (2001) has been finalised and is currently being processed for printing. A further 9 submissions have been received and are currently going through the refereeing process. It now appears that not enough articles of the requisite quality have been received to justify a Special Edition of ORiON devoted to the ICORD conference held at Berg-en-Dal in May, 2001. Articles from this conference may, however, still be considered for Volume 18. As Volume 17 is dated 2001, we are still a year behind schedule. The editors are hesitant to skip a year (i.e. make volume 18's date of publication 2003) as it is an accredited journal. Electronic publication is being investigated. ORiON was created as a vehicle for South Africans to publish papers on OR applications. Conference delegates and winners of student competitions are encouraged to submit papers to ORiON.

#### **7. CHAPTER REPORTS**

##### **7.1 JOHANNESBURG**

Esbeth van Dyk read the report that was received from Dave Evans. See attached.

##### **7.2 PRETORIA**

The first meeting (January 2002) was the joint annual dinner with the Johannesburg chapter, where Dr John Anderson gave a talk on the "Sixth Extinction". The only other meeting (August 2002) was on Data Visualisation. Patricia Gouws, Enterprise-Insight, gave an overview of the topic and AJ Coetzee, SAS Institute, gave a demo of the new SAS software. The meeting was followed by the AGM, where Gys Wessels was elected as chairperson. For more information see report attached.

##### **7.3 KWAZULU-NATAL**

No report has been received. The chapter has been dormant since Don Petkov's departure to the USA. The Exec is in the process of finding a new chairperson for the chapter since Kathryn Koch has indicated that she finds it very difficult to give this the attention required. Yvonne Fletcher has expressed interest.

##### **7.4 VAAL TRIANGLE**

The chapter has been dormant since Anne-Marie Pothas changed jobs. Marthi Harmse has agreed to take over as chapter chairperson and is keen to get the chapter back on track.

## 7.5 WESTERN CAPE

Jan van Vuuren gave an overview of the chapter's activities. See report attached.

## 8. EURO REPORT

EURO 2003 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, EURO 2004 on Rhodes Island, Greece, and EURO 2006 most probably in Prague or Iceland. (In 2005 there is an IFORS conference.) Please have a look at the EURO website, where you will be welcomed in Afrikaans. [www.euro-online.org](http://www.euro-online.org)

**West African group.** The "First African Conference on Operational Research" (ACOR I) will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, 5-7 January 2003.

Website: <http://mathro.fpms.ac.be/caro-acor>

**East African group:** Euro has accepted their proposal for a conference on condition that they involve ORSSA. Their proposal is for US \$50 000 to cover the whole conference – then there are no conference fees. However, EURO only gives a sponsorship of 7000 Euros. Graham Rand and Alexis Tsoukiàs asked Hans Ittmann to visit the conference committee, check the venue in Nairobi, etc. However, Hans has now been invited to meet the committee in Dar-es-Salaam, so he won't see venue. The intention is to establish an East African OR Society at conference. The conference is to be held in June or possibly September 2003. It would be expected to have SA participants at this conference, all presenting papers.

## 9. IFORS REPORT

Bids for IFORS 2008 need to be submitted by January 2003. There were approximately 1200 delegates at IFORS 2002, so we need to cater for even more people. If we are successful with a bid, we are committing a future Exec. One of the main advantages of hosting EURO or IFORS is that local members can attend an international conference. This year it already cost in excess of R20 000 to attend IFORS. Hans Ittmann has been approached by conference organisers from the Sandton, Cape Town and Durban convention centres. Since the exchange rate is in our favour we should be able to subcontract all the organisation to professional conference organisers. The meeting decided that the Exec should investigate the possibility of submitting a bid for IFORS 2008. IFORS 2005 will be held in Hawaii.

## 10. ORSSA 2003

The Pretoria chapter will host ORSSA 2003. Any suggestions should to be sent to Gys Wessels at [gwessels@dc.com](mailto:gwessels@dc.com) or (012) 482 0005 Gys will try to finalise the dates by the end of September.

## 11. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2001/2002

The following members were elected unanimously:

President	Hans Ittmann
Vice-president	Wim Gevers
Secretary:	Esbeth van Dyk
Treasurer:	Theo Stylianides
Newsletter editor:	Leo Tomé
Newsletter co-editor:	Stephen Berjak
ORiON editor:	Paul Fatti
ORiON business editor:	Wim Gevers
Webmaster	Isabelle Nieuwoudt

Additional members	Trinette Evert
	Theo Stewart
(Student competition)	Stephan Visagie
	Anton de Villiers

### **13. GENERAL**

Membership fees: the membership fees need to be revised. It is suggested that the new fees need to be sufficient to pay an administrative person on a part-time basis in order to improve the service provided to the members. The levies payable to EURO and IFORS (in foreign currency) also need to be kept in mind.

