



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
RADIO LEAGUE**

**SANDTON CLUB**

P.O. BOX 527  
PINEGOWRIE 2123

**SUID-AFRIKAANSE  
RADIOLIGA**

**KLUB SANDTON**

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PINEGOWRIE 2123

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**25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Saturday 10 September 2016 @ 9:30**  
**Venue: Craighall Scout Hall: 20 Buckingham Ave, Randburg, 2196**

## **Minutes**

### **1 Attendance and Apologies**

Present	Johan Latsky	ZS6KY
	Henry Stephan	ZS6MC
	Hans Kuipers	ZS6HRK
	Harry Mulock-Hower	ZS6HJM
	Rob Degossely	ZS6PRO
	Dave Botha	ZS6TBV
	Michael Spenser- Wilson	ZS6MSW
	Collin de Villiers	ZS6COL
	Mary de Villiers	ZR6MY
	Peter Elstob	ZS6PE
	Oliver Gerondeanos	ZS6OG
	Kevin Clark	ZR6KWC

Proxy		<u>Proxy given to:</u>	
	Neville Busse	ZS6BN	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Mark Waberski	ZR6WA	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Des van Schalkwyk	ZR6JET	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Richard Dismore	ZS6TF	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Liz Hilton-Gray	ZR6LIZ	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Eugene de Bruin	ZR6SDG	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Marius Snyman	ZR6MS	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Graham Busse	ZS6GL	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Henk Gelderblom	ZS6JHG	Henry Stephan ZS6MC
	Kevin Fraser	ZS6KB	Michael Spencer-Wilson ZS6MSW
	Angus Humphries	ZS6GOO	Michael Spencer-Wilson ZS6MSW
	James Durand	ZS6XL	Johan Latsky ZS6KY
	Roshnie Maharaj	ZR5JAS	James Durand ZS6XL
	Diana Hardress-Williams	ZR6DHW	James Durand ZS6XL

Apologies:	Marius Snyman	ZR6MS	Setting up the HF field station
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## 2 Welcome

The Chairman, Johan Latsky (ZS6KY) welcomed all present to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club.

## 3 Constitution

With 59 Paid up members to date and a total membership base of 71 the Chairman declared the meeting duly constituted as we had 12 members present and received another 14 proxies. Two of these proxies were attributed to James ZS6XL who was not at the meeting. This means that we had 24 votes to cast leaving the member representation well above the minimum 20% specified in the club's constitution.

## 4 Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and matters arising

The Chairman read out the minutes of the previous AGM.

- There were no comments
- There were no matters arising

Johan (ZS6KY) proposed the minutes and Michael (ZS6MSW) seconded. The Minutes to the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General are approved.

## 5 Chairman's report

Johan (ZS6KY) the club Chairman delivered the Chairman's report over club year 2015 / 2016 and shared the following reflections:

### 5.1 Club activities

In the 2015/2016 Club year a number of activities were organized with varying success.

- Field stations both HF and 2M
- Social event
- Visit to museum of Institute of Engineering
- Renewed support for WAGS.

Specifically the events such as the social event and the visit to museum of Institute of Engineering were not well attended. It will need the attention of the new committee how to handle this.

The Chairman thanked Marius (ZR6MS) for driving the HF field stations and also leading the charge in the 2M fields station together with Michael (ZS6MSW). The Chairman also specifically called out Marius (ZR6MS) for his efforts in taking over the administration of the WAGS award from Peter Hers (ZS6PHD).

### 5.2 REA and Hammies

The Club has not organized an RAE last year. Participant numbers were too small for the effort involved. However, the RAE was historically a feeding ground for new members. Our membership numbers are dwindling. A different approach is needed. The Committee is investigating the possibility to putting together an online course as proposed by Hans (ZS6HRK) at the last Committee meeting. The Committee sees this as a potentially huge opportunity – but effort and resources needed. Creative solutions are explored such as the involvement of students to put together the course as a graduation project.

The club has also been supportive of the efforts of Graham (ZS6GL) and Noel (ZS6DX) in putting together a Hammies course and expressed its thanks to both for driving this. The Hammies imitative has since moved under auspices of SARL and is quite successful.

### 5.3 Repeaters

Johan (ZS6KY) made note of the status of the different repeaters and the upgrades that were done and thanked Michael (ZS6MSW), Hans (ZS6HRK) and Henry (ZS6MC) for work on repeaters over the past year.

There was an enquiry about the status of Echolink. Henry (ZS6MC) commented that he is working on the interface and is waiting for a cable. Once received, Echolink will be implemented on the 2M repeater. Henry (ZS6MC) expected to have Echolink up and running by the end of October.

