

9. CHAPTER REPORTS

9.1 JOHANNESBURG

Neil Manson reads his report (see attached report).

9.2 PRETORIA

Ozias Ncube reports that there have been no activities since the last conference.

9.3 KWAZULU-NATAL

No report.

9.4 VAAL TRIANGLE

No report.

9.5 WESTERN CAPE

Margarete Bester reads her report (see attached report at the end of the minutes).

10. EURO, IFORS AND OTHER LINKS

10.1 EURO

The next EURO conference will be held in Bonn in 2009. ORSSA members are encouraged to register and visit the EURO website (www.euro_online.org) regularly, since ORSSA is a member of EURO and activities are often advertised on the EURO website. Our EURO representative is Theo Stewart.

10.2 IFORS 2008

The president thanks everybody that was involved, especially Hans Itmann, for organising the conference. The next IFORS conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2011. Our IFORS representative is still Paul Fatti.

11. ORSSA 2009

The next ORSSA conference will be held at Stias in Stellenbosch from September the 20th till September the 23rd.

12. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2008

The following members were unanimously elected:

Vice President (to become president in 2010):	Dave Evans
Secretary:	Isabelle Nieuwoudt
Treasurer:	Marthi Harmse
Newsletter Editor:	Zane Simpson
Newsletter Business Manager:	Francois Bester
ORiON Editor:	Jan van Vuuren
ORiON Business Manager:	Stephan Visagie
Webmaster:	Basie Kok
Additional members:	Ozias Ncube
	Hennie Kruger
	Jacomine Grobler
	Maseka Lesaoana
Co-opted:	Paul Fatti (IFORS representative)

13. GENERAL

13.1 ELECTRONIC VERSION OF JOURNAL

It was requested by an ORSSA member that the following matter should be raised at the annual general meeting, namely the electronic publication of the ORION journal as well as of the ORSSA Newsletter. Since this will have a number of implications, it is proposed that the executive committee investigate this matter further.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Name	Membership type	Name	Membership type
Margarete Bester	Full	Ramokgadi Moetijoseph	Full
Brahm Bothma	Full	Edinah Mudimu	Student
H Bothma	Full	Martie Muller	Full
H Chipoyera	None	Heiner Muller-Merbach	None
Kelvin Chirenje	None	M Ncube	
Brian Chiripanhura	None	Ozias Ncube	Full
Jim Cochran	International	Zenzo Ncube	None
Louis Dannhauser	Full	Hannelie Nel	Full
John Dean	Full	Isabelle Nieuwoudt	Full
Moses Dowart	Student	Frank Ortmann	Student
Annemie du Plessis	Student	Darian Raad	Student
Francois du Toit	Student	Jaco Roux	Full
Jacques du Toit	Student	Derek Saundersen	Full
Dave Evans	Full	Zane Simpson	Student
Paul Fatti	Full	Theo Stewart	Full
Jacomine Grobler	Student	Tjaart Steyn	Full
Marthi Harmse	Full	Marita Turpin	Full
Hans Ittmann	Full	Adri van der Merwe	Student
Johan Joubert	Full	Dawid van der Merwe	Full
Basie Kok	Student	Grant van Dieman	Student
Hennie Kruger	Full	Esbeth van Dyk	Full
Ulrike Kussing	Full	Jan van Vuuren	Full
Diki Langley	Full	Patrick Veldhuizen	Full
Jeanne le Roux	Full	Geertien Venter	Full
MK Luhandjula	Full	Lieschen Venter	Student
Maseka Lesaoana	Full	Stephan Visagie	Full
Rahab Makwela	Student	Gys Wessels	Full
Neil Manson	Full	Elias Willemse	None
L Masinga	Full	Sarma Yadavalli	Full
Dave Masterson	Full		

ORSSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007-2008

These were the issues that the ORSSA executive dealt with.

1. IFORS2008

ORSSA focussed mainly on the successful hosting of the IFORS2008 conference which is currently taking place. This was the main focal point of the executive this year. Some of the executive members, Marthi Harmse, Ozias Ncube and myself have served in the Local Organising Committee of the IFORS2008. One of our ORSSA members and a past president Hans Ittmann was the chairperson of this committee. All the above members had been very active in getting the sponsorships successfully. I personally wish to thank the major sponsors, Department of Science and Technology, Statistics South Africa, University of South Africa, National Research Foundation, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Development Bank of Southern Africa (Dave Evans in particular) and SAS. At this point a special word of thanks to Ozias Ncube and Professor Chris Swanepoel from UNISA for getting the sponsorship from UNISA. Also a special word of thanks to CSIR, and in particular to Hans Ittmann and Theo Stylianides for their continued support and participation in the LOC. Initial financial support for IFORS2008 was given by ORSSA as a show of our commitment to hosting this event, and we are proud of that. In this effort we are also thankful to the Pretoria and Johannesburg Chapters for financial support for the conference. Once again without the support of the above organisations the conference could have been different. I sincerely thank all of them once again.

2. Membership Fees

The executive deliberated thoroughly on the issue of membership fees in relation to the escalating costs of production of the ORSSA journal, ORiON, the Newsletter, and other related costs like postage etc. The executive left this issue to be discussed at the AGM . The treasurer will present the proposals.

3. ORSSA Website

Previously it was hosted by the Department of Applied Mathematics at University of Stellenbosch. Currently ORSSA members who were in this department have moved to the Logistics Department. In previous executive meetings, these members have indicated that there is no problem with the website to continue to be hosted through Applied Mathematics Department for the time being.

4. Student Competitions

There was only one submission for the Masters dissertation. The executive committee has expressed concern about this low number of submissions from ORSSA members working with students. I take this opportunity to encourage all the departments to submit their students' dissertations. Despite this low level of participation the executive committee recommended that the evaluation process should continue as normal.

5. ORSSA Journal and Newsletter

I sincerely thank the editors of ORiON (Prof Jan van Vuuren) and the Newsletter (Mr Basie Kok) together with their team for their tireless efforts to deliver them in time. The executive approved the inclusion of copies of ORiON and the Newsletter in the IFORS2008 conference bags for marketing and show casing the quality of research being done by members of ORSSA. It is important to note that the Department of Decision Sciences at UNISA moved these copies from Cape Town to the conference venue, and the executive sincerely thanks the department.

Most of the executive meetings were held via video conferencing through the facilitation of the Department of Decision Sciences at UNISA. Once again, we thank Chris Swanepoel and Ozias Ncube for their efforts in this facilitation both at Pretoria and Cape Town.

Lastly I want to sincerely thank each and every member of the executive committee for their commitment through out the year.



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

Annual Report of the Western Cape Chapter

During the past year this chapter was dormant due to problems in terms of resources. I have asked a colleague to assist us in the future with setting up meetings with possible speakers. In the meantime I have identified specific dates for talks for the remainder of the year as well as some people from the industry to contact.

Currently we are planning to have a talk from Consol and 2 other talks from the universities and then end of this year with a talk and a cocktail function on the 4th of November. The dates will be advertised on the intranet.

We are planning to have the Western Cape student competition for students completed in 2007 and 2008.



ORION Editor's Report

I am happy to report that the management of ORION is running smoothly. The management team currently comprises myself as editor-in-chief, seven associate editors, a business manager (Stephan Visagie), an editorial assistant (Adri van der Merwe), a typesetting assistant (Lieschen Venter) and a newly appointed fourteen-member Advisory Board. The journal is in its 24th year of existence, is published biannually, is NRF-accredited and appears on the publication subsidy list of the Department of Education.

ORION has now been appearing on time for almost five years. Members of ORSSA should have received a hard copy of the last issue, Volume 24(1), in the mail by now. This issue contains five excellent papers. A number of interesting papers of high quality have already been accepted for publication in Volume 24(2) which is expected to be on time, due out in December 2008, or are in the process of revision and should be in time for inclusion in Volume 24(2), if accepted.

Apart from the hard copies shipped to corporate and individual members, as well as a number of libraries, the journal has also been available online at no cost from the Society's webpage (<http://www.orssa.org.za>) since 2004, as well as via the websites of *African Journals Online* (<http://www.ajol.info/>), *EBSCO Host* (<http://www.ebscohost.com/>), and *ProQuest* (<http://proquest.com/>) at cost. The abstracts of all papers published in ORION are also published in *International Abstracts of Operational Research*.

During 2007, 0% of all manuscripts submitted were accepted for publication without revision, 15% were accepted for publication after minor revision, 27% were accepted for publication after major revision, and 58% were rejected. I would like to thank the 27 anonymous referees who reviewed the 2007 submissions to ORION at no remuneration and under severe pressure of other work – their suggestions have invariably led to substantial improvements of manuscripts submitted.

We have just appointed an international Advisory Board for ORION comprising fourteen high-profile operations researchers from Canada, England, France, India, Italy, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, and the United States of America. An electronic copy of the journal will be sent to these board members every six months and it will be the task of the Advisory Board to advise the Editorial Board on the standard of papers accepted (on a post-publication basis) and also to help settle refereeing disputes in their areas of expertise. The Board will also lend international standing to the journal and give specific advice during preparations for a planned ISI listing application for ORION in due course. An electronic copy of Volume 24(1) went out the Advisory Board on June 2nd, and I look forward to communicating a summary of their opinions and recommendations to the Society in future.

