



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

NUUSBRIEF  
NEWSLETTER

JUNIE 1973  
JUNE

1. LIDMAATSKAP/MEMBERSHIP

Ons kondig met genoë die volgende nuwe lid aan:

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We are glad to announce the following new member:

T.P.H. Newbery - Full - Western Cape

2. NUUSBROKKIES/NEWS ITEMS

The Society wishes to extend its congratulations to one of its former presidents, Prof. H.S. Sichel, on the award of the gold medal from the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. This was in recognition of his paper "Statistical valuation of diamondiferous deposits", presented at the tenth international symposium on the application of computer methods in the mineral industry, held in Johannesburg last year.

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Dr P.W. de Lange is aangestel as hoof van die Operasionele Navorsingsafdeling by Barclays Nasionale Bank.

3. NOTICE OF NEW BOOKS

It is our intention to bring to the attention of members, through this newsletter, various new publications in O.R. and related fields. It would thus be appreciated if members finding any new books of particular merit would notify the editor accordingly. Short reviews would also be welcome.

4. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS 1972 - APPEARANCE IN "SYSTEMS/STELSELS"

Copies of the presidential address, 1972, given by Mr D.D. Masterson are being circulated to members not receiving the annual proceedings, together with this newsletter. This has now also appeared as an article in the journal "Systems". Mr Masterson asks some pertinent questions therein - are you sufficiently concerned about the future of O.R. in South Africa to answer them? One forum for such reply is through a letter to the editor of Systems - any takers?

5. TAKNUUS/CHAPTER NEWS

WESKAAP/WESTERN CAPE

Op 29 Mei het prof. R.J. van Wyk van die Universiteit van Stellenbosch die tak toegesprek oor die onderwerp "Forrester se werk World Dynamics en die implikasies daarvan". Meer as 40 persone waaronder 16 lede, was teenwoordig en die stimulerende praatjie het heelwat bespreking uitgelok. Die Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering het onmiddellik daarna plaasgevind en die volgende nuwe takbestuur is verkies:

Voorsitter	:	Mnr H.I.D. du Plessis
Ondervoorsitter	:	Mnr J. Miller
Tesourier	:	Mnr J.C. Lawton
Sekretaris	:	Dr G. Geldenhuys
Addisionele lede:		Prof. J.D. Hampton
		Mnr J.H. MacKenzie
		Mnr K.J.H. Jager

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PRETORIA

The May meeting of the chapter at which Dr Buys of the Atomic Energy Board spoke, was well attended. Dr Buys took as his topic dual algorithms in non-linear programming, this being an aspect of his doctoral thesis. A high degree of interest was engendered in the subject, as also some surprise to many (the editor particularly) at the existence of certain conditions on the valid use of Lagrangian methods.

It is felt that there is a definite need at the Pretoria chapter for more lectures of this more rigorous nature (and yet easily understood) on various techniques used in O.R. studies.

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Dr Louw Kotzé van Yskor het Donderdagaand 21 Junie die Pretoria-tak toegesprek oor O.N. toepassings in die beplanning van 'n oopgroefmyn. Dit was vir die vergadering insiggewend om te sien wat alreeds gedoen is en almal het 'n insig gekry in die struktuur van die probleem en hoe die beplanning dinamies voortgesit word. Dr Kotzé het 'n interessante semi-heuristiese aanpassing van 'n bestaande metode gemaak en dit het weereens duidelik geword dat 'n goeie oplossing met min rekenaartyd verkieslik is bo 'n optimale oplossing wat heelwat navorsing en onaanvaarbaar lang rekenaartyd verg.

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JOHANNESBURG

June chapter meeting: The talk at the meeting was given by Dr K. Lieberknecht and Mr P. de Jong, the subject being the simulation of a total materials handling system for a gold mine.

The talk .... /3

The talk was very well presented, with charts and slides of a very high standard. The approach used by the speakers in developing the model was essentially practical and unnecessary complications were thoughtfully avoided. For instance a vast amount of statistical data was available for many of the stages in the handling system, so it was possible to disregard variability on a number of parameters. Effective use was also made of Boolean logic in reducing the size of the model. This approach to modelling was strongly recommended by the speakers. Lively discussion followed the presentation and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr C. Woollaston.

July chapter meeting: Our meeting this month is scheduled for 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 25th July at the Sunnyside Park Hotel. The meeting will take the form of a panel discussion, the general theme of which will be:

"The practical application of O.R. in industry".

The panel will consist of line managers from A E & C I under the chairmanship of Mr D. Bromley.

This promises to be a most informative meeting and will give O.R. practioners the opportunity to discover what our "customers" really think of us!

Please come prepared to answer criticisms.

Future meeting In pursuit of our policy of promoting a wider knowledge of the techniques and practice of O.R., we are holding a joint meeting with the Society of Production Engineers on 7th September. Details of this meeting will be published in our next newsletter.

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