



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT MAGOEBASKLOOF ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present:

Please see attached attendance register

Apologies:

Paul Fatti, Wim Gevers, Neil Manson, Esbeth van Dyk and Theo Stewart

1. WELCOME

The president, Dave Evans, welcomes everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes are considered read and are approved.

Proposer: Dave Masterson Seconder: Stephan Visagie

3. MATTERS ARISING

Nothing that will not be covered in the rest of the agenda.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave Evans reads his report (see attached report).

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statements for 2010: The conference loss is due to the outstanding sponsorships and the fact that most people paid their registration fee on arrival at the conference and is thus not accounted for in the statements yet. The IFORS payment is higher than expected since we were in arrears with our membership fee.

Summary of 2010 payment of membership fees in comparison with 2009:

	Full	Student	Retired	Corp.	Hon.	Lif.	Lib.	Other
Paid 2010	332	33	1	3	3	11	7	6
Unpaid 2010	83	0	0	1				
New 2010	16	5		0				
Resigned in 2010	2							
Paid 2009	323	32	1	3	3	12	7	6
Unpaid 2009	83	0	0	1				
New 2009	21	22		1				
Resigned in 2009	6							

The last audited statements were 2003-2004. Hans Ittman asks that the backlogged of unaudited statements must be audited and distributed to the members by the end of the year.

Sarma Yadavalli proposes to accept the treasurer's report/budget for 2010 (the file will be uploaded on the website in due course) and it is second by Isabelle Nieuwoudt.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

6.1 Membership fees

Proposal for change in membership fees:

- Full membership fees from R325 to R400;
- Student membership fees from R100 to R120;
- Retired membership fees from R50 to R120;
- Foreign membership fees from US\$55 to US\$65;
- Corporate membership fees unchanged at R600;

The proposal was accepted with 29 votes for and 0 votes against the proposal.

6.2 Change to the Constitution

Currently, the Constitution of ORSSA, Clause 4.6 on Membership Fees reads as follows:

“The membership fees for all membership classes except honorary life members, residing within and outside chapter boundaries, as well as student members, will be determined at an Annual General Meeting of the Society. Changes to membership fees will be handled in exactly the same way as amendments to the Constitution (see Clause 19). Honorary life members pay no membership fees. The membership fee for corporate or institutional members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Membership fees shall be payable annually on or before the 30th of June.”

The following amendment is accepted (nobody voted against it):

“The membership fees for all membership classes except honorary life members, residing within and outside chapter boundaries, as well as student and corporate members, *will be proposed by the Executive Committee for approval at an Annual General Meeting of the Society.* Honorary life members pay no membership fees. Membership fees shall be payable annually on or before the 30th of June.”

7. EDITORS' REPORTS

7.1 ORION

Jan van Vuuren reads his report (see attached report). Stephan Visagie thanks Jan van Vuuren who is stepping down as editor for the hard work he has put into ORION.

7.2 Newsletter

Margarete Bester reads Francois Bester's (Newsletter Business Manager) report (see attached report). Dave Evans thanks Danie Lötter and Francois Bester for doing an excellent job with the Newsletter.

8. WEBMASTER'S REPORT

No formal report is received. However, Dave Evans reports that the website is more up to date than six months ago.

9. CHAPTER REPORTS

9.1 JOHANNESBURG

No formal report is received. It is reported that the chapter had 1 meeting so far this year.

9.2 PRETORIA

Winnie Pelsler reads her report (see attached report). Elias Willemse is also setting up a Gauteng blog for the Johannesburg, Pretoria and Vaal Triangle Chapters to advertise upcoming chapter events. Photo's of previous events as well as summaries of talks already given can also be posted there. Members are invited to comment on events on the blog.

9.3 KWAZULU-NATAL

The chapter is still dormant. The last activity in the chapter was the 2006 ORSSA conference.

9.4 VAAL TRIANGLE

Hennie Kruger reads his report (see attached report). Dave Evans thanks Hennie for uplifting the chapter again.

9.5 WESTERN CAPE

Margarete Bester reads her report (see attached report). Dave Evans thanks Margarete for doing a superb job with the chapter for a long time.

10. EURO, IFORS AND OTHER LINKS

Nothing from EURO. Hans Ittmann invites members to attend the next IFORS conference which is in Melbourne, Australia in July 2011.

11. ORSSA 2011

Jan van Vuuren suggests that we held the next ORSSA conference in Zimbabwe at the Victoria Falls. This will fit well in with current initiatives to reach out to Africa. The risks include cost. We also need a local committee in Zimbabwe. NUST is mentioned as a possibility. Hans Ittmann will personally invite his contacts in Kenia to the conference, making it a true outreach.

12. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2011

The following members were unanimously elected:

Vice President:	Jan van Vuuren
Secretary:	Isabelle Nieuwoudt
Treasurer:	Marthi Harmse
Newsletter editor:	Danie Lötter
Newsletter business manager:	Francois Bester
ORiON editor:	Stephan Visagie
ORiON business manager:	Martin Kidd
Webmaster:	
Additional members	Ozias Ncube 'Maseka Lesaoana Ian Durbach Elias Willemse
Co-opted:	Hans Ittmann (IFORS representative) Theo Stewart (EURO representative)

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Name	Membership type	Name	Membership type
Margarete Bester	Full	Dave Masterson	Full
Brahm Bothma	Full	Jason Matthews	Student
Hennie Bothma	Full	Hausitoe Nare	(NUST)
Edward Chiyaka	(NUST)	Ozias Ncube	Full
Louis Dannhauser	Full	Isabelle Nieuwoudt	Full
Anton de Villiers	Student	Mbylaheni Nthangani	Full
Ian Durbach	Full	Philimon Nyamugure	(NUST)
Jacques du Toit	Student	Winnie Pelser	Full
Mark Einhorn	Student	Linke Potgieter	Student
Dave Evans	Full	Darian Raad	Student
Marthi Harmse	Full	Bernard Schlünz	Student
Hans Ittmann	Fellow	Caston Sigauke	Student
Martin Kidd	Student	Jonas Stray	Student
Hennie Kruger	Full	Martijn van der Merwe	Student
EJ Lanz	Student	Jan van Vuuren	Full
'Maseka Lesaoana	Full	Stephan Visagie	Full
Maupi Letsoalo		Elias Willemse	Full
Daniel Maposa	Full	Sarma Yadavalli	Full

President's Report: ORSSA Annual General Meeting: Magoebaskloof, 28 September 2010

After the excitement of the IFORS Conference in 2008 and the 25th anniversary of Orion in 2009, 2010 has been a relatively normal year for the Society.

The life blood of ORSSA is the Chapters, and as in many years, we have a mixed bag to report. Without wanting to steal any of the thunder from the Chapter Chairs, who will be reporting later in the agm, the overall picture is as follows:

- The Durban Chapter is still dormant. Operations researchers in the province are widely scattered; a few each in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Richards Bay, and others around the province in the sugar industry. This means it is very difficult to get enough people together for an event, although we are continuing to try.
- The Johannesburg Chapter has also been unusually quiet, with only one event, in April, which was a seminar on quality methods such as six sigma, combined with the previous year's agm. Committee members have undertaken to arrange a seminar later this year to include this year's agm.
- The Western Cape Chapter continues to be the Society's role model, with a series of successful events, and they deserve ORSSA's thanks for this.
- Congratulations also to the Vaal Triangle Chapter, which held two highly successful events during the year.
- The Pretoria Chapter held the largest chapter event I have experienced in thirty years, and are also to be complemented; it was an excellent example of what good marketing can do. That is an area that the Society still needs to improve, and I undertake to ensure that we put more effort into it in the coming year.

My thanks go to all the Chapter Chairs who are doing such good jobs.

Orion and the Newsletter (which will also be reported on shortly) continue to do outstandingly well – a huge thank you is due to Jan van Vuuren, Stephan Visagie, Danie Lotter and the rest of the teams. The web page is also in good shape and thanks for this go to Basie Kok.

There are a couple areas of minor concern which I want to elaborate on.

1. The National Executive now meets three or four times a year in various formats – electronically, video conferencing and the face to face meeting once a year before the national conference, which has just taken place. This 'life at the speed of the internet' is driving everyone that I know mad. Electronic meetings and follow ups don't work as effectively as I would like in terms of the resulting actions. We are therefore going to try a slightly different approach, with monthly action lists, which I hope will be more effective.
2. As we have discussed extensively in recent years, the workload on our Treasurer is unacceptably high. We have therefore split this portfolio, with a 'membership' secretary role, which is being undertaken by a member of the Executive Committee, Ian Durbach. My thanks to him for accepting this. He and the Treasurer, Marthi Harmse, will be addressing this new split of responsibilities over the next few months.
3. As many members will be aware, 'governance' is a real growth industry at the moment, in both the public and private sectors. It is placing demands on the Society which we are going to have to accept. For example, many of our members' parent organizations, and sponsors, are now demanding a tax certificate before they will provide funds or pay invoices. ORSSA has never

previously obtained a tax certificate, so we are having to collect documentation to present to SARS to get this. We have had to make minutes of meetings available to indicate that 'uncompetitive behaviour' does not take place at our meetings. We are being pressured by members' parent organisations to referee the papers at our annual conference. This is becoming particularly prevalent from the universities. It is starting to become evident that if we do not do this, members will not be sponsored by their employers to attend the conferences.