There was an enquiry about the status of IRLP. Hans (ZS6HRK) commented that the equipment is at his house waiting to be implemented at the repeater tower but that this project had been reprioritised due to various other commitments. Dave Botha (ZS6TBV) offered to take the project over and get IRLP up and running.

There is an issue with noise on the 2M repeater. The proposed solution of putting in a 88,5 Hz sub-audible tone may not help. The repeater issue needs more investigation. Rob (ZS6PRO) volunteered to assist with antenna experimentation and suggested that changing the current collinear for a folded dipole will most likely solve the issue.

## 5.4 Club communications

### 5.4.1 Website

The website has been rebuild. It is possible for members to post content and become more active. It was agreed that Michael (ZS6MSW) as marketing officer will be the SPOC for the Website (to be reviewed at the next committee meeting)

The Chairman thanked Hans (ZS6HRK) for his efforts in rebuilding the website.

### 5.4.2 Sunday club Bulletin

There are some aspects of the bulletin that work well at the moment:

- HF relay – recently very good – thanks to Henry (ZS6MC)
- Automated rebroadcast – thanks to Colin (ZS6COL)
- Number of call-ins reasonable, especially when content is good

There was an observation that the club needs to follow through on ‘relay kit building project’ to reduce dependency on Henry (ZS6MC) for the HF relay.

Per the discussion in the AGM there are two issues with the bulletin:

1. There are currently not enough bulletin readers or bulletin readers are insufficiently committed
  - Occasional “default” without prior notice – busy work schedules – The AGM thanked those who stepped in
  - Bruce (ZS6ZAP) and Mike (ZS6XYZ) stepped back due to other personal and work commitments as bulleting readers leaving too much load on the remaining bulletin readers
2. Quality of content
  - Content not always interesting. In some cases reader reads SARL bulletin material verbatim

Solutions as discussed in the AGM

Number of bulletin readers:

- More bulletin readers are needed. A call for volunteers went unanswered.
- Rob (ZS6PRO) and Dave (ZS6TBV) will support on an adhoc basis as and when available

Quality of content – The following suggestions were made

- Interesting bulletins requires club news, special items of interest; Bulletin readers need to spend more time in the prep for the bulletin; Best practice indicates that prep should be at least an hour
- External materials can be used. Henry (ZS6MC) suggested audio clips from e.g.
  - KD0BIK – Practical Amateur radio program(podcast) – can we cut down the snippets.
  - AR Today by Bob Heil; also done by the Magaliesberg Amateur Radio club.
- Dave (ZS6TBV) suggested that there are non HAMS listening to our bulletin. Need to tell about the hobby in the bulletin. Further remind people how to interact to the committee (for people who can’t talk back)
- Rob (ZS6PRO) suggested to let listeners make suggestions on topics for the bulletin

Michael (ZS6MSW) made the suggestion to change the format of the bulletin to a net similar to the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club; Johan (ZS6KY) suggested to stick to the current format and consider in the future to add a net at the end of the bulletin.

The chairman thanked Michael for his efforts in running the bulletin schedule and reminder SMS service, Henry (ZS6MC) for his frequent HF relays and Collin (ZS6COL) for his automated rebroadcast.

### 5.4.3 Dipole

Limited number of dipoles were issued due to work commitments of the secretaries as well as lack of initiative of members to propose content. A new way to fill the dipole and breath live into the medium, such as a dedicated content editor is needed. These and further suggestions and solutions need to be considered by the Committee.

## 5.5 Way Forward

Johan (ZS6KY) reflected on some strengths and weaknesses of the club and specifically called out the worrying decline in club membership over the years. As a low road scenario in which we wind up the club, give back the money to our members and donate our repeaters to another club is not a desirable nor an acceptable scenario, Johan (ZS6KY) reflected on a highroad scenario

In this highroad scenario the club needs to attract a new set of members for example through more involved projects such as

- Introduce South Africa's first on-line RAE Course
- Access to club house / meeting facility – costs for this option need to be assessed by the Committee
- Introduce field station events at sites with better family facilities

Marius (ZR6MS), Henry (ZS6MC) and Michael (ZS6MSW) will investigate what the opportunities are to use the scout facilities in Delta Park or with the Craighall scouts.

