



**MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE PROBUS ASSOCIATION OF THE WESTERN CAPE  
HELD ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2008 AT 10H00  
AT THE MOWBRAY GOLF CLUB, CAPE TOWN**

**1. WELCOME**

The Chairperson, Bob Goebel, gave a hearty welcome to the Probians representing their clubs & especially to those who had traveled long distances to attend (Langebaan, Hermanus, Paarl & Herold's Bay in particular). 31 clubs were represented by 74 Probians.

Bob also welcomed the Rotary Representative, DGN Shân Biesman-Simons & the past members of Exco present who had been especially invited to the AGM as it celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Association.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the following clubs: -

Fishhoek, George, George Lily, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Plettenberg Bay Men, Plettenberg Bay Ladies, Sedgfield, Stanford, Stellenbosch, Strand, West Coast & Wynberg.

**PROXIES**

The Secretary had received proxies for George & Stanford Probus Clubs

**2. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Secretary, Mike Underwood, read the Notice of Meeting and affirmed that a quorum was present.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NINTH AGM OF THE ASSOCIATION  
HELD ON 25 JUNE 2007**

The Minutes of the above-mentioned meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting & were taken as read.

There were no amendments. The Minutes were adopted unanimously as a true & accurate record of the above-mentioned meeting (motion proposed by Vicki Mackenzie & seconded by Heidi Haenisch)

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

None

5. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** (see Appendix I)

In delivering his Annual Report, the Chairperson highlighted the following: -

- The loss to the Association caused by the passing away of Charles Spindler. Heartfelt sympathies & condolences were extended to families & friends of Charles & of all Probians called to Higher Service in the past year.
- An appreciation of the work of Dave Black who was retiring from Exco.
- The need to recruit more members to Exco.
- The need to recruit new, younger members to Probus.
- The use of the websites to gather information about all aspects of Probus & to use the various Manuals thereon.
- \* An appreciation of the control of the Association's finances by George Patchett & thanks to Neville Schutt for auditing the Accounts.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** (see Appendix II)

The Treasurer, George Patchett, presented his Financial Report for the 2007/8 Year.

There was some criticism of the amount of money expended on the Stanford Buzz Gathering. The explanation given was that donations to the PAWC had been made in the past specifically for the "development" of Probus & that it was felt that the Buzz Gathering ranked as a development activity as did also the financing of the cost of starting up new clubs when the occasion arose. George pointed out that this expenditure had also been largely balanced by a significant reduction in communication cost due to extensive use of electronic messaging.

The Treasurer's Financial report for 2007/8 was adopted unanimously (motion proposed by Rudi Schatz & seconded by Mike Underwood)

7. **PROPOSED BUDGET & SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2008/9**

George Patchett presented his budget for 2008/9.

Some delegates felt the comparison of the proposed budget with budgets of previous years was confusing. Comparison of the past year's "actuals" with the past year's budget & the proposed budget would be more meaningful. The Treasurer agreed to amend the format.

The capita levy remained unchanged for 2008/9 at R5.00

A proposal to accept the 2008/9 Budget proposals was accepted unanimously.

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 THE PROBUS COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

This item was covered in the Chairperson's Report.

### 8.2 ROTARY/ PROBUS RELATIONSHIP

There was considerable discussion about this item & how this relationship varies in different parts of the world. There was general agreement that the relationship should not be broken off but perhaps the time had come to loosen it. There are plans to remove the requirement that, in Southern Africa, Rotary clubs must sponsor the establishment of new Probus Clubs.

### 8.3 FORMATION OF NEW CLUBS

A new club had been formed in Stanford but plans to form a club in Camps Bay had foundered due to a lack of interest from potential members.

### 8.4 DATA BANK OF SPEAKERS & OUTINGS

Following the importance laid on this item at the Buzz Gathering, Mike Underwood had issued forms for completion to all clubs so that the required data could be compiled. The response had been poor & only 10 clubs had submitted data. The meeting requested that the preparation of the Data Bank go ahead with this limited information.

### 8.5 BUZZ GATHERING

Several delegates expressed the opinion that the Buzz Gathering held in Stanford had been "the best ever". Bob Goebel thanked the members of Exco for all the hard work that they had put into organizing this activity & reminded the meeting that future Buzz Gatherings would take place every two years, i.e. the next one would be held in 2009/10.

