

## THE MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA JOHANNESBURG SECTION

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Wednesday, 13 March 2019  
at  
City Rock, 173 Republic Road, Fontainebleau, Randburg at 19h00.

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### 1. WELCOME:

Given by Grant Rens, Outgoing chairman.

### 2. APOLOGIES:

Erica Davies  
Frank Netterburg  
Matthew Stubbs  
Jennifer Comins  
Richard Lievaart  
Robert Bryans  
Peter Speed  
Clem Penny  
Fiona Ridgewell

### PROXIES:

Clem Penny appoints Barbara Reid  
Peter Speed Appoints Barbara Reid  
Erica Davies appoints Jenny Paterson  
Jennifer Comins appoints Geoffrey Comins  
Richard Lievaart appoints Jenny Paterson

### QUORUM REACHED:

Yes

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2018

3.1 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting:  
There were no matters arising.

### 3.2 Approval of the minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes were approved.

Proposed By: Barbara Reid

Seconded By: Tamarin Scheidegger

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

See Annexure 1

The Club is running smoothly. Membership numbers are fairly static with new members coming and others leaving. The club needs to capitalise on the new members and make them feel welcome and included. Increased membership does not necessarily translate to increased meet attendance, especially by new members. Hiking meets have been popular. Lots of scope for new members to participate to meet.

We have a lot of trespassers in kloofs and we need to focus on patrolling.

Members should contribute to conservation, especially weeding meets. Mag section leads in the weeding efforts. JHB section support is minimal.

A Vereaux Eagle chick successfully raised at Bronkies Crag. Climbers worked well with the restrictions and the conservation groups. Today climbers were informed that the eagle section of Bronkies is closed for the breeding season.

Orientation is doing well. We have many new members and the goal should be to get them to orientation meets to learn how to climb out on real rock. Orientation has also included some kloof intro meets. A joint MAG / JHB / CITY ROCK meet was held at King's Kloof with climbing and a picnic, which was well attended.

Strubens Valley Climbing is currently unsafe. A car was recently stolen and others have been broken into. We will need to make a security plan.

Funds collected by orientation will be used to buy new gear.

Trad orientation is growing. Racks and Ropes available for members who can climb but have not been able to purchase their own racks. Bennie is currently running meets for those wishing to learn trad.

Outreach continues in a limited capacity. DSAR funding has been discontinued and MSCA will need to fund all outreach unassisted. We will continue with current project. More volunteers will be welcome.

Blake is currently running meets. He is being creative and trying to include younger members as well.

Land and access, ongoing on both acquisition and access arrangements.

Huts, there are options to be discussed in the presentation by Etienne Step.

Wolkberg wilderness area. Govt / Sanparks is deciding how it should be administered. MCSA still owns their piece of land and this has been acknowledged.

MSAR has been very active this year. They took 29 Calls which resulted in 21 physical call outs.

Rock Rally in April. MCSA will assisting with that.

#### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

See Annexure 2

The report is available to all in print form at the AGM or can be sent electronically.

Funding is good and excess cash is available in call account.

Income was slightly lower this year as membership is down from previous year.

There was also a bad debt expense of R60 000, which arose due to the writing off of old, unpaid membership fees (in Oct 2018). Membership in the past was carried forward for a considerable time, but now the decision has been taken if they have not paid within a certain period of time they will need to rejoin if they want to be members. A decrease in joining fees (fewer members in 2018) resulted in a lower income.

Cumulative Surplus is approximately R260 000.

It is split between the following portfolios:

60 000 – Conservation

30 000 – Orientation (Trad & Sport)

30 000 – MSAR

20 000 – Sport Climbing / bolting

10 000 – Security

Balance allocated to Land & Access = R138 000

#### **ADMIN REPORT:**

This was not read out but is attached as Annexure 3 and available to members to read.

#### **6. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:**

Reason:

Flowing from the requirements of the IRBA, the Club can no longer use persons who are not registered with that body as an auditor, therefore it is necessary to change the Constitution to delete any reference to the word(s) audit and/or auditor.