Archive: if ORSSA wants to maintain the archive then relevant reports need to be sent to the archive. Currently only the Newsletter is received on a regular basis.

Hans Ittmann urged everyone to contribute to the Newsletter and ORiON.

Wim Gevers thanked Hans Ittmann for his leadership as president.

## **Johannesburg Chapter Chairman's Report**

By Dave Evans

Following a strong signal from the 2001 Conference/National annual general meeting, the Johannesburg Chapter has had some life breathed back into it, after a period of almost 4 years dormancy. We started with an AGM on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2001 and an excellent talk by Prof Paul Fatti on Cricket World Cup 2003: Optimum Assignments of Stadiums and Ticket Sales, at the Wits University Club. Only half the dozen or so audience were Johannesburg Chapter members and all very honourably volunteered for the initial committee.

The "Gauteng" annual dinner was arranged this year by the Johannesburg Chapter and held at Hugo's Place, near Kyalami, with an excellent turnout from both Chapters, undoubtedly as a result of sterling work by the committee members, who undertook to personally phone about a dozen chapter members each to elicit some interest. Dr John Anderson gave a fascinating talk on the "Sixth Extinction" (which mankind is currently imposing on the globe). A great time was had by all.

A "schools" afternoon was held in March, to introduce senior school pupils in the Johannesburg area with a mathematical leaning to OR as a possible career. It was extremely successful, with four Society members talking about the nature of OR – both the hard and soft sides, and careers. It may well become an annual event. The Chapter was honoured by the degree of commitment shown by the Society – we had five past presidents participating, including our only two "double" presidents – Hans Ittmann, the current incumbent, being one.

In June, Martin Hopkins presented a talk to about 20 very enthusiastic members and friends on the use of Shareholder Value Models and the OR in them, to assess the value of an enterprise in terms of its future cash flow generating potential and take decisions based on that to provide a basis for running the business to maximise shareholder value. The discussions after the talk went on for some time.

The Chapter is participating with St Stithians School at the beginning of October in their "Maths Experience", in a somewhat similar fashion to the schools day earlier this year, and has arranged sponsorship for the refreshments via PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the AGM will be at the end of October, with a talk on OR in Banking.

Whilst the committee has done an outstanding job in rejuvenating the Chapter, we are very conscious of the fact that we only seem to be in touch with the "same old friends" at our events. Whilst we are delighted to see them, of course, we are aware that the Chapter does also need new blood – I, in my mid-fifties, am one of the "youngsters" on the committee, for instance.

A huge vote of thanks from me to my committee members – Paul Fatti (vice-chairman) Stephen Sharpe (secretary) Derek Saunderson (treasurer), John Dean and Dave Masterson, for a wonderful job in "making it all happen" this year, and best wishes to Dave, who has just "defected" to the Cape, and to the support we've had from Hans and the National Exec members in getting back on our feet again.

## ONSA Pretoria-tak: Verslag aan Algemene Jaarvergadering, 2002

deur Marita Turpin

### Aktiwiteite Sept 2001 tot Sept 2002

Ons eerste aktiwiteit was die gesamentlike jaarlikse dinee met die Johannesburg tak. Dit het plaasgevind in Januarie 2002 (dit lyk of die datums vir 'n begin-van-die-jaar funksie meer mense pas as die van 'n jaareindfunksie). Ons het in Midrand byeengekom, lekker geëet en 'n interessante praatjie gehoor oor die "Sixth Extinction". Januarie 2003 is dit die Pretoria-tak se beurt om gasheer te wees en die funksie te organiseer!

Op 22 Augustus het ons 'n middagseminaar gehad met die tema "Data Visualisation". Die lokaal was Enterprise-Insight se kantore in Centurion. Die opkoms van min of meer 25 mense, waarvan baie nuwe gesigte, was bemoedigend. Die eerste spreker, Patricia Gouws van Enterprise-Insight het 'n algemene oorsig gegee oor die onderwerp. Daarna het AJ Coetzee van die SAS Instituut 'n demonstrasie gegee van 'n nuwe SAS-pakket. Tydens hierdie funksie het ons ook 'n algemene jaarvergadering gehou.