All these factors are putting additional strain on the members of the national executive committee, all of whom serve in a voluntary, unpaid, spare time capacity. Without naming them individually, I thank them all for their tireless efforts in all aspects of their work on behalf of ORSSA.

The Treasurer is shortly going to report on shortfalls in our operations, both last year and this. This is not intrinsically a major issue, because of the buffer provided from the IFORS 2008 conference. However, our general operating model is that we cover operating costs from operating income and use 'capital', such as the IFORS income, for special projects, so we want to get back onto such a sustainable footing, and she will therefore be proposing an increase in membership fees to address that.

IFORS 2011 is taking place in Australia, and I encourage all members to make every effort to get there and support our sister southern hemisphere society.

Jim Cochran suggested an African OR Outreach in his keynote address on Monday, and later in the agm, you will hear about a major initiative in that respect, which is to hold the 2011 National Conference in Zimbabwe, at the Victoria Falls. A full assessment of the practicalities of this is still to be completed, but the National Executive Committee is very enthusiastic about the idea.

The Millenium Development Goals have been mentioned several times during the conference. Without wanting to digress onto this in a lot of detail, the global success in achieving them is looking increasingly weak, and a considerable increase in effort is needed, worldwide. I commend this to any operations researchers – particularly in our case, where we can be a leading example in the developing world, and particularly in southern Africa. Clearly, all efforts in this respect will be very consistent with the African OR Outreach mentioned above. Sustainability and development are two themes into which we need to put increasing effort. As I said on Monday in the Presidential address, 'Look after the future – you're going to spend the rest of your life there.' The potential for OR to contribute constructively in these areas is limitless – I commend them to your attention.



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, an editorial assistant, a typesetting assistant and a fourteen-member international Advisory Board. The journal is in its 26th 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 seven years. Members of ORSSA should have received a hard copy of the last issue, Volume 26(1), in the mail together with the Society's newsletter in July. This issue contains five interesting papers. Volume 26(2), which is due in December 2010, is expected to appear on time.

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/>), *Sabinet* 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 2009, 4% of all manuscripts submitted were accepted for publication without revision, 18% were accepted for publication after minor revision, 27% were accepted for publication after major revision, and 51% were rejected. I would like to thank the 28 anonymous referees who reviewed the 2009 submissions to ORiON at no remuneration and under severe pressure of other work – their suggestions have invariably led to substantial improvements of manuscripts submitted.

An electronic copy of the journal is sent out to the Advisory Board members every six months and it is their task 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, should the need arise. The Board also lends international standing to the journal. The feedback from the Advisory Board ranges from very detailed, to broad strategic considerations, and they too have helped raised the standard of ORiON over the last three years.

In May 2008 ORiON was invited by Thompson ISI to apply for listing. We did this, sending them Volumes 24(1), 24(2), 25(1) and 25(2) on time by registered mail for inspection, but received the disappointing news in May this year that our application was unsuccessful. The reasons for the negative outcome given by Thompson ISI were twofold, namely that the sustained rate of output of papers published in ORiON is too low and that the levels of citation of manuscripts published in ORiON are too low. Two factors counting in our favour with this application were the facts that we were invited to apply and that we applied during the two-year window of the ISI Regional Initiative, whereby Thompson sought better geographical representation of their listed journals. In fact, the applications of a number of our sister journals with similar output rates and citations levels as those of ORiON and arguably with lower quality papers than those published in ORiON, but which have the phrase "South African Journal of ..." in the journal title, were successful. The earliest date at

which we are eligible to re-apply for listing is 2013. Despite this negative news under perhaps iniquitous circumstances, I would like to point out to members of ORSSA that the average citation levels of papers published in ORiON has risen dramatically since the year 2000, perhaps in part due to wider online access to the journal than before.

We have recently launched a new online submissions system for manuscripts sent to ORiON. The system still seems to be in a teething stage during which we are improving its functionality and I would like to thank the prospective authors and referees who are assisting us with the final testing phase of the system. This system enables authors to submit and resubmit papers online by uploading them to a virtual editorial office, and will lend greater transparency of the review process of papers to authors via an online article tracking system. It will also lower journal administration effort, both on my part and on that of the editorial assistant. I would especially like to thank Martin Kidd for all his efforts to get this system up and running.

