

MINUTES OF DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB AGM HELD AT 11:00 ON 8th FEBRUARY 2025 AT KRANTZKLOOF INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

PRESENT

Members:

As per register – 41 present

Committee:

Merle Mackenzie, Biff Maggs, Gil Krauspe, Philip Collyer, Rani Reddy, Coleen Seath and Ruth Grantham

Ordinary Member: Navi Naidoo

APOLOGIES

Shaída Amon	Hilary Abraham
Jeremy Grest	Linda Phipson
Judith Shier	Shaída Amod
Judith Conlyn	Steve Phaup
Nora Scoley	Naadira Limalia
Kerry McNevin	Dave Hawkins
Marie Gurr	Jenny Rooks
Nevile Walmesley	Zohra Vahed
Cheryl Sol	

		Action taken	
		By whom	By when
1.	WELCOME		
	Merle welcomed all members to the AGM. PAST MEMBERS: 30 second silence was kept for Mara Wheeler		
2.	APOLOGIES		
	See table above		
3.	CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
	The Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were approved by the meeting.		
	Proposed : Biff Maggs Seconded : Ismail Vahed	Biff Maggs Ismail Vahed	Done
4.	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES		
	Weekend hikes were arranged by Vanessa. There is still no interest in organizing weekend away hikes, especially during the winter. It was confirmed that the club will not have a weekend portfolio for the time being.	Merle Mackenzie	Done

5.	RECEIVE THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT		
	<p>Another year has flown by during which members enjoyed a variety of wonderful hikes, thanks to the ever-faithful leaders. The club owes an enormous debt of gratitude to these leaders, as without them, the hiking club would not exist. On January 18th, the Committee invited all the leaders to a breakfast in Hillcrest to show appreciation for their contributions.</p> <p>Membership stood at 28 Honorary members and 232 Ordinary members at the end of the year, having welcomed 40 new members during 2024. This augurs well for the future of the club, and as the Treasurer will report, the club's finances are sound. Special thanks were extended to Biff for the excellent job and tremendous support provided.</p> <p>Donations were made to various conservancies as hikes were held, and the club also made donations to Ipithi, Giba, Monteseel, and Springside, which will be elaborated on in the Treasurer's report.</p> <p>As previously indicated, the Chairperson will be stepping down and expressed sincere thanks to the Committee Members who made the role of Chairman so easy. Special thanks were given to Treasurer Biff, Hike Organisers Coleen, Gil, and Rani, Philip for the interesting magazines, Ruth for her efficiency as Secretary, and Gil and Rani for the photos and info on the Facebook page. Additional thanks were extended to Abdullah, the Website Organiser, auditor Rolf Klein, and Ordinary Member Navi. The Chairperson expressed deep gratitude to each and every one of them.</p>	Merle Mackenzie	Done
6.	RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT		
	<p>We had a really good year. Income mainly from subscriptions and interest with smaller amounts from entrance fees and donations totaled R33,426. Expenses amounted to R37,271 with a net loss of R3,845, which included donations totaling R26,000 to various organizations including a significant donation for the repair of a bridge at Springside.</p> <p>In terms of the balance sheet, the interest is usually around the Bank balance – Current Account R9,208 and the R92,393 in the money trader account.</p>	Biff Maggs	Done
7.	RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE WEDNESDAY HIKE ORGANISER		
	<p>The hikes are well-attended, with an average of 15-20 participants per hike. The camaraderie among members is strong, and the hikes often conclude with picnics or lunches, enhancing the social aspect of the club.</p>	Coleen Seath	Done
8.	RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE SATURDAY HIKE ORGANISER		

	Saturday hikes have been well-attended, including early morning hikes to beat the heat, which have been surprisingly well-supported. New members have joined through these hikes, and the leaders have been commended for their dedication and support.	Gil Krauspe	Done
9.	RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE SUNDAY HIKE ORGANISER		
	The term for the Sunday hike organizer will be handed over. Special thanks were given to the hike leaders for their support, as the club does not have a large number of hike leaders. A special mention was made of Jon, Alan, and Rob for their willingness to lead more than two hikes in a quarter. Jon Stevens, in particular, was recognized for his assistance in scouting new hikes, especially with the development in the area reducing the number of available hike options. The organizer has relied heavily on him, and even though he has moved away, he will continue to help the club. Thank you, Jon.	Rani Reddy	Done
10.	CONSIDER AND RATIFY SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2026		
	The Treasurer noted that the club does not need to increase subscriptions for the next year. Honorary membership – 1995: Lee D’Eathe, Ingrid D’Eathe and Marie Gurr Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Merle Mackenzie	Biff Maggs Merle Mackenzie	Done
	Biff Maggs proposed that honorary membership be brought forward by a year for Ann Olds and Coleen Seath, in recognition of their sterling efforts, as allowed by the constitution. The proposal was unanimously accepted by a show of hands.		Done
11.	APPROVE ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB’S CONSTITUTION AND RULES		
	The Chairperson highlighted that there are no proposed amendments to the Club’s constitution and rules.		
12.	TO ELECT OFFICE BEARERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
	The portfolios were confirmed: Portfolio: Chairperson: Rani Reddy Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Gil Krauspe Portfolio: Secretary: Ruth Grantham Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Gil Krauspe Portfolio: Treasurer: Zarina Ally Proposed : Ismail Vahed; Seconded : Navi Naidoo Portfolio: Saturday: Bilkis Khan Proposed : Gil Krauspe; Seconded : Philip Collyer Portfolio: Sunday: Naadira Limalia Proposed : Rani Reddy; Seconded : Gil Krauspe		