I have to report that unfortunately the Operations Research Society of New Zealand has declined our invitation to form a single, amalgamated, tri-nations journal for the societies of Australia, South Africa and New Zealand under the banner of ORION. They prefer to be associated with the regional OR journal for South-East Asia. This is a disappointment for us, but we are still in negotiations with the Operations Research Society of Australia on the matter. However, my first priority was to get the Advisory Board in place in order to strengthen the

image of ORiON, so that these negotiations with the Australian Society could be even more from a position of strength. Now that the Advisory Board is in place we shall renew our efforts with respect to internationalization of ORiON. I will keep the Society posted on this matter.

It costs the Society approximately R15 000 to publish an issue of ORiON, making the R30 000 per year for its flagship publication (excluding postage) a substantial expense for the Society. In addition the society also remunerates the editorial assistant and the typesetting assistant nominally. The editorial assistant, Ms Adri van der Merwe, has assumed many of my editorial administrative duties since 2007, freeing me to focus on the identification of suitable referees for submissions, the consolidation of referees' reports, publication decisions and high-level strategizing for the journal. In addition, the editorial assistant has also made very good progress scanning in past issues of ORiON that are not available online, *i.e.* those prior to 1999 – so far she has scanned in Volumes 10 (1994) to 14 (1998), and these scans have been uploaded on the webpage of the Society. A need has also arisen for a typesetting assistant to help the business manager with the time-consuming publication process. Ms Lieschen Venter was appointed in this capacity in February 2008 and she is doing a superb job, helping to typeset all manuscripts uniformly and professionally in LaTeX. I would like to thank the Society for its financial sponsorship of ORiON, as well as for its continued support of the journal's endeavours.

Two members of the Editorial Board have to be singled out for special mention. First, I would like to thank associate editor John Hearne for managing the refereeing process of a number of papers on my behalf so as to avoid a conflict of interest. His professional management of this process and his ongoing mediation between ORiON and the Executive of the Operations Research Society of Australia on a possible publication merger are much appreciated. Secondly, there is Stephan Visagie, whom I would like to thank for his considerable patience and skill during the typesetting and publication processes of each issue – without him my hands would be tied.

Thank you to all authors for submitting your interesting operational research work to ORiON; I would like to urge you to consider ORiON as publication vehicle for making your work known to the local and international OR community. If any delegate attends a presentation at the IFORS 2008 conference in Sandton that he/she feels should be considered for publication in ORiON, I would like to hear from you. Finally, I would like to hear from readers if they have any suggestions – letters to the editor will be considered for publication.



Jan van Vuuren, Editor-in-Chief
13 July 2008



ORSSA Newsletter Report: October 2007 – June 2008

The 2007/2008 year has been a successful one so far for the newsletter. The September 2007 and December 2007 issues came off without a hitch and the newsletter team would like to thank all contributors for their outstanding work. Going into the new year, the March 2008 issue came together well although problems with new management at the university press caused an unexpected 2 week delay. The June 2008 issue is currently rolling off the press and permission has been granted from the ORSSA exec to print an additional 1000 copies (at a marginal additional expense) for distribution at the upcoming IFORS conference in July.

The respective responsibilities of the editor and the business manager as set out in the October 2006 – September 2007 report were:

For the editor:

1. Approaching members to provide material for the each issue.
2. Following up on people that committed to material.
3. Layout of each issue (excluding front page).
4. Liaising with printers.
5. Mailing of newsletters.

The responsibilities of the business manager were:

1. Recruiting advertisers.
2. Reminding advertisers to submit material.
3. Invoicing of advertisers.
4. Liaising between the printers and the treasurer to ensure prompt payment for printing.

Outsourced:

1. Preparing the newsletters for mailing.

In January 2007, an initiative was taken by the newsletter editor to outsource the design of the front cover of the newsletter to a Professional graphic designer at a marginal cost of a roughly R300. The results were well worth it, as I am sure many members will agree, and the newsletter has matured as a vehicle of the society because of this high standard.

This year saw the start of a new Business Manager, Francois Bester taking the place of Leo Tome who did an outstanding job! Communication between the editor and the business manager occurred mainly via e-mail. Payment to the printers was handled by the ORSSA treasurer (Wim Gevers) as was prearranged. The mailing of the ORiON journals as well of course as the newsletters during the year was the responsibility of the newsletter editor. We continued to save costs this year by mailing the December 2007 ORiON Journal along with the newsletter and plan to do the same with the June 2008 issue currently in press.