It is therefore proposed to amend Clause 9.6 of the Constitution (under the heading of General Meeting), which reads as follows:

9.6 At each Annual General Meeting of the Section audited financial statements for the preceding calendar year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December shall be laid before members for approval and an Auditor elected for the ensuing year.

be changed to read:

**9.6 At each Annual General Meeting of the Section, financial statements for the preceding calendar**

**year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, reviewed by the elected independent reviewer, shall be laid before members for approval, and an Independent Reviewing Officer elected for the ensuing year.**

Approval: Motion carried.

**7. Appointment of an Independent Reviewing Officer:**

Appointment of Maralyn Nel & Associates as independent reviewer approved.

**8. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE:**

Chairman:

Nominees: Graeme King

Approved

Treasurer

Nominees: Andre Dalais

Approved

Portfolio positions that need to be filled:

Expeditions

Outreach

Youth

Vice Chair

Current Committee Members remaining:

Conservation: Tamarin Scheidegger

L&A: Lynn Morris and June Fabian

Meets: Blake May

Sport Orientation: Alan Watson

Trad Orientation: Bennie de Wet

PR, and Social Media: Allyson Towle

Search & Rescue: Peter Scheelke

Non-attending members:

Bolting: Andrew Pedley

Legal: Paul Carstenson

Technical Data base/website: Roland Magg

**9. RECOGNITIONS:**

60 years membership:

Oliver Barker

Margaret Hammond-Tooke

Honorary Membership was awarded to Barbara Reid for her commitment to the section and the committee – serving one term as secretary; two terms as Treasurer, and for her years of involvement as Secretary of the Magaliesberg Protection Association.

## 10. GENERAL

### 10.1 Proposed funding of conservation workers.

Mag section does a lot of conservation. Seremodi is filled with Lantana. Mag section have been employing people to clear this.

Members can either do 2 weeding days or they get billed R200 to pay for the workers.

If money collected, this must be used for weeding conservation only.

It was agreed that a mail would be sent out to each member asking them to either confirm weeding meet days or pay R200.

#### 10.1.1 Tonquani South Access Road

This road is in terrible condition. It needs to be discussed with Mr Plumari and arranged with him and his staff. Funding will not come from Fire Protection funds, which must be used expressly for that purpose. This is being dealt with and new committee will need to follow through with this.

### 10.2 Wilgepoort development

Etienne Step of Magaliesberg gave a presentation on the possible development of Wilgepoort. (Slide Show included – Annexure 4) (not attached – copy can be seen in the JHB Office).

Mag Section have funding which they would like to use to build a property. Their general consensus is a U-shaped 20 sleeper hut with large hall which could be used for training, presentations, etc. This would be built in consultation with environmentally trained construction and consultants to minimize any impact. This includes plumbing and water supply. Electricity could be supplied by solar panels.

Main concerns raised by JHB Section:

Theft. A place left untended could be stripped and basically be a waste of money.

How often is the property used, that would warrant such a development.

Some members felt that this is not the core business of the club.

Members wanted to ensure, if building took place, it would not be visible from the camp site.

Members wanted Mag section to consider building separate ablution facilities for campsite.

Water quality of Wilge River is very suspect and may not be ideal for ablutions.

Overall JHB section voted against development.

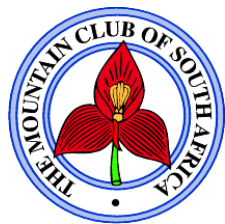
If development did occur, JHB section voted in favour of simple shelter and improved ablutions rather than huts.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 21:30

Confirmed correct

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Mountain Club of South Africa

Founded 1891

### Johannesburg Section

Established 1931

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### MCSA JHB Chairman's Report 2019

**By Grant Rens**

The last year has not been a particularly event filled one but all within the club has continued to run smoothly. Our numbers have continued to increase due to our easier application system, but this has not necessarily lead to more new members attending meets. Some hiking meets, however, have been massively successful, including those that introduce the members to some of the more familiar kloofs. Not only have our own members been enjoying access to the kloofs but trespassers from our neighbours continue to be an issue, with some even lighting fires. So it is that we need to focus some effort on patrolling in the near future which will involve all members. Similarly, we need members to contribute in our continued conservation efforts – in particular with regards to weeding – where we will have a new initiative.

