# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG SECTION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2018 AT CITYROCK, 173 REPUBLIC ROAD, RANDBURG, JOHANNESBURG.

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Grant Rens, welcomed the 33 members and 2 non-members present.  
Proxies were received from: Lynn Morris and Caryn Waldeck

1. **Apologies**

Chris Ziranek. Dobek Pater, Alard Hufner, Ulrike Kiefer, Caryn Waldeck, Uschi Magg, Thomas Magg, Monika Steinlecher, Judith Oppler, Lynn Morris

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 March 2017**

The Minutes were accepted.

Proposed by Claudine Bennets, seconded by Paul Fatti.

There were no corrections to the minutes.

**3.1 Matters arising**

None

## 4. Chairman’s Report for 2017/2018

The past year for the Club has been a good one. The Club has continued to grow in numbers and even as the simplified application process has enabled people to join with relative ease we continue to see that we need to enhance how we engage with these new members. Meets have been relatively well attended with some very large hiking meets and various other meets attracting large numbers. There is still however a need to get all our new up and coming members involved in all the club activities, from Climbing and Hiking Meets, to the Orientation and Outreach Programmes, the hiking meets and even to joining in Search and Rescue.

There is opportunity in all of these areas for involvement and growth. Just as our membership would like to see the environment preserved there is room for growth and involvement by all. Conservation remains a key activity within the club but if we are to preserve our lands then we shall all need to be more involved and possibly alter how we go about things to be more effective.

Being more effective in all our activities is indeed the crux of our efforts at this point. Even as we have modernised our approach to some of our operational day to day activities, so we need to look at each portfolio and see where we are headed with each arena that we are involved in.

### Land and Access

Our land is one of our key assets and at the moment the joint management of these lands and co-operation with the Magaliesberg Section sees us in a good position. There are the normal day to day issues with owning the lands and maintaining access and these are dealt with ably by the Subcommittee.

Utopia being a case in point, our access is now arranged with a plan for a parking fee and a means for members to access our land. All is quiet on the Mountain Sanctuary front, with us enabling a Mountain Trail Run to occur at MSP as an experimental event to see if trail runners can have minimal impact on our land.

Grootkloof continues to have issues with Trespassers and the ongoing saga as to the Prophet Bushiri - which is being carefully monitored. The campsite at Hammerkop is being restored to functional status.

As one can anticipate we are also looking at other properties that could well enhance our Sport Climbing land ownership and we will assess these opportunities as they arise. All in all the Land and Access portfolio is a big one and we thank June and Lynne for their efforts (and all the others involved in these processes)

### Conservation

Conservation efforts remain spearheaded by joint efforts with Magaliesberg Section. The Black Eagle efforts still require active monitoring, as do all our efforts to maintain firebreaks and eliminate alien vegetation.

### Search and Rescue

Search and rescue have been busy and very active in training. The training moves around a bit but is ongoing and the team is a very dedicated collection of people who go out of their way to help others.

### Marketing

One needs to realise in this day and age that a digital presence is critical if you are to be relevant to those seeking the Mountain Club and those already involved. So it is that the Marketing department have been involved with upgrading our Facebook presence, Instagram and sorting out the Website. At this point the website is still being completed but good progress has been made. There are areas where we as the Mountain Club have resources way beyond what others do and it is in this respect that the maps that Eras Gous worked on with such dedication are now available on our website. Though we have a bit of a way to go the website looks good.

The weekly newsletter is also a key way of keeping all members informed and this is now done through Mailchimp to great effect.

### Orientation

Orientation remains a key way for new members to learn to climb, learn some places to go and to get to know a group of climbers at a similar skill level. Many successful meets have been run, with a view to enhancing the Marketing of these meets several joint ones have been planned in conjunction with City Rock.

### Trad Orientation

Trad Orientation has a new strategy involving Intro talks and allocations of mentors. Bennie has undertaken to run this for us so we see great prospects for many new budding Trad climbers.

### Outreach

Outreach continued to run with supporting of several programs. We continue to support the Hillbrow outreach and had continued to support the programme run for the Cosmo city kids by the Wonderwall staff. There is still room for plenty of growth and improvement considering the closing down of Wonderwall, with scope for more climbing on rock outdoors. More volunteers are needed for this vital work.

### Bolting

This continues to run well under the leadership of Andrew Pedley. The bolts are stocked and ready for any routes to go up.

### Youth

A few family events were planned this year, but there is a dire need for more growth under this portfolio.