The following table shows the finances for the 2007/2008 year.

Description	Income	Expense
Advertising (<i>Expected</i>)	13365	
Outsourcing (Oct, Dec 07 & Mar, Jun 08)		1800
Postage (Sept 07)		668
Postage (Dec 07)		5373
Postage (Mar 08)		3974
Printing (Sept 07) (<i>to be confirmed</i>)		5046
Printing (Dec 07) (<i>to be confirmed</i>)		5046
Printing (Mar 08)		5046
Total	R 13365	R 26953

Even though the income statement shows a shortfall of R 13 588,00 there is a very strong possibility of securing additional income for the remainder of the year. We would once again like to take this opportunity to thank our three main advertisers, Blue Stallion Technologies, PIC Solutions and SAS for their loyal support over the years. Although the financial support of the abovementioned advertisers cannot be taken for granted our aim will be to secure yet another year of support from them. A further aim will be to find and secure additional advertisers to decrease the financial pressure on the cash flow of the newsletter, as well as that of ORSSA's.

As the newsletter team, we would just like to thank our members and executive who contributed to the Newsletter throughout the last year. The newsletter would simply not exist without the hard work and dedication off our members who contributed articles that were all of an exceptionally high standard. This made our jobs very easy and resulted in an exciting and enjoyable read for our readers. We would like to encourage members to continue to be actively involved in the Newsletter, one of the primary vehicles of our society.

Basie Kok and Francois Bester



ORSSA Webmaster's Report 2008

I am happy to report that the society's web page is functioning adequately at the moment. A few minor problems were encountered but these issues have all been resolved. The website functions well with the PMWiki interface and content is updated by relevant members of the executive.

Current work and possible future:

- Investigate the possibility of alternative hosting for the website. The website is currently hosted at a server of the Division of Applied Mathematics in Stellenbosch. As society we should extend our gratitude for the outstanding support we have received. Special thanks should also be extended to Neil Muller for help and support. The problem, however, is that no members of the ORSSA executive are currently employed in the above mentioned department. For this reason, and that it is felt that the website is of strategic importance, the possibility of professional web hosting is being investigated. Any suggestions in this regard can be forwarded to the webmaster.
- Investigate the updating of the look and feel of the website. Suggestion can be sent to the webmaster.
- Transferral of all data from the old website to the new website. The old website is being catalogued to ensure that all relevant content is transferred to the new website. Once this has been done, the old website and the link can be removed.
- Creation of a clear set of responsibilities for an easier transition from one webmaster to the next. Better interfacing and integration with the membership database may also be investigated.

Any suggestions on improving the website can be submitted to the webmaster, the website is an important communication channel and all suggestions will be reviewed.

David van der Merwe
Webmaster
10 July 2008

Chairman's Report

Johannesburg Chapter

July 2008

The year began with a combined AGM and seminar on 7 November 2007, at which both the chairman and the treasurer presented their reports. The existing members of the organising committee all indicated that they were available for a further year on the committee. Napthal Ndaba, who has served on the committee before, also indicated his availability. There being no other nominees, they were all elected, nem con. The Johannesburg Chapter committee thus consists of the following:

- Neil Manson (Chairman)
- Louis Dannhauser (Vice-chairman)
- Derek Saunderson (Treasurer)
- Dave Evans (Secretary)
- Brahm Bothma
- Napthal Ndaba

At the conclusion of the AGM, Marthi Harmse, then President of ORSSA, presented Dave Evans with a Fellowship award, as he had been overseas during the earlier society AGM when awards are generally presented.

The chapter has run three successful afternoon seminars so far this year, with a further three planned for August, September and October this year.

On 7 Nov. 2007, Jeanne le Roux presented a talk on "The Mathematical Modelling of Strategic Location Decisions in a Blood Service System", which was attended by 12 members.

Marthi Harmse also presented a very interesting seminar on 5 March 2008 entitled "Employment Equity through System Dynamics", which generated a lot of discussion between the 12 members that attended.

The third seminar this year was presented Shahan Naidoo on 1 May, and was entitled "Applying military techniques used in threat evaluation & weapon assignment to resource allocation for emergency response". This was attended by 10 members, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank the members of the Johannesburg Chapter Organising Committee for their support this year again. I would also like to thank all those speakers who presented the talks mentioned above, and those who have agreed to present talks for the remainder of the year. I would also especially like to thank those members of the Johannesburg and surrounding chapters who have attended seminars this year.



Neil Manson
Chairman: Johannesburg Chapter
Operations Research Society of South Africa