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# SILVERTON MODEL Vliegklub SILVERTON MODEL Flying Club

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255 Anstasia Street, Sinoville, Pretoria. 0182

## SMFC Chairman's Report – Johan Sieling

20<sup>th</sup> August 2024

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### 1. Introduction

The SMFC has survived another year despite the number of changes that took place during this last year. Allen Fraser moved to Cape Town to a new fulltime job opportunity at Milkor. In the process our flying club lost both Allen, our long-standing club chairperson, and Fraser's Hobby Shop that was the main source of equipment and advice for many members of our flying club. Then we also lost his wife, Alta, who did all the club's administration. My thanks to Marthinus who stepped up and took over the admin responsibilities for us and I would like to state that he is doing an excellent job with the admin side of things. I am happy to report that the club is doing well, as we were able to maintain the excellent flying facilities and high standards established in the past. As we are all aware, the financial situation in our country is creating a challenge for us to keep up these standards because of the budget constraints resulting from this economic situation.

### 2. Membership

The active membership numbers have once again declined in this past year, and we now have 49 members as follows:

Life members	17 (35%)
Honorary members	5 (10%)
Junior members	2 (4%)
Regular members	25 (51%)

Several members did not renew their membership by the end of July 2024, but we did gain some new members during this last year.

### 3. Finances

The club financials are still in a healthy state. As of the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, we had R46,158.92 in the cheque account and R186,591.64 in the Investment Advantage Account which is a total of R232,750.56 in both the club's accounts. All payments are up to date and the above amount includes the member renewals for the 2024/2025 year. We would like to thank Marthinus for managing all the

administration for the club and Faizel Salie for all the treasury work performed. Thank you to Fanie Nel of DNL Accounts CC for preparing the annual financial statements for the club.

#### **4. Club Facilities**

The general maintenance and garden services are provided by Kariega Trust, under the guidance and management of Marthinus Potgieter, at a cost of R2060.00 per month. As usual, these tasks are performed regularly and basically perfectly. Legends Farm, does the mowing of the veldt grass on the outside areas at a cost of R750.00 per month. It should be kept in mind that a fair amount of maintenance, mostly preventative, was done to the clubhouse, braai area and one of the shade-net structures in the pit area. This was done since the last AGM, costing the club R6065.00 in total. We also had the runways rejuvenated with a bitumen emulsion layer at a cost of R17,250.00 to seal off the tar surfaces and prevent premature deterioration of the tar runways. We are in the process of preparing the annual safety plan and risk analysis as required by SAMAA. The garden services are busy with the painting of the steel palisade and possibly the tank stand. The paint work is typically performed during the winter months when the garden services take less time than in the summer. As you have possibly seen, there is a bookcase full of modelling books in the kitchen at the clubhouse for the use of all the members on a return-after-use basis. This was a contribution to the club by Marthinus Potgieter and we need to thank him for this great contribution. We thank Marthinus and his team for their hard work in keeping the club facilities in pristine condition.

#### **5. Club Administration**

The club administration is under the care of Marthinus Potgieter at Cointech and is all web based and typically paperless. The club office is now based at the Cointech offices in the N4 business park and is open Monday to Thursday, during office hours on normal working days only. The basic accounting is also done on the system which then outputs the necessary accounting documents i.e. cashbook etc. The system also hosts the club web browser and emails. All email communication to the members is also done from the same system. Then the club also runs a WhatsApp group messaging service to all members for general communication purposes and this service is provided by the Vice Chairman, Hendrik Coetsee. Thank you, Hendrik, for setting up and providing this service to the club.

#### **6. Flight Training & Proficiencies**

Flight training and proficiencies is an ongoing process. Please contact me, should you have any questions or requirements in this regard. Just a reminder that it is each pilot's own decision to improve your flying skills and abilities and have your proficiency tested. Then also keep in mind, as a minimum, a SAMAA solo proficiency is required for all pilots to fly without supervision! Certain proficiency requirements are also to be met if you wish to fly in events other than normal flying at the club. Please refer to the SAMAA MOPS for the details.

#### **7. Events & Competitions**

The SMFC annual club function took place on Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March during which the annual awards were presented as they were not presented at the last AGM. There were two events held on the day: bomb drop and a chucky gliding event. Each event had R3000 in prize money sponsored by Steed Bekker Waterproofing and Francois van Niekerk of Afri-Blind. A big thank you to the sponsors of the two events.