It costs the Society approximately R16 000 to publish an issue of ORiON, making the R32 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. I would like to thank the Society for its financial sponsorship of ORiON, as well as for its continued support of the journal's various endeavours.

I would like to single out six members of the Editorial Team for special mention. First, I would like to thank associate editor John Hearne for managing the review process of a number of papers in Australia on my behalf over the past seven years so as to avoid a conflict of interest. His professional management of this process is much appreciated. Then there are Stephan Visagie, business manager for the last seven years, and the two typesetting assistants of the last four years, Lieschen Venter and Anton de Villiers, whom I would like to thank for their considerable patience and skill during the typesetting and publication processes of each issue since 2004 – without them my hands would be tied. Finally, I would like to thank the two editorial assistants, Adri van der Merwe and Martin Kidd, who have assumed many of my editorial administrative duties over the last four years very meticulously, 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.

I have been editing ORiON for seven years now, and this has been a very rewarding period of service to the Society for me during which there has been quite a number of highlights and milestones, amongst which I certainly count

- achieving a new look for the journal,
- publishing the journal on time for seven consecutive years,
- reducing the turn-around time associated with manuscript review – effectively more than halving it since 2003,
- seeing ORiON indexed in online access systems such as ProQuest, African Journals Online, EBSCO Host and Sabinet,
- seeing a considerable increase in citation levels of papers published in ORiON,
- appointing an international Advisory Board,
- publishing the special quarter centennial issue of ORiON last year, and
- launching the online submission system currently in use.

However, I believe the time has come for someone new to take over the reins of ORiON, so as to bring new blood and ideas to the editorial team of the journal and to steer ORiON to new heights. I have therefore decided to step down as editor-in-chief of ORiON at the end of this year, Volume 26(2) of the journal being my swansong.

I would like to thank all the authors who have submitted their interesting operational research work to ORiON over the past seven years; it has been a privilege for me to be able to keep my finger on the pulse of South African operations research by reading all these manuscripts. I would like to urge members of ORSSA to keep on using ORiON as publication vehicle for making their work known to the local and international OR communities.

Finally, I would like to wish the sixth editor of ORiON all the best for the task ahead. I think the immediate future challenges facing ORiON include

- steering the journal through the turbulent waters of decisions regarding the new online open access platform for local journals and the momentum and Government support that this initiative is gaining through the efforts of the South African Academy of Science, or alternatively making a decision with respect to the possibility of approaching a for-profit publishing house such as Blackwell Scientific, as so many other regional journals have done in order to increase their readership bases and citation levels,
- investigating other methods of further increasing the citation levels of papers published in ORiON,
- expanding the readership base of ORiON further into Africa,
- pursuing the establishment of ORiON as the international medium of choice for publications in Operations Research for Development, and
- increasing the rate of high quality submissions so as to increase the flow of manuscripts to a critical mass able to sustain a larger collection of papers per issue in response to the criticism of low volume output by Thompson ISI and others.

Editing ORiON has at times been a heavy burden, but certainly a very richly rewarding one – may the journal grow from strength to strength during the next seven years of its existence!



Jan van Vuuren, Editor-in-Chief
28 September 2010



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

ORSSA Newsletter Report: October 2009 – September 2010

The 2009/2010 year has been a successful one for the newsletter. The September 2009 and December 2009 issues came off without a hitch and the newsletter team would like to thank our former editor, Zane Simpson, for his efforts with both of these outstanding issues. It has been a learning curve for our new editor, Danie Lotter, but fortunately he has managed to make ends meet for both the March 2010, and June 2010 issues which also turned out very well. Preparations for the September 2010, due out shortly, are also going well.

The respective responsibilities of the editor and the business manager for the period October 2009 – September 2010 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 (including 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 to advertisers.
4. Following up on payments.

Outsourced:

1. Preparing the newsletters for mailing.

Communication between the editor and the business manager occurred mainly via e-mail. Payment to the printers was handled by the ORSSA treasurer (Marthi Harmse) as was prearranged. The mailing of the ORiON journals as well as the newsletters during the year was the responsibility of the newsletter editor. We continued to save costs this year by mailing the two ORiON Journals with the December 2009 and June 2010 issues of the newsletter respectively.

The income statement still shows a shortfall mainly due to the high postage costs.

We are pleased to report that the advertising contracts for two of our anchor advertisers were renegotiated and confirmed for a further year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our two anchor advertisers, Blue Stallion Technologies and SAS for their loyal support over the years.