Die uittredende bestuur was soos volg:

Patricia Gouws	mede-voorsitter
Marita Turpin	mede-voorsitter
Jan Greben	sekretaris
Danie Payne	tesourier

Die nuwe bestuur wat verkies is, is:

Gys Wessels	voorsitter
Jan Greben	sekretaris
Danie Payne	tesourier
Killian Manyuchi	addisionele lid
Renee van der Walt	addisionele lid
Marita Turpin	addisionele lid
Patricia Gouws	addisionele lid

### Finansies

Danie Payne het, met baie geduld en deursettingsvermoe, dit reggekry waarmee 'n paar vorige tesouriers moed opgegee het. Hy het die Pretoria-tak se rekenings gekonsolideer en die beleggingsrekening geskuif. Daar is ook besluit om die tjekrekening toe te maak as gevolg van die hoë maandelikse kostes. Tans is daar net een rekening, 'n geldmarkrekening, met 'n goeie rentekoers en waarvan die geld onmiddelik beskikbaar is. Kontantvloei vir klein bedrae word hanteer met behulp van 'n "kleinkas", waarin 'n beperkte bedrag kontant aangehou word.

## ORSSA Chapter Report: Western Cape Chapter, 2002

By Jan van Vuuren

The 2001/2002 year has been an eventful one for the Western Cape Chapter of ORSSA. In October 2001 a new chapter executive was elected. This move was prompted by a period of roughly two years of healthy activities in the chapter, resembling something like a re-birth after a rather long state of chapter dormancy, during which Theo Stewart agreed to act as chapter caretaker. The executive elected, consists of

1. Jan van Vuuren (chairperson)
2. Wim Gevers (vice-chairperson)
3. Theo Stewart (treasurer)
4. Isabelle Nieuwoudt (secretary)
5. Trevor Wegner (additional member)

The election of the executive coincided with the last chapter meeting for the 2001 calendar year, which was the annual student competition, held at the Graduate School of Business, Stellenbosch University. This competition is held every year, with the objective of finding the best OR project (roughly on honours or 4<sup>th</sup> year level) by a student at any tertiary institution in the Western Cape. The winner is usually automatically entered into the annual student competition of the Society during the following year. Two students took part in the competition during 2001: Mark Levi (Statistical Sciences, UCT) with an honours year project entitled *Does the United States Stock market Possess a Memory?*, and Margarete Louw (Applied Mathematics, Stellenbosch University) with a year project entitled *Finding Good Nursing Schedules*. The adjudicators for the competition were Philip Fourie, Wim Gevers and Theo Stewart. The judges commended both contestants for their good written work and interesting oral presentations, and awarded the prize to Margarete Louw, who received a year's free student membership to ORSSA and was subsequently nominated as the official chapter entry in the national student competition this year.

The new executive met for the first time on 17 January 2002, again at the Graduate Business School on the Bellville campus of the University of Stellenbosch, to plan chapter activities for the year. The following events were organized and subsequently took place:

1. *Opening Seminar*: Wednesday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
*Speaker*: James Bekker (Industrial Engineering, University of Stellenbosch)  
*Topic*: Discrete-event simulation applications in the South African industry: case studies  
*Venue*: Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Stellenbosch
2. *Second Seminar*: Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
*Speaker*: Theo Stewart (Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town)  
*Topic*: Water supply augmentation and water demand management options for Cape Town  
*Venue*: Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town
3. *Third Seminar*: Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
*Speaker*: Daan Louw  
*Topic*: Applications of mathematical programming in agricultural economics  
*Venue*: Graduate Business School, University of Stellenbosch Bellville Campus
4. *Fourth Seminar*: Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
*Speaker*: Elmiën Wagenaar (Applied Mathematics, University of Stellenbosch)  
*Topic*: A mathematical approach towards financial asset allocation strategies  
*Venue*: Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Stellenbosch
5. Hosting of the National Conference of ORSSA at Goudini Spa, Rawsonville during the period 8-11 September 2001.

The organizing committee for the National Conference at Goudini Spa was Jan van Vuuren (who was the coordinator), Isabelle Nieuwoudt (who was responsible for accommodation and food menus), Wim Gevers (who acted as conference treasurer) and Esbeth van Dyk (who was responsible for the overseas guest speaker).

The following additional events are scheduled to take place as part of the 2002 Chapter activities:

1. *Fifth Seminar*: Sometime in October 2002  
*Speaker*: Frans Fourie (Submarine Warfare, IMT)  
*Topic*: Modelling torpedo strategies for hunting down ships  
*Venue*: Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Stellenbosch
2. Combined AGM, Cocktail Party and Chapter Student Competition  
*Venue*: Graduate Business School, University of Stellenbosch Bellville Campus

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Jan van Vuuren, *chapter chair*

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September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002