### Wednesday Evenings

There have been several exciting events on Wednesday evenings over the last year and some workshops geared towards getting ready for the outdoors. All were well attended and resulted in many new prospective members and safer outdoor climbing skills.

### Expeditions

Very little happened in this area but the exchange to send some climbers to the USA in 2018 is planned.

### Hiking

Many hiking meets took place and some were very well attended. The hiking meets are very popular and we urge all our members to attend.

### Meets

The meets take place as planned with intermittent and sporadic attendance. We as a club need address this as a whole and see how we can make meets that suit the members requirements.

### Income and Funds

The Finances are well managed and in a good state. These will be reported on separately. Suffice to say that the club is stable and in a good position to face the challenges of the year ahead. The Annual Financial Report is available as a separate document.

### General

I would like to thank the committee and staff for all their hard work and dedication in the last year. We continue to strive to be the Mountain Club that its members want it to be.

1. **Treasurer’s report for period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017**

The Treasurer presented the financial report for the year under review. Points of note: The club is in a financially sound position; non-fee derived income is up 14%; the initial benefit of being located at City Rock is subsiding and new memberships have slowed; the cost of Ph.II of the new website development is large and has been suspended pending stabilization of Ph.I.

Treasurers Report Accepted.

Proposed by: Barbara Reid. Seconded by: Oliver Oppler

1. **Appointment of Accountant**

It was noted that the accounts of the club are not audited: they are signed off by an accountant. This is compliant with legal requirements and it is considered prohibitively expensive to have the accounts signed off by an auditor.

It was agreed to re-appoint Maralyn Nel & Associates as club’s accountant.

1. **Election of new committee**

Nominations were received, as follows, for Convenors for the sub-committees:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Land & Access: | Lynn Morris and June Fabian |
| Conservation: | Tam Scheidegger |
| Legal: | Paul Carstensen |
| Search and Rescue: | Adam Griffiths |
| Meets: | Ulrike Kiefer (not on committee) |
| Outreach: | Deanne Kieser |
| PR/Website, Admin: | Roland Magg (ad-hoc, as required) |
| Bolting/Sport climbing: | Andrew Pedley (not on committee) |
| Expeditions/Routes: | Andrew Porter |
| Orientation/Trad: | Alan Watson |
| Treasurer: | Barbara Reid |
| Chairman: | Grant Rens |
| Marketing: | Cally Bishop |
| Youth: | vacant |

The nominations were approved.

1. **A Progressive Approach for the Club**

The following points of discussion were raised:

* + Whether the club needs to change focus because of the differing perspectives that new members have on its purpose.
  + Whether the club is coping with its present objectives and scope (e.g. security of access to and tenure of existing properties).
  + Whether new members would prefer special meets with designated training objectives, given that many new members see the club as a source of instruction rather than as a meeting point for already-experienced climbers and hikers.
  + The Wednesday Evening meets at the Club premises need to be made more attractive.
  + That the club needs to encourage more expeditions.
  + The possibility of providing transport to crag meets was raised again.

1. **Purchase of New Properties and Utilisation of Existing Ones**

A number of points were raised:

* + The club already owns lots of land with attendant liabilities and responsibility (e.g. burning fire-breaks; eradicating alien vegetation).
  + The club’s intention is to keep the land pristine and NOT to terraform it to make access comfortable or convenient.
  + Whether the Club is making effective use of its existing land assets and whether permit fees are possibly too low.
  + If the club is to consider more land, what purpose should be aimed for? Hiking? Sport Climbing? Traditional Climbing? It is the Chairman’s opinion, in which he is supported by Club members, that the Club should acquire its own sport-climbing crags rather than bolting crags on land that is not owned and which hence may experience precarious access in the future.
  + The next purchase will involve a non-optional fee surcharge.

1. **Recognitions**

*Recognitions:*

Evelyn Hughes - 50 years membership;

Godfrey Barclay; Peter Scott; Edwin and Elaine Wood; Dave Smith – 60 years membership.

*Chairman’s Awards:*

Eras Gous – for the new Magaliesberg maps available to members.

*Honourary Membership:*

Ulriche Kiefer – for the many portfolios she has run, incl. Expeditions

Roland Magg – 32 years service and coordinating the move to City Rock.

1. **General**

No issues were raised.

**--- oOo ---**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed.

WINE AND SNACKS were available after the meeting.

CONFIRMED CORRECT

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN

DATE: 13 March 2019.