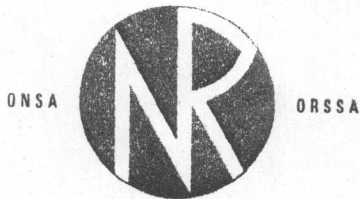


POSBUS 3982 JOHANNESBURG SUID-AFRIKA
P.O. BOX SOUTH AFRICA



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

NUUSBRIEF
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1973

1. LIDMAATSKAP / MEMBERSHIP

Ons verwelkom die volgende nuwe lede:
We welcome the following new members:

Dr W.A. Woeber	-	Vol/Full	-	Jhb.
W.L. Kelly	-	Mede/Associate	-	Rhodesia

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Die volgende lid se status het van mede tot volle lid verander:
The status of the following member has been changed from asso-
ciate to full:

R. Eales

2. VOORUITBEPLANNING / FORWARD PLANNING

Die uitvoerendekomitee het 'n beplanningskommissie gestig om die doele van die vereniging te ondersoek en volgens hulle opdrag om sekere aanbevelings te maak. Hierdie kommissie is nou al vier maande besig met die insameling van die menings van lede en ander, en het al baie aandag aan hulle taak bestee. Die eerste verslag van die kommissie sal voor die uitvoerendekomitee teen einde-September gelê word. As hierdie verslag deur die komitee goedgekeur word, sal kopieë vir lede gratis beskikbaar gemaak word op aanvraag. Die kommissie bestaan uit Dr G. Rudolph, mnr D Masterson en mnr B. James.

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The executive committee appointed a planning commission to examine the objectives of the society and to make recommendations within certain terms of reference. The commission has been active over the last four months, canvassing opinions of members and others, and giving considerable thought to their task. The first report of the commission will be presented to the executive by end-September. If the report is adopted by the executive, then copies will be made available to members free of charge on request. The commission consists of Dr G. Rudolph, Mr. D. Masterson and Mr. B. James.

3. ORSSA survey of OR activity

Late in 1972 a brief questionnaire was sent to all ORSSA members in order to gather some information about members' OR interests and activities. Questionnaires were returned by 84 members of which 7 members were not then involved in OR. Of the remainder 51 were OR practitioners in mining, industry etc., and 26 were from educational institutions (mostly also doing consulting work). Some of the results of this survey may be of interest to members and are given here:

OR Work by economic sector

Mining	33%
Petroleum	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Chemicals	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Manufacturing & metals	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Construction	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Other	21%

Interests in techniques and problem areas

The percentages of practitioners and teachers reporting interest in the following are shown:

	<u>Practitioners</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Simulation & Modelling	84%	65%
Forecasting	59%	15%
Linear programming	57%	50%
Network analysis	10%	12%
Inventory control	33%	35%
Stochastic processes	22%	46%
Queueing theory	8%	35%
Production scheduling	8%	12%
Non-linear programming	4%	27%
Dynamic programming	4%	15%

Other areas of interest reported included games and decision theory, econometrics, and management information systems.

Comments from members on the above are welcome and may be addressed to the editor.

4. South African OR Scene

The following short reports on certain OR activities in the republic have reached the editor. Other similar reports would be welcomed for inclusion in later newsletters.

Barclays National Bank Ltd.

Although not new converts to OR having designed and used economic models in the past, the bank decided to formalise its activities in this sphere of operation by the appointment of Dr P.W. de Lange, a member of the society, to head up their OR group (as reported in our June newsletter). Dr de Lange is currently building up his team and we wish them and the bank a prosperous future in this venture.

J.C.I.

An industrial engineering department is being established at J.C.I. under the direction of Mr K. Reim, consulting engineer. The departments' prime objective will be the increasing of Company productivity through the use of OR techniques together with work study and O & M. Mr Reim's team will include at least one OR practitioner who has yet to be appointed.

5. Joint Durban meeting and formation of a new chapter

Durban members are joining with the work study association in sponsoring a talk by Mr M.J. ('Facts from Figures') Moroney, head of the Statistics and Operations Research Group at Unilever, Holland, who is currently visiting the country.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 31 October 1973 at 20 h 00 in the Park View Hotel, Durban.

The opportunity will be taken at this meeting to launch a new chapter of the society and we wish them every success in this expansion of the society's activities in Natal.

Enquiries: Mr. V. Rademacher, Lever Bros., Durban.

JohannesburgOctober meeting

Tentative arrangements have been made with the Media Association, to hold a joint meeting on Tuesday 23 October to discuss problems associated with media selection. This promises to be a most interesting meeting. Further details will be announced in our next newsletter