	<p>Portfolio: Magazine: Philip Collyer Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Coleen Seath</p> <p>Portfolio: Publicity: Gil Krauspe Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Ruth Grantham</p> <p>Portfolio: Ordinary member: Navi Naidoo Proposed : Biff Maggs; Seconded : Ruth Grantham</p>		
13.	ELECT THE HONORARY AUDITOR		
	Biff Maggs proposed that Rolf Klein continue as the Club's Honorary Auditor, and Rolf graciously accepted. The club expressed its appreciation for his ongoing dedication and service.	Biff Maggs Merle Mackenzie	Done
14.	TO PRESENT THE FLOATING TROPHY		
	<p>Sarie Lapping very kindly presented the Club with a new trophy as the old trophy was looking a little worse for wear. While the Club is grateful to Sarie for her donation, the new trophy will be kept for future use. The old trophy, which has a lot of history, will be used once again this year.</p> <p>There were a couple of nominations for the trophy this year, but in the end, it was decided to honour someone who embodies the spirit of Ramblers, someone who always has the best interests of the club at heart. Since joining the club in March 2000, she has taken on several portfolios on the Committee, but mainly served as the extremely competent Treasurer. Biff served as Treasurer from 2002-2004, 2006-2008, 2012-2014, and 2022-2024, and was also the Weekend Organiser from 2018-2020. Additionally, when Coleen is away, Biff is always there as backup for organizing Wednesday hikes.</p> <p>It gives the Club great pleasure to award the trophy once more to Biff Maggs.</p>		
15.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN		
	<p>Discussion how to put the club's finance to good use on the need for clearing paths at Roosfontein:</p> <p>Jon Stevens raised the issue of overgrown paths at Roosfontein, making it difficult for hikers to navigate. He suggested that the club consider employing a company to clear these paths, as the current state is not conducive to enjoyable hikes.</p> <p>The overgrowth is causing significant inconvenience, and there is a need for professional intervention to maintain the trails.</p> <p>Proposal to employ a company for path clearing:</p> <p>The proposal to hire a company for path clearing was discussed.</p> <p>It was noted that employing a professional service would ensure the paths are cleared efficiently and maintained regularly.</p>	Jon Stevens	Next Committee meeting

<p>The committee agreed that this would be a worthwhile investment to enhance the hiking experience for members.</p> <p>Agreement to find a contact person and consider the proposal in the next committee meeting:</p> <p>It was agreed that a contact person should be identified to liaise with the company and oversee the path clearing project.</p> <p>Biff Maggs suggested reaching out to Nick Labuschagne, who is currently in charge of Springside, for advice and potential contacts.</p> <p>Lee D'Eathe will find out who the contact person is in the municipality and provide these details for the committee to consider in the next committee meeting.</p>		
<p>Discussion on the membership form and the requirement for new members to complete three hikes before onboarding:</p> <p>The current membership form requires new members to complete three hikes with the club before being officially onboarded. Ruth Grantham raised the issue of whether these hikes needed to be scrutinized, as there have been difficulties verifying the hikes listed by new members, especially when they were completed in previous years.</p> <p>The committee discussed whether this requirement should be maintained and how to improve the verification process. It was confirmed that it would be sufficient to accept the hikes as long as they resembled the club's hike titles, without needing to be within the current year.</p> <p>Additionally, it was strongly suggested that new members should be directed to the updated membership form on the website to ensure they follow the correct procedure. This is to avoid confusion and delays in onboarding.</p>	<p>Ruth Grantham</p>	<p>Done</p>

There being no further matters, the Chairperson thanked Philip and Jarred for arranging the braai and to Ann Olds for arranging the venue. The Chairperson thanked the members for their participation and closed the meeting.

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 Merle Mackenzie
 CHAIRPERSON

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 DATE