



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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE
ISCOR CENTRE FOR TELEMATIC LEARNING, PU FOR CHE,
VANDERBIJLPARK, ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2001**

Present:

S Benecke	S Berjak	D Coleman	J Dean	HC de Kock
D de Wet	P Fatti	W R Gevers	P Gouws	M F P Harmse
JM Hattingh	H W Ittmann	N Jacobs	I J Knight	C Kritzinger
J Kruger	M Louw	S Naidoo	I Nieuwoudt	JA Oberholzer
WC Pelser	A-M Pothas	PD Pretorius	TJ Stewart	T Steyn
M Turpin	FE van Dyk	D van der Merwe	J van Vuuren	S Visagie
WJ Wagner				

Apologies:

D Evans	P du T Fourie	K Koch	D Petkov	R van den Honert
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CHAIR: In the absence of both the president and the resignation of the president-elect, the meeting approved that Hans Ittmann (member of the Exec) chair the meeting.

1. WELCOME:

Hans Ittmann welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 11 SEPTEMBER 2000

The minutes were approved.

Proposer: Wim Gevers

Seconder: Theo Stewart

3. MATTERS ARISING

Point 5. Financial report – was not published in the newsletter.

Other matters that need to be discussed have been included in this agenda.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

See attached report. Hans read the president's report in Philip Fourie's absence.

The report was accepted.

Proposer: Wim Gevers

Secunder: Marita Turpin

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

See attached report. The balance is R62 142,58. The cost of the latest ORiON and newsletter still needs to be deducted. This amounts to approximately R4000 and R6000 respectively. Hans thanked Stephan Visagie for his efforts.

6. EDITORS' REPORT

6.1 Newsletter

Hans and Stephen Berjak thank Kathryn Koch and Heather Tarr for their excellent newsletters. Stephen hopes to design something new and professional. The next edition is expected in November. Submissions are due mid October. Wim Gevers proposes sending a letter of thanks from the Exec to Kathryn and Heather. Patricia Gouws suggests also sending them flowers. Hans will ask his secretary to arrange this.

6.2 ORiON

Paul Fatti reports that Volume 16 (year 2000) was sent out and that he is busy processing Volume 17 (year 2001). At the latest this will be sent out early in the new year. Hans will edit a volume on ICORD. Paul thanks the associate editors and referees for their assistance. Stephen Berjak enquires whether the special ICORD edition of ORiON will be distributed abroad.

Wim Gevers is looking into electronic publishing. He does not yet have clarity about subsidies for electronic publications. In future ORiON will be published with a couple of months delay on the web. Wim is busy indexing the whole series. All the abstracts have already been typed for publication on the web. Theo Stewart comments that the International Abstracts in OR contains ORiON abstracts.

7. CHAPTER REPORTS

7.1 JOHANNESBURG

No report has been received. The chapter is dormant.

7.2 PRETORIA

Patricia Gouws (chairperson) reports as follows: A questionnaire design seminar and an AGM was held. Unfortunately the AGM was not well attended. A Xmas function has been planned and the committee is already working on next year's program.

7.3 KWAZULU-NATAL

No report has been received. A workshop on Developmental Decision Making in KZN was held on 11 May in collaboration with various other societies and centres. There were a number of international speakers and participants. See the July newsletter for more information.

7.4 VAAL TRIANGLE

Anne-Marie Pothas (chairperson) reports that the chapter is dormant but organised the ORSSA 2001 conference.

7.5 WESTERN CAPE

Theo Stewart (chairman) reports that Jan van Vuuren organises regular seminars as well as an annual student competition. The chapter is active due to the Stellenbosch group. [The chapter's program for the year was published in the March newsletter. Another article on the chapter's activities appeared in the July newsletter.]

8. EURO REPORT

This has already been covered in the presidential report. In 2003 there is a joint EURO/INFORMS conference in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2004 it takes place in Greece and in 2005 there is an IFORS conference in Hawaii and therefore no EURO conference. The Exec will consider submitting a proposal to host the EURO conference in 2006.

EURO has put up some money for an initiative in Africa to help OR researchers to form societies and interest groups. Hans and Theo Stewart (EURO representatives) will liaise about preparing a proposal for Southern Africa. Hans could be contacted for more information. The proposals are due within the next month. We have received an address list of OR contacts in Africa from Graham Rand. A proposal that has been discussed previously is to extend ORSSA to Southern Africa – a society with chapters in other countries. One potential problem is that the IFORS levy has to be paid in US\$, which the other African countries might not be able to afford.

9. IFORS REPORT

The next IFORS conference will be held in Edinburgh, July 2002. IFORS has a high standing. The deadline for papers is 15 Dec. A national contribution has to be selected – submissions should be sent to Paul Fatti. [e-mail: fatti@stats.wits.ac.za]. Members will be notified via e-mail. The national contribution will be reviewed for publication in the International Transactions of OR (an IFORS publication) and ORSSA will make a financial contribution to the author.

The deadline for submissions for the OR in Development prize was 15 September. A notification was sent to members.

The ICORD conference was sponsored for US\$ 5000 by IFORS. Wim Gevers enquires whether any feedback has been received from IFORS with regard to ORSSA's ability to organise an international conference, since we've previously said before hosting a EURO or IFORS conference we should host a small conference to see if we have the ability. Hans responds that Graham Rand gave a glowing report about the ICORD conference.

10. ORSSA 2002

The next ORSSA conference is due to be held in Kwazulu Natal, since it hasn't been there for a couple of year. Offers have been received from the Western Cape and Pretoria. The Exec will try to finalise the location and date in the next month.

11. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2001/2002

Theo Stewart explains that the president has a 4 year cycle: 1 year president elect, 2 years president and then 1 yr past president. Unfortunately our president elect, Rob van den Honert, resigned because he moved to Australia. The Exec felt that the president should have some past experience and therefore nominated Hans Ittmann, who has been president of ORSSA before.

The president, Philip Fourie, becomes past president

In addition, the following members were elected unanimously:

President	Hans Ittmann
Secretary:	Esbeth van Dyk
Treasurer:	Theo Stylianides
Newsletter editor:	Stephen Berjak
ORiON editor:	Paul Fatti
Webmaster	Kathryn Koch
Additional members:	Jan van Vuuren
	Wim Gevers
	Stephan Visagie

Hans expressed his excitement about being president of ORSSA and thanked the outgoing Exec for their service.

13. GENERAL

13.1 ICORD

There were disappointingly few members from Africa, but we had to pay all their cost. The finances have not been finalised yet. We are awaiting the response from DACST about their contribution of R14 000 towards the cost of the African participants. The R15 000 that was borrowed from the Johannesburg chapter has not been returned yet. ORSSA put in approximately R20 000, but hoping to get out R23 000.

13.2 Other

Members should be able to pay membership fees via electronic transfer.

Chapter chairpersons receive enquiries regarding the period for which membership fees are paid (e.g. when you join during the year rather than at the beginning of a calendar year), the benefits included, discounts, etc. Hans will put something in writing.

Members need to be able to join via the website and in future also update their details via the website. The website should be an advertisement for the society.

A portfolio should be dedicated to membership matters – the Exec will discuss this.

We should consider holding a conference outside South Africa, e.g. in Lesotho. Concern is expressed that this will double the travel cost.

The ORSSA 2001 conference organising committee is thanked for their efforts.