



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

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

1972

NUUSBRIEF

AUGUSTUS

1. MEMBERSHIP / LIDMAATSKAP

We are glad to announce the following new members:

Ons kondig met genoeë die volgende nuwe lede aan:

A. Botha	Associate / Mede
P.N. Penney	Associate / Mede
T.J. van W. Kotzé	Associate / Mede
G.H.A. Morton	Full / Vol
I.D. Wood	Full / Vol

2. CONFERENCE / KONGRES

We remind you of the 1972 Conference, scheduled to take place on the 23rd and 24th November, at the Blue Waters Hotel, Durban. Check those dates!

Ons herinner u aan die 1972-Kongres, wat op 23 en 24 November in die Blue Waters Hotel, Durban, gehou staan te word.

3. NEWSITEMS / NUUSBROKKIES

Jim Buttery has recently returned from a six-week holiday in Canada, during which he attended the annual conference of the Canadian O.R. Society in Toronto. On his return to South Africa, Jim has moved from the central Management Services Department of AE & CI, where he was a Section Manager in the O.R. Group, to the Company's Modderfontein Factory, where he is acting as Chief Officer in charge of the Factory's Management Services Department.

Jim also forwarded to us an editorial from a recent issue of the Canadian Operations Research Society Bulletin, which makes some very interesting reading. Here it is (comment, please!)

"We recently discovered that in Britain, only about half of the country's practising O.R. men are members of the ORS. There is a feeling that the figure for Canada may be about the same or worse. While the ORS seems to have survived in spite of this, we wonder if the development of CORS and O.R. in Canada is not being held back because of a large number of cheapskates.

It is common practice for companies to pay dues for society memberships. To minimise cost and maximise benefit to the company, each person will join a different society. The result is that in a group of half-a-dozen people only one will be a CORS member. The other five resist any suggestion that they should pay the membership fee out of their own pockets even if it is tax-deductible. Why should they? The journal and the bulletin circulate round the office (hope you read this one, folks) and they can attend meetings and go to conferences without hindrance. The very nature of a scientific society is that it welcomes people in instead of keeping them out.

The problem, of course, is that if everybody thought that way, there would be no society, no journal, no Bulletin (perish the thought), no meetings and no conferences. The more people who think like that, the more difficult it is to maintain a viable and dynamic society. If a large number of people already refuse to pay fifteen bucks a year, how many more will there be if the dues go up? Yet the overheads remain fairly constant, regardless of the size of the society. The aim should be to spread them thinner, not thicker.

We cannot force people to join CORS. One thing we could do is to withhold the benefits from non-members but that would be totally inconsistent with our aims as a scientific society. The other thing we can do is to make it cheaper to be in CORS than out. The pricing for meetings at local level, conferences, etc. should be aimed at increasing the opportunity cost of not being a member. It's surprising in a way - people are not prepared to spend the price of a decent lunch to join the society which is dedicated to improving the competence with which they earn their living.

Yes, yes, I know. They are not likely to join if you call them cheapskates. Well then, why don't you apologise to one personally and having neutralised his defences, he will be unable to resist your pressing invitation to join."

## 7. CHAPTER NEWS / NUUS VAN DIE TAKKE

## a) Pretoria-tak.

Die Pretoria-tak het twee baie suksesvolle vergaderings agter die rug.

Die onderwerp van die vergadering van 22 Junie in die Assembly, was "Is O.N. van nut vir Bestuur?". Voorsitter van die paneel was Dr. P.W. (Boks) de Lange, wat interessante statistieke oor die bedryf van O.N. in die V.S.A. voorgelê het. Mnr. P.W. van der Berg, van die Unisa Skool vir Bedryfsleiding het sake uit Bestuur se oogpunt benader, en mnr. J.C. Engalbrecht, hoof van Yskor se O.N.-afdeling, het sake uit die O.N.-man se hoek gesien. Die vergadering het 'n lewendige bespreking opgelewer.

The last meeting was on the 25th of July in the Philadelphia Hall, when Prof. J.S. Hunter and Mr. D.B. van Ginkel held lectures on forecasting. The meeting was well attended and Prof. Hunter's lecture was even more gripping than was expected. A large number of questions were answered.

Die Pretoria-tak hoop om in September 'n buitelandse spreker te hê oor 'n onderwerp verwant aan hoë digtheids-behuising.

## b) Cape Town

On Monday the 14th of August, Prof. R. Tusenius will be giving a lecture on "Effective Business O.R.". Prof. Tusenius is presently Director of the Graduate School of Business, University of Stellenbosch. He has a D.Comm. and M.B.A. from the University of Pretoria and has had extensive insight of practical O.R. in his previous positions as Head of Industrial Economics Division, C.S.I.R., and as an independent professional manager. This lecture should prove particularly interesting to O.R. men in business.

After the lecture and tea, all ORSSA-members will be requested to vote on whether a Cape Town chapter of ORSSA should be formed. If this vote is positive, a steering committee will be elected. It will be the duty of this committee to draw up a Constitution, have the Constitution approved by local members and subsequently by the ORSSA Executive Committee. Their final duty will be to call a meeting to elect the local committee.

Date : 14th August  
Time : 8.00 p.m.  
Venue : Sanlamhof, Bellville

## c) Johannesburg Chapter.

The details of this month's meeting are as follows:

Date : Wednesday, 30th August  
Time : 8.00 p.m.  
Venue : Casa Mia Hotel,  
Soper Road,  
Berea  
Speaker : Dr. Gerard Grant  
Subject : Management Scientists as change agents :  
some pshycological implications.

Dr. Grant received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Pshycology from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1965 and 1969. He is a registered Industrial Pshycologist and has considerable industrial experience. He has consulted to a number of S.A. companies, including S.A. Breweries, Afrox, White's Portland Cement and SEIFSA. Currently Dr. Grant is a senior lecturer in Human and Organizational Behaviour at the Wits Graduate School of Business.

The subject matter of Dr. Grant's talk must be close to the heart of all Society members and this promises to be a most stimulating and informative meeting.