### 8.6 NEWSLETTER

Mike Underwood reported that "Waffle" was being issued each quarter & urged delegates to make sure that all Probiants received a copy - either by directly forwarding the E-mail copy to them or by printing copies & distributing them to their members who did not have computer facilities.

### 8.7 WEBSITE

The Chairperson had covered the content of the two websites in his Report. (International : [www.probus.org](http://www.probus.org) & Southern Africa : [www.probus.org.za](http://www.probus.org.za)) He urged delegates to encourage their members to visit these websites.

## 8.8 EXCO LIAISON WITH CLUBS

This item had been covered in the Chairperson's Report.

## 8.9 PUBLIC RELATIONS

In spite of considerable efforts by Exco to recruit a PR Officer during the year, no one had come forward to accept the post. Delegates were urged to create awareness of & promote the Probus organization by publishing reports of their club's activities in the local press.

## 9. INTRODUCTION OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

Bob Goebel introduced Mike Underwood to act as Returning Officer for the election of Members to Executive Committee of the Association.

## 10. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

One nomination (DAVID GAMSU) had been received prior to the meeting to fill one of the seven vacant positions on EXCO. One retiring member (DEREK ERICKSON) was willing to stand for re-election.

There were three nominations from the floor -

FAITH LUDWIG & MARGARET OLIVER nominated by Milnerton Ladies Club.  
GRAHAM COLLINS nominated by Kirstenbosch Club.

There being less nominees than vacancies, all the nominees were elected or re-elected unopposed.

BOB GOEBEL was elected unopposed as Chairperson of the Association.

DEREK ERICKSON was elected unopposed as Vice-chairperson of the Association.

The Secretary (MIKE UNDERWOOD) & the Treasurer (GEORGE PATCHETT) still have a year of their offices to serve before retirement from the committee.

The 2008/9 EXCO will therefore consist of: -

Bob Goebel (Chairperson)

Derek Erickson (Vice-chairperson)

Mike Underwood (Secretary)

George Patchett (Treasurer)

David Gamsu

Faith Ludwig

Margaret Oliver

Graham Collins (subject to acceptance of his nomination)

A Rotary Representative

## 11. APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR

A proposal by George Patchett & seconded by Mike Underwood to re-appoint Mr. Neville Shutt as the Association's Auditor for 2008/9 was carried by acclamation.

## 12. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

### 12.1 LONG SERVICE HONOUR

In recognition of his tremendous service to the Association & his continuous service on Exco since the formation of the Association, it was proposed by Ray Sanger & seconded by Rainer Gievers that DEREK ERICKSON be made an Honorary Life Member of the Executive Committee.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

### 12.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

Mike Underwood explained the main reasons for proposing these amendments, viz. -

- The creation of the posts of Association Officers.
- Restructuring of the Executive Committee & a change to the quorum requirement.
- Changes for "political correctness".
- General "tidying up" of the document.

Bob thanked the Constantia Men, Claremont & Grootte Schuur Probus clubs for their input into the preparation of the amendments.

After considerable discussion of several points, the following changes to wording were agreed -

- The first sentence of Paragraph 3.2 should read, "The objective of the Association shall be achieved by the performance, inter alia, in conformity of such objectives of the following functions".
- Paragraph 7.1 should read "..... as "Exco" comprising".
- Paragraph 9.4 should read, "The Association's activities shall be financed by annual subscriptions from its members clubs. Such subscriptions shall be calculated by determining at each Association AGM an amount to be paid per individual member of each member club".

The proposal to amend the Association Constitution in accordance with the tabled format incorporating the changes to the wording set out above was carried by 32 votes to 1.

### 12.3 PROBUS SHIRT BADGE

Dave Black showed delegates a small cloth Probus badge which was suitable for sewing on to polo shirts, pullovers & caps, etc. He said that they would be sold for R15-20 from the Probus Shop in the near future.

### 13. CLOSE & GRACE

The Chairman thanked delegates for attending the meeting.

Vicki MacKenzie concluded the meeting with the Probus Grace.

The meeting closed at 12h36

Chairperson:

Date: