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PROBUS ASSOCIATION

Gauteng South



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the probus Association, Gauteng South Held at Old Edwardians Club, Lower Houghton, on Tuesday 8th July 2008

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed the distinguished guest Beth Thomas, Rotary District Governor Elect and all members present.

INVOCATION: Les Anderson

APOLOGIES: Trevor Nienaber (Rotary District Governor), Germiston Club, Stan Madden, Alec Calloway, Trevor Penney, President and Brian Davis, Secretary of The North Club.

ATTENDANCE:

Distinguished guest as above, Chairman Charles McNulty, Rotary Liaison Officer Stan Hayden-Smith

COMMITTEE (not elsewhere mentioned): Vernon Schultz

DELEGATES FROM CLUBS:

Alberton	Jenny Blume
Bedfordview	Eden Harrington, Noel Bass
Benoni	Bob Hepburn, Ben Collins, Joe Grobler
Boksburg Lake	Barry Mee, Athol Fisher, Brian Probert
Johannesburg	Melt vd Spuy, Les Anderson, Renaldo Naude
Kempton	Piet Vuyk, Betty Stewart
Krugersdorp	Brian Carlin, John Frankland, Glen Freeman, Colin Mason, Gunther Holborn
The North	John & Mrs Cramp
Parktown	Alan Bardouveau, Anthony Maynard
Pendragon	Errol Dollenberg, Lynn Bure
Roodepoort	Ken Daniel, Pieter Myburgh
Springs	Eileen Cooke, Charles Rogers, A. Rose, Arthur Bayman
Thornhill	Hugh Ireland Helene Huvers Tony Surtees Ursula Watts Edna Magua
Vaal	Laurie Grobler

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Proposed: Les Anderson; Seconded: Gunther Holborn.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The chairman paid tribute to past members, particularly those who have joined a finer Probud Club in the twelve months since last annual general meeting.

He mentioned the welcome addition of Betty Stewart and Charles Rogers to the Executive and that the requisite number of Executive Meetings were held and all Council Meetings attended. Financial statements had been issued regularly. He reminded the meeting that any Probud or potential Probud is more than welcome to attend Executive Meetings. After thanking Stan Madden for providing our statistics, he mentioned that overall numbers had dropped (to 571) by seven members and the number of clubs by two, namely Killarney and Northcliff (a loss of 25 members). Both clubs got too old. Charles stressed that young blood was needed - people in the 65 to 75 age group.. Nevertheless, 18 new members joined. He thanked George Havercheck and Rick Steel for their long and valued contribution to our organisation. Also on the more positive side, there is the possibility of 2 or 3 new clubs being formed.

Yet again no Ladies Only clubs had been formed, a matter of concern and regret to him. But he was grateful that there are 12 such clubs and that they are very well supported.

The chairman asked whether we should again consider approaching the 3 clubs to the north; the redistricting of Rotary indicates that we might make an approach. Against it would be the high cost of fuel for inter-club activities and Chairman's visits to the clubs. He asked for feedback from clubs.

Regarding Social Events, Charles asked whether there was any club who would like to organise an event. The usual events considered are bowls and quizzes – events that would last a morning.

The Newsletter had gone out, but as is usual, but had not elicited any comment or criticism or suggestions. In future, unless specifically requested, it will only be posted on the website.

In the Agenda, 30 minutes had been allowed for members to propose/debate matters relating to Probus generally. In the absence of requests from clubs the following had been decided upon: The Probus/Rotary relationship and the possibility of holding a "Buzz" group meeting. In view of time constraints the chairman referred to the Buzz Group reports placed on each tabled and asked for comments from clubs at their convenience. Later in the meeting, after a question by Charles, the meeting approved unanimously and with acclaim that the relationship should continue. Whether new Probus clubs could be formed without the sponsorship of Rotary will be discussed at a special meeting (this in reply to a question by Vernon Schultz)

On finance, we continue to maintain our solvency. Treasurer Hugh Ireland has recommended that subscriptions remain unchanged. He thank Stan and Laurie for their work on the Directory. It will on the website and also emailed e-mailed to clubs.

Charles stated that he had been singularly honoured by the number of invitations he have received from your clubs to attend functions, either by himself, or with Laurie, or with their wives.

He thanked the members of the Executive for their work during the year and referred in particular to Stan Hayden Smith whose input was invaluable.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS; In the absence of the Rotary District Governor, Beth Thomas gave the address. She emphasized the importance of older people, stressing the wealth of skills and experience represented by the members of Probus. (After a quick "census" of those present at the meeting, it was found that their combined age was about 2700 years). The leadership and guidance provided by older people was of utmost importance. Ms Thomas also stated that good communication is critical – between members as well as between Probus and Rotary.

She encouraged continued learning and development and the adoption of new technology. Also to learn from the young.