On the conservation front a Verreaux eagle chick was successfully raised at the top of “Mostly Harmless” on the Bronkhorstspuit Crag. Data collected from the chick will help research on these beautiful birds. Collaboration between Verreaux Eagle Protection Organisations and the MCSA enabled the closed “Eagle Sector” to be opened for bolting during the off-season. Both organisations will again be working together on the cliffs this breeding season.

Invasive weed eradication efforts continue to be led by the Magaliesberg Section. Every month a different kloof is tackled in the morning, after that, the volunteers eat lunch and laze or splash in a crystal clear Magaliesberg pool. Support from the Johannesburg members is sadly minimal. New efforts to make it easier for our members to contribute will be initiated this year.

On the Orientation side Climbing meets at the nearby crags were well-attended, particularly those at Northcliff and Strubens Valley, but a number of new initiatives were included in the 2018-2019 programme. Two meets were included to introduce participants to the club's properties in the Magaliesberg - Tonquani and Dome Pools in particular. Both these days were exceptionally popular, confirming that new members and prospective members are keen to explore our exceptional and beautiful properties. Whilst climbing hard sport grades remains attractive, there is renewed interest in being out in the country and in traditional climbing.

In addition to the Magaliesberg meets, a joint meet was held with City Rock members at Kings Kloof, with a picnic after the climbing day. This too was well-attended and there is clear benefit to be derived from collaborating with City Rock.

Sadly an incident at Strubens Valley resulted in the theft of one participant's new gear. Security at the crags is ,an ongoing concern.

Funds collected from meets were sufficient to cover costs and will be used in 2019 to renew some of the gear, particularly the helmets and shoes.

Trad Orientation has been growing with continued interest and we have regular users of the club racks and ropes from our younger members. Bennie De Wet is championing this much needed growth area in the club

The Outreach Programme continues, in a limited capacity since the termination of the Department of Sports and Recreation funding. Here too new strategies need to be looked at and champions found.

Sport climbing continues to receive good focus with new bolts purchased and new routes going up. Meets still need a bit of work but with a new approach to Meets overall and several new strategies we anticipate some new initiatives coming through there.

Land and Access have continued to look at possible new acquisitions and the job of retaining good access to all the properties has been a busy one. Many options and opportunities have been investigated and this work continues. Even with regards huts there has been quite a lot of interest in our options and some work to continued access to the Wolkberg hut was required.

Search and Rescue were very active and I have included their report below.

In many other areas the club is growing, most importantly in our interface with our members – new and old- and what they believe the club means to them. This is not only in what it can offer them in terms of access or Wednesday night socials or other get togethers, but also in how they can contribute in the Mountains and Outdoors community in terms of preserving pristine environments, the fauna and flora of these areas and ensuring the enjoyment of all of these things for all of our membership. So it is that I leave you with a reminder as to what our goals should be as a club in terms of our guardianship over the land as well as ensuring our good use of all of the land we have access to, and request that all members of the club consider their membership and what all of its aspects mean to them.

Thank You

Grant Rens

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### **MCSA Search and Rescue (Gauteng) Report for the year 2018**

For the MCSA GP and MAG combined team 2018 was an interesting year.

We had 29 registered calls for assistance of which 21 turned in to callouts for the team. The rest of the calls were either resolved remotely by assistance over the phone or referred to other relevant organisations. (2017 was 32 / 20)

This required 777 man-hours from our volunteers and a further 98 man hours from other teams. This is very similar to 2017 in terms of our team but a little less in terms of non-team support however that is very difficult to report as not all the teams we work with are registered on our database.

Our team ended the year on 34 callout members showing some growth, but we still face challenges in terms of availability of members, particularly as calls come at odd hours, often during the week.

Our rescues covered the typical lower limb fractures, lost hikers, climbing accidents, recoveries and of course the well covered zipline incident which was covered in news articles worldwide and received compliments from all over. For the majority of the calls we were kindly assisted by the Off Road Rescue Unit who provided critical assistance with transport, radio communications, command centre management etc. and we highly appreciate their support. We also received support from and gave support to SAPS, SAAF and ARCC without whom we could not have achieved what we did. Budget cuts have seen availability of SAAF aircraft fall dramatically but fortunately we were able to cover our needs mostly by simple stretcher carries with enough manpower. It is however a concern and we are discussing it regularly with SAAF and we know they will do everything possible to assist.