However, we should all take cognisance of the fact that the financial support of these advertisers should not be taken for granted and ORSSA should always see the newsletter advertisements as a bonus when budgeting. Also, the acquisition of an additional advertiser will lower the financial risk. This is an opportunity for all members to make a possible contribution.

We plan on changing our strategy for next year and see it as very exciting. One of our focus points will be to re-align our partnership with businesses in South Africa.

Next year (2011) will be Francois Bester's last term as business manager of the Newsletter. We would like members to nominate possible candidates to fulfil this exciting position for the following year (2012).

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.

Francois Bester and Danie Lotter

- **Status of Pretoria Chapter activities for 2010**

A new group of people took over as the committee early in the year with Winnie Pelsler as chairperson. They are Nadia Viljoen, Elias Willemse, Pieter Fourie, Wilna Bean, Danie Payne and Winnie Pelsler

The first activity was a function including a snacks and the topic was 'Real Time Election Forecasting'. The speakers were Jan Greben and Hans Ittman. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 people. A formal invitation template was designed and cost R300. The function cost R 6 248.00. Printing was done to have information material for attendees and the cost was R 576. Two meetings were held and the cost for that was R 257. The committee decided to give each speaker a R200 book voucher. (R400)

The amount in the bank account at this stage is R48 770.35.

The next event is planned for the 20th of November.

Activities at the Vaal Triangle Region were not what we hoped for at the beginning of the year. We only had two meetings during the first half of the year – we tried to organize at least two other meetings but it never materializes due to a lack of finding a suitable date or venue.

Our main difficulty in the region is the various geographic locations where people are located – this means that we need to have meetings at different locations in order to get as many as possible people involved – this is quite difficult to organize if you are 250 kilometers away from the venue.

We have tried to get the people from Bloemfontein involved in the society and had a meeting in Bloemfontein where Marthi Harmse addressed +- 30 staff members on what ORSSA is, how we operate etc. We then tried to organize a follow up meeting in the middle of the year but had to cancel as we couldn't find a suitable date.

During March we also had a meeting in VanderBijlPark where Eugene Smith from Nedbank addressed +- 30 students and +- 10 members, mainly from the North West University, on how they manage bank branch performances.

The Vaal Triangle Region is also involved in the organization of a business stream for the South African Statistical Association conference which will be held in Potchefstroom during November 2010. We are pleased to report that Hans Ittmann agreed to organize a session on Logistics.

As far as our plans for the future are concerned, we plan to have one more meeting before the end of the year which will be held in Potchestroom.

We also need to establish some sort of an organizing committee with members from the different “sub-regions” (VanderBijlPark, Potchefstroom and Bloemfontein) to assist with organizing events – if there is anyone who can assist us with this, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was involved in the Vaal Triangle Region

- I would like to specifically thank Marthi Harmse who came all the way from Gauteng to Bloemfontein to address our meeting.
- Also, Hans Ittmann who agreed to help us with the SASA conference.
- And then finally also thanks to Jan van Vuuren who provided us with additional copies of ORiON and the newsletters for distribution among prospective members.

Thank You

Hennie Kruger

Western Cape Chapter Report 2010

The Western Cape Chapter had 4 meetings already this year.

We kicked off this year with two talks held in February at the University of Stellenbosch by **Prof Paolo Toth**, former president of IFORS, currently a professor in Italy at the University of Bologna at the department of Statistics. His talks were very well attended and a great kick off for the year.

The **third event this year was our annual student competition** where a honours student of the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town competed for the best project of 2009. Jason Matthews(US) and Robert Roxin(UCT) took part in this competition and the University of Stellenbosch walked away with the honours although it was a very very tough competition. Thank you to OpReCon for sponsoring the prize money.

Jason Matthews, from the University of Stellenbosch, presented his project titled: "Single fixed crane optimisation within a distribution centre". He gave an excellent talk, his project focussing on a case study conducted at PEP. He used meta heuristics to solve a crane scheduling problem. This was a very nice practical project and showed true benefit to the SA industry.

Robert Roxin, a student from the University of Cape Town gave an excellent talk on **Resource Constrained Project scheduling**. He presented a decision support system generally designed to solve this problem. I was very impressed with his talk, but also with the fact that he decided to take on a project trying to optimally solve a problem historically shown to only be solvable heuristically within a feasible time limit. Unfortunately, although computers have evolved a lot in the last couple of years, the problem could still not be solved optimally within a feasible time limit.

The fourth talk was also held at the University of Stellenbosch and a big highlight of this year where Prof John J **Bartholdi III** (Manhattan Associates Professor of Supply Chain Management, Georgia Tech and Extraordinary Professor of Operations Research, Stellenbosch University)