Collin (ZS6COL) suggested that the club in a very poor state from an activity point of view and that organizing more activities will drive member affiliations. He reflected on what the club used to do as inspiration for the committee to organize going forward:

- SABC tower technical meeting, great views,
- SABC studios
- Mnet studios
- SAA control tower 2x
- SAA flight simulator
- SAA HF antenna farm (just outside the antenna farm)
- Full day meeting at the SAA workshops
- Pretoria antenna testing range
- Pelindaba nuclear station
- Hartebeespoort tracking station
- Talk: how does the cell-phone system work
- Talk on digital radio
- Talk on lightning protection
- Social activities (Braais, Christmas parties)

## 5.6 Thanks and Chairmans Trophy

Johan (ZS6KY) expressed thanks to the fellow committee members that served on the committee last year

Henry Stephan	ZS6MC
Michael Spenser- Wilson	ZS6MSW
James Durand	ZS6XL
Marius Snyman	ZR6MS
Graham Busse	ZS6GL

Bruce McDonald-Watson ZS6ZAP

In turn Johan (ZS6KY) was thanked by the AGM for serving as our Chairman.

Johan (ZS6KY) was pleased to award the Chairman's Trophy to Henry (ZS6MC). This was upon special consideration that the award is normally intended for non-committee members but the exceptional contribution of Henry (ZS6MC) as treasurer including the battle with banks and other institutions to keep the club administratively on good course, maintenance of the repeaters, and support of club activities such as the patch box project made Johan (ZS6KY) decide that Henry (ZS6MC) was the rightful recipient of this award this year.

## 6 Secretary's report

No report had been received. With the secretary not present this point was closed.

## 7 Treasurer's report

Henry (ZS6MC) the club treasurer delivered the treasurers report over club year 2015 / 2016.

In the past Financial Year the Committee increased the Membership Fees from R75 to R100 for Ordinary members and from R35 to R50 for Family Members and instituted a Projects Levy of R50.

The levy was instituted for the following reasons:

1. We had to move the Repeater equipment out of the Bryanston Water Tower into our own container placed on a plinth supplied by JHB Municipality/Water
2. We had to pay for upgrades at the repeater (such as incorporation of battery back-up and labour charges for feeder additions)
3. To cover the cost of the Microwave Link to transport the Internet Link between the tower and Hans's house (ZS6HRK) to link the D-Star Network to the necessary Reflector for international communication.
4. To build a reserve in case we had to do any further improvements to our repeater site such as instituting an EchoLink Repeater.

In total we had 71 membership renewals out of 100 members which means we had a 71% membership renewal rate.

Our income was:

- R3300 (66 \* R50) for Levies (4 members did not pay the Levy)
- R250 (5 \* R50) for Family Membership
- R25 (1 \* R25) for (Member had a prior Credit)
- R6400 (64 \* R100) for Ordinary Membership

Which is a Total Income of **R 9,975.00**.

Other Income from Bank Interest and Antenna Building amounted to **R 5,744.32**

Our expenses for the year was **R4,130.47**.

Total profit for the year was **R11,588.85**.

As at 30 June 2016 the club had R84,361.11 in our Investment advantage account and R3,085.97 in the Main Account. Our Total Funds available is R 87,447.08.

We had one Bad Debt from a person only known as Javon, whom we could not trace, for R345.00. We paid SARL exam fees for him and he did not show up again for further RAE classes.

For this financial year we have kept the Ordinary Membership Fees at R100 and the Family Membership Fees at R50 with no Levy being charged.

Renewal: 59 Membership Fees Paid to date  
 Non-Renewal: 2 Members (John Pile & Robert Howcroft)

New Members: 3 (Dave Botha (ZS6TVB), Oliver Gerondeanos (ZS6OG) & Rob Degossely (ZS6PRO))  
 Unpaid: 12 Members (Closing Date 30 September 2016)

## 8 Election of a new Committee

The following persons were elected committee members for 2016 / 2017:

Johan Latsky	ZS6KY
Henry Stephan	ZS6MC
Hans Kuipers	ZS6HRK
Rob Degossely	ZS6PRO
Michael Spenser- Wilson	ZS6MSW
James Durand	ZS6XL
Marius Snyman	ZR6MS
Angus Humphries	ZS6GOO

Graham Busse (ZS6GL) and Bruce McDonald-Watson (ZS6ZAP) have elected not to rejoin the committee in the coming year and the Chairman thanked them for their contribution last year.

Dave Botha (ZS6TBV) has offered to contribute to the committee where he can. He will be invited to committee meetings but has elected not to become a committee member.

## 9 Election of Chairman and Secretary

Johan proposed Hans Kuipers (ZS6HRK) as Chairman. This proposal was adopted by the AGM.

A resolution was adopted by the AGM that Committee, at its next meeting would determine the constitution of the other roles on the committee including the role of Secretary.

## 10 General and additions to the agenda

There were no matters raised prior to the AGM or during the AGM.

## 11 Meeting close

The Chairman thanked attendees for their presence and contributions. There being no further business the chairman closed meeting at 11:25

Signed as a correct record

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date