



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB DRAFT MINUTES

Held at 9:15pm, 31 July 2018 at the Kelvin Grove Ballroom

PRESENT :

Brent Meersman (Chairing), Lalage Maurer (Secretary) Carol van Vuuren (Officiating), Aidan Jones, Alan Lindhorst, Andrew Donaldson, Annette van Niekerk, Bennie Rabinowitz, Brian Hopkins, Clive Keegan, Cornelia Schilling, Denis Worrall, Donwald Pressly, Jean Marie de Waal Pressly, Jeanette Unite, JP van Niekerk, Klaus Schilling, Marilyn Keegan, Mark Nowitz, Martin Hess, Martin Slabbert, Martin Welz, Monica Graaff, Paul Vecchiatto, Peter Soal, Sue Segar, Susanne Faussner Ringer

APOLOGIES :

Patric van Blerk, Muriel Hau Yoon, Dennis Nick, Sue Lipschitz, Martin van Niekerk, Ben Rootman

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM OF 2017 WERE ACCEPTED.

Martin Slabbert proposed the minutes be accepted and Andrew Donaldson seconded the proposal

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT FOR 2018/2018

Brent Meersman delivered the chairpersons' report.

It has been an exciting year, although a short one of just 9 months with the December holidays in the middle, as our last AGM was in October 2017. We are in the process of bringing the AGM incrementally back to earlier in the year

where it should be. The financial year is January to December, but this report is from the October AGM to today.

When Max du Preez delivered the Barry Streek Memorial lecture he mentioned that there was a little book coming out which might cause a stir, written by one of his neighbours, Jacques Pauw.

Well a few weeks later, Jacques Pauw did come to the Press Club amidst threats by state security that anyone promoting the book would be liable to prosecution. In the same month we had Ronnie Kasrils and our beleaguered Mayor Patricia de Lille. Then we had the Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng and perhaps our top cop in the Western Cape, Jeremy Vearey. We also had former British Ambassador Lord Robin Renwick. Among the politicians was then ANC Treasurer General Zweli Mkhize, and then his successor Paul Mashatile last week; the then Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane, which was televised on SABC and ENCA; we also had Bonginkasi Madikizela, DA Western Cape Leader. Among fellow journalists that addressed us were Sky New's Jeremy Thompson, Many Wiener, James-Brent Styan, Jeremy Maggs and Press Ombudsman for Media24 George Claassen. From civil society we had OUTA's Wayne Duvenage. In total 19 functions.

The primary function of the Cape Town Press Club in its over 40 years of existence is to maintain the democratic space, to be a platform for freedom of speech, to invite newsworthy and headlining speakers from the broadest spectrum of South African public life and further afield.

A deep thank you to all our loyal members, around 200 of you, including now our retired members who started paying this year for the first time. The club is only viable if members pay their annual subscriptions. We remain the oldest, largest, most active and best resourced press club in South Africa, actually in the whole of Africa. And we have signed up some new young journalists such as my colleague at GroundUp Aidan Jones. Committee members did undertake to each sign up new journalists.

We thank Distell for renewing their commitment this year and to auditors Bass Gordon for their continued pro bono support. Also a big shout out to Bennie Rabinowiz who has quietly been assisting with the administration costs and providing us with extra help.

One of our biggest challenges is to keep our lunches affordable. There are now only a tiny number of suitable venues which are prepared to offer lunch at the prices our members can afford. The Central Energy Fund which for several

years subsidised working journalists fell away some time ago and we are still looking for that headline financial support to give us just R120,000 a year. We should therefore in the new year experiment with new formats for functions that might be more affordable.

I'd like to thank my fellow committee members, co-chair Joylene van Wyk, deputy chair Martin Slabbert-Capper and Jacques Dommissie, Sue Segar, Paul Vecchiatto, and a warm welcome to our super new club secretary, Lalage Maurer, who has assisted the club for as long as I can remember.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lalage presented the highlights of the financial statement as follows :

Regarding 2017, all members will have received the 2017 Financial Statements and hopefully have read them. We do have copies here should anyone want to glance through them.

Despite the reduction in total income for the year of R69,286, due to the loss of sponsorship, the reduction in the expenditure and the growth in the value of the Allan Gray Unit Trusts has resulted in a surplus of R33,164 for the year.

Thus it has been unnecessary to dip into the reserves of the club. This is evidenced by the increase in total assets shown on page 7 of the Statement of Financial position.

The current balances of the Cape Town Press Club as at 30 June 2018 are as follows :

Current Account :	R5,426
Call Account :	R42,757
Allan Gray Account	R181,271 (31 March 2018)
Barry Streek Fund	R339,731 (31 March 2018)

Membership Fees 2018: We received to date a total R55,070 as compared to 2017 of R 55,550. I note a few more subscriptions have been paid this evening so this figure will rise.

Functions for 2018 have not realised the profits hoped for and are summarised as follows.

A loss was recorded for the Nomvula Mokonyane function of R4,582 because the speaker brought 22 guests. Despite all efforts we have not been able to recoup this from the Department of Water and Sanitation)

Other functions included: Cas Coovadia, Jeremy Thompson, Bonginkasi Madikizela, George Claassen, Jeremy Maggs, Lord Renwick, Jeremy Vearey, Wayne Duvenage, Many Wiener, James-Brent Styan, Paul Mashatile.
Total profit from these functions: R14,147

So R14,147 less the R4,582 loss, left only R9,565 for this year.

An increase in functions and better attendance will bolster these figures and we are hard at work to acquire new sponsors.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Martin Slabbert proposed the financial statements be accepted and this was seconded by Ben Rabinowitz.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Mgi Bass Gordon. Proposed by Peter Soal and seconded by Mark Nowitz

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

There were no notices of motions received.

MATTERS ARISING :

Martin Welz noted that the R10,000 bursary awarded from the Barry Streek Memorial Fund would not go far for a student and asked if this could this be increased.

Donwald Pressly said he would investigate these possibilities looking at what the interest and fund-raising amounts came to in a year, without spending the capital fund.

Dr Worrall said that joint functions held at Kelvin Grove diluted the journalistic nature of the function. Brent Meersman agreed, but explained that joint functions meant that Kelvin waived venue hire fees. He added that at question time during functions when he chaired, he the prioritised the media and then press club members.

Ben Rabinowitz suggested that there needed to be more women on the committee. He also proposed that the Constitution of the club be revisited and reviewed. Brent Meersman said members could be co-opted on to the committee to address this.

GENERAL

The chair asked if there were any other issues members wished to raise. No further issues were raised.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

There were nine candidates for election, however Aidan Jones withdrew his nomination. The eight remaining candidates therefore duly formed the new press club committee of eight, being: Andrew Donaldson, Brian Hopkins, Clive Keegan, Marilyn Keegan, Brent Meersman, Mark Nowitz, Donwald Pressly, Sue Segar. Lalage Maurer serves as secretary. The committee set Monday 6 August to meet and elect office-bearers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting closed at 10.30pm