4 Calls for standby were from the ARCC or aircraft related of which we only were called out to 1. We had 3 operations where searching and planning was required, 6 Critically/Seriously injured patients and 4 operations involved fatalities.

We had an excellent midyear training camp held at Waterval Boven. As the team has many new and younger members, we opted to have an MSAR only event in order to build the team relationships and confidence. We had assistance from Gustav, and it was very successful. We were joined also by a few members from Cape Town / HH who assisted in in the camp greatly and made it very worthwhile. We also attended a rather late in the year week with SAAF in the Berg to be on standby for their training exercises in the mountains. Of course, this provides critical training time for us as well, but we are primarily there to support SAAF and build relationships.

In total we ran 55 official training sessions for the year including a few multi day events (3741 hrs + 636 non team hrs).

MSAR would like to thank all the volunteers, the Mountain Club members and other organizations that assisted during the year and that make our team effort possible. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and of course thank you to our families for their understanding and patience.

Subcomm for 2018

Chair : Steven Tucker

Heli : Rob Thomas

Logistics : Peter Scheelke

Medical : Adam Griffiths

Technical : Yan-Eric Douvier

General : Shaun Hadfield

Contact person for prospective new members is:

Shaun Hadfield

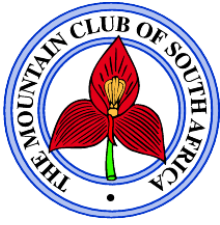
s.hadfield@crservices.co.za

072 583-7456

Jhb MCSA representative : Peter Scheelke

Mag MCSA representative : Corrie Snyman





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### Johannesburg Section

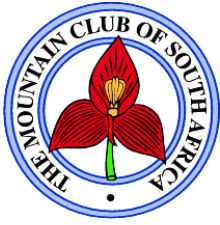
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Treasurer's Report:

not available in the office at time of this Notice going out.



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ADMIN REPORT for the period 1 January – 31 December 2018.

#### **Membership:**

At 31 December 2018 total membership was 1 030, made up of: 920 voting members and 109 non-voting members.

During the year

- 99 members were suspended due to non-payment of 2018 subs. However, some of these members have been in contact during this year and have brought their accounts up to date.
- 3 members passed away
- 5 members transferred to other sections and
- 12 members resigned.

#### **Permits:**

There has been an increase in requests for permits for the Magaliesberg properties administered by the Johannesburg Section. A breakdown is given below:

Tonquani/Cedarberg, access via

**MSP:** 76 permits issued for 246 adults and 65 children.

**Utopia:** (not for the whole year as our access had to be renegotiated) 16 permits for 64 adults and 15 children.

**Calabash:** 52 permits for 257 adults and 12 children.

**Upper Tonquani (Askari):** 6 permits for 15 adults and 2 children.

(These would have been for guests of MCSA members who needed permits for the additional non-members in their parties).

**Mhlabatini:** 22 permits for 140 adults and 2 children.

#### **WOLKBERG:**

There has been a marked increase in the number of members (JHB, MAG and CT) who visited Wolkberg: 107 members and 72 non-member guests.

It has come to our notice that LEDET (Limpopo Education Department, Environment & Tourism) have increased their entrance fee (MCSA R20 for adults and R15 for pensioners and children: LEDET R30 for adults and R20 for children – they don't specify for pensioners) and permit fees and the Committee should review. Per car fee = MCSA R30 once-off payment: LEDET same).

LEDET's camping (tents) and hiking fees within the Wilderness area is different from ours.

The Hut requires maintenance. Tim Wilmot identified work needing to be done and also repaired the water supply pipe. Thank you, Tim. A new battery for the solar light was replaced by Dion van der Riet who was the next person to visit the Hut after Tim's report. Five of the 20 mattresses that were not in good condition were removed by Nipper Thompson and donated to one of the schools.

Thomas Magg will be visiting the Hut in the coming days and will do a thorough inspection and report to the Committee to arrange for essential work to be done.