ANNUAL REVIEW REPORTS:

-Rotary Liaison Officer: Stan Hayden-Smith referred to the letter from Jack Wood regarding the relationship between Rotary and Probus. He thought that Rotary's losing of members was a possible reason for discouraging Rotarians from joining Probus. He would ask Rotary's District Governor to encourage members to join Probus. He would convey the message from the meeting to Mike Coleman. He encouraged recruitment by Probians of new members and the formation of new clubs where possible and necessary. Stan said that, although Probus is not fundamentally a service organisation, Probians provide a service to each other by way of the fellowship and the communication generally existing between them.

-Treasurer: Hugh Ireland tabled the attached Income Statement. Subscriptions for the year have totaled R1452, an increase of R127 from last year. This represents an increase in members of 51 making our total membership now 581. Bank Interest (R65) and a Donation (R2.) gave the Association a total income of R1519. Expenditure for the year totaled R1828 an increase on last year of R620. The reason for this was the contribution made by the Association to the travel costs of one of our members to attend the Western Cape Buzz Group meeting of R979. The net result of this is a net deficit for the year of R308, which reduces the available funds of the Association to R2751

-Secretary: Laurie Grobler reported that it has been a good year with no great problems in the secretarial area – working with a capable committee and communicating with branches and members made it an interesting and fulfilling term of office. He thanked the Executive and also all those Probians in clubs in Gauteng South with whom he had dealings and from whom he had excellent co-

operation at all times. The response to the request for updates for the Directory was a good example of this. Four Executive Committee Meetings were held and all were well attended.

E-mailing had continued, helping to reduce costs of mailing. All clubs now have e-mail facilities.

He expressed thanks to the management and staff of the caterers and also Old Edwardians Club for their excellent service today and the friendly co-operation in the lead-up to the day's meeting.

REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS BY CLUBS:

Alberton: Jenny Blume: membership 15. Regular meetings and outings are held.

Bedfordview: Noel Bass: Membership 44; 6 new members. Average age about 75. Monthly speakers, including Clem Sumter. Visits about 6-weekly. Suggests a central registry of members' interests.

Benoni: Bob Hepburn: Membership is 43. Monthly meetings and other functions are held. One event was a talk on the Gautrain which attracted about 130 people. Average attendance at meetings is about 35 members. The club has a ring-around system for communication. They still receive a tax form annually and asked for help on this matter (later, Beth Thomas offered to help in this regard – she is a lawyer). Many visits are arranged. Joe Grobler's Care for the Aged program is actively implemented.

Boksburg Lake: Barry Mee: Membership 18. A very active club. Share some lunches with wives and annual lunches with two other clubs. Financially strong – fees are R50/annum. Vision for the year is to have a drive for new members, including at a local retirement village. There is some thought of amalgamation with Benoni club.

Johannesburg: Melt vd Spuy: Membership 42, all male. Lady members may be taken on in the future. Three members deceased in the past year. Immediate aim is a membership of 50, and later to 100. Meetings, with speakers at each, are held on last Tuesday of each month and visits, of which there were 5 in the year, include wives and friends.

Kempton: Betty Stewart: 27 *quality* members. Meetings are on the last Thursday of the month and visitors are welcome.

Krugersdorp: John Frankland: Membership 28, men only but ladies are invited. Meetings 4th Thursdays. The club has a relationship with Boys Town and arranges events for them, including a glider flight, including refreshments, which is an incentive to performance. This program will be continued.

The North: John Cramp: Membership is 44. Four members passed away during the past year. Meetings are convivial. There were few visits but 96 people attended a recent talk on the Gautrain. A membership drive is in progress and emphasis will be placed on recruiting younger members. The Chairman thanked John for his efforts on behalf of Probus and wished him and Mrs Cramp well in their future in England.

Parktown: Alan Bardouveau: membership 40. Committee is 3 men and 3 ladies. The venue has been changed from Morningside to Rivonia Sports and Social Club. Several outings were arranged. In future additional meetings may be held, including ones at a theatre. Newsletters are issued regularly.

Pendragon: Errol Dollenberg: membership 26 and attendance is around 75%. Meetings on 1st Tuesday of each month (evenings). The club's February meeting was its 200th. Speakers include own members, one of whom spoke on the building of 12th –scale models on which he also gives classes. Other speakers included a Rotary exchange student. Outings included the Weather Bureau, O R Tambo Airport and a chocolate factory.

Roodepoort: Ken Daniel: Membership 16 (15 last year). Meetings held on 2nd Tuesdays; 4th Tuesdays are *Happy Hour*. There were few speakers but several interesting visits.

Springs: Charles Rogers: This is a happy club, in its 20th year, with average age of 73 ½ (excluding one 92-year old). Monthly outings are well attended. Many interesting speakers. A quiz is planned, with Benoni club.

Thornhill: Helen Huvers, who is the first lady president of the club. Membership 100, with more waiting to join. Meetings on 3rd Tuesdays. It has been a wonderful year, with good speakers who are available locally. A nominal fee is charged to cover speakers' fees for some of the events. She asks for a speakers list (the chairman referred her to Charles Rogers who is in charge of a directory of speakers). Helen recently attended a Probus meeting on a cruise ship.

REPORT ON PROBUS COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA: President Piet Vuyk: (the full report is available on request): Piet congratulated the oldest Probus club in Southern Africa, Durban, on their 30th birthday. He also congratulated Arcadia club for increasing their membership by 37 in one day.

Council accredited two new clubs during the year: Stanford in Western Cape and Champagne Valley in Kwa-Zulu Natal. He welcomed them to the Probus fellowship. Harare club indicated that would like to have more contact with clubs in S.A. Contact addresses are available from Stan Madden.

Piet thanked all those clubs who submitted newsletters. The Probus website (www.probus.org) is going well according to Bob Goebel. The President referred with sadness to the passing of Charles Spindler, one of the founding Fathers of Probus. Betty Stewart represented Council at the W. Cape Buzz Group hosted by Stanford Club.

Responsibility for the Council rotates after 3 years to another Regional Association. Therefore, as from 2009, the Western Cape Association will take over.

Piet referred to a Rotary letter dealing with the relationship between Rotary and Probus and stating that Probus was outside the jurisdiction of the (Rotary) Governor's Council. However, according to the Probus Club Standard Constitution, when a new Probus club is established, it must be chartered with the sponsorship of Rotary. The letter further suggests, however, that it is hoped that the current harmonious relationship between the organisations will continue. Probus Council will discuss the deletion or alteration of its club rules at a special meeting.

The President thank his fellow councilors for their efforts during the year as well as those clubs who invited him to their functions and wished all fellow Probians a momentous year of great fellowship.

DISCUSSION ON MATTERS NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE: Owing to time restraints, only one matter was discussed. Joe Grobler reported that the Care for the Aged programme had taken off nationwide. He asked that clubs let him know how they implemented this. At his own club, Benoni, communication by email was tried but was found to be too impersonal. Now communication is face-to-face or by telephone and is more effective. Charles McNulty stated that in the Vaal club contact is maintained with widows of deceased members. There are also two members who cannot afford to travel from outlying areas and who also could not afford the price of lunches. Betty Stewart, Bob Hepburn and others contributed to the discussion, including examples of needs. The chairman asked that the topic be raised at club meetings and that feedback be given to Joe.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Electoral Officer: Stan Hayden-Smith. The existing members had indicated their willingness to continue in office. The meeting unanimously agreed to preserve the status quo. The members are: Charles McNulty, Piet Vuyk, Joe Grobler, Vernon Schultz, Stan Madden, Hugh Ireland, Betty Stewart, Charles Rogers, Laurie Grobler. Rotary Liaison Officer: Stan Hayden-Smith.

SUMMING-UP: Rotary D.G. Elect Beth Thomas summed up the meeting. She congratulated the Executive and the clubs who reported, and Piet Vuyk for the performance of Probus country-wide. She stressed that membership depended on publicity and that quality speakers are an attraction. The Care for the Aged programme was a wonderful effort in which Probians are leaders. The idea of a members' interests data base was to be praised, as was the Speakers directory – she offered her own services as a speaker. Regarding the SARS matter she offered her services gratis in this, too.

Beth encouraged the continuation of the partnership with Rotary, which she deemed mutually beneficial. She undertook to take this up with the District Governor. The Buzz Group gatherings were also important events which should be encouraged. She thanked Probus for the invitation to address the AGM and the Chairman thanked her for two excellent addresses.

CLOSURE: After Grace, said by Les Anderson, the Chairman closed the meeting.

**Income
Statement**

	Year to June 07	Year To June 2008
Subs/Levies Current	1325.00	1452.50
Subs Prior Year	0.00	0.00
Surplus on Luncheon Interest	0.00	0.00
Received	41.32	65.02
Donations	1.50	2.00
Total Income	1367.82	1519.52
 Expenditure		
Telephone	0.00	0.00
Travelling	320.00	1479.00
Postage	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	56.10	68.90
Cost of Luncheon	520.00	0.00
Meetings Venue Costs	312.50	280.00
Chain Office	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	1208.60	1827.90
(Deficit)/Surplus	159.22	-308.38

Balance Sheet

	June 2007	June 2008
Cash @ Bank	2828.79	2684.41
Cash on Hand	438.16	66.66
 Subs in Advance/Creditors Due To (by) Probus Council	207.50	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Accumulated Funds	3059.45	2751.07