#### **8. Legends Adventure Farm**

Marthinus and I had a meeting with the Legends Management and owner where several issues were tabled, the main issue being the closure of our club facilities without ample warning. Legends assured us that they will do their utmost in the future to keep us in the picture and that they will endeavour to minimise the closure time of our facility in future. They also explained that the event last year was managed mainly by external individuals who did not keep to the agreed guidelines as was originally communicated. After complaints received a while ago by some club members regarding the dust issue, people walking on/through our facilities and the bicycle event that made

use of our facilities on a Saturday, I had a meeting with the Legends Facility Manager. The issues were thoroughly discussed and the following needs to be pointed out:

- The dust issue is mainly seasonal and there is not much that can be done about it.
- As far as possible, other users of Legends will be re-routed to try and control the dust issue.
- The two people who frequently walk their dogs at Legends will be sensitised to the activities and arrangements with other users of the facilities – they also from time to time walk on the main runway which is a serious safety risk.
- In future, we will get regular updates on the Legends event calendar.
- Legends will follow up on the use of our facilities by the bike event which they also had no knowledge of. It is the same organiser who kept us from flying last year.

## **9. SAMAA**

As SMFC is currently a SAMAA registered club, all club members and visitors flying at our club facilities need to have current/valid SAMAA membership. **Therefore, no SAMAA membership = no fly at the SMFC facilities!** It also needs to be made clear that membership of another ARO does not replace the SAMAA membership requirement due to the different insurance arrangements as well as possible differences in the Operating Manuals of the two registered ARO's.

## **10. Club Communication**

As mentioned above in the club administration paragraph, the main communication channels for SMFC are emails and WhatsApp messages. Therefore, all club communications are directed to the members via these two channels only. The club Facebook page is not active at all and maybe we need to appoint someone to the committee to get things going there. It is the only window we have whereby we can promote our club to the public to so try and attract new members. At this stage new members mainly find us via word of mouth, mostly referred to us by members of other clubs that are aware of our existence.

## **11. Safety**

In terms of safety, there is not much to report other than that no safety incidents were reported since the last AGM. The "hedge trimming" of the pilot barrier was possibly the only real incident that is worth mentioning. This incident should again make us aware of the potential dangers of operating model aircraft and that it is not at all advisable to be flying alone at the club. Please be aware that each pilot needs to ensure compliance with all the safety rules & regulations when operating a model aircraft and that safety always comes first. The club is again busy with the annual SAMAA Risk Analyses documentation which we will submit soon after this year's AGM.

## **12. Development Program**

The Cornerstone College development program is still ongoing under the guidance of Dr Rob Hurlin assisted by Sylvester, a staff member at the school. At this point in time there are three club members involved who assist with the pilot training on Thursday afternoons: Johan Sieling, Peter Frost and Gavin Atkinson, who recently joined SMFC. More information is available from Dr Rob Hurlin, who normally provides us with a report on the progress of this initiative. I am glad to report that we again received a donation of R5000 from Cornerstone College this year for our involvement.

## **13. Management Committee**

All the above actions and activities are planned, managed and mostly executed by the management committee and I would like to thank them all for their contributions that make it possible to run the club and its facilities successfully. As you may be aware, two of our committee members did not renew their membership going forward. We would like to thank both Faizel Salie and Jaco Smeiman for their contributions to the committee. During our last committee meeting we decided to replace the two vacant positions on the committee by co-opting Hannes Gouws as safety officer and Tiaan Steenkamp as treasurer to the committee with immediate effect. Both members accepted their appointment to the committee, and we would like to welcome them and wish them all the best with

their new positions on the SMFC committee.

#### **14. Conclusion**

Due to the existing economic climate in our country, it is becoming more and more of a challenge to keep the club afloat. Basically, we will have to find other avenues to generate operating funds, and we can't only rely on members' fees to carry the club operating expenses into the future. We also need to remember that the club does not only consist of the committee members, but all the members together form the club, and everyone has an obligation to contribute to the prosperity of the club, not only the committee members. We, therefore in future, need to think outside the box and we all need to contribute in some or other way to ensure our future existence.

For me, it is a privilege and honour to serve on the club committee and I want to thank everyone who has helped and contributed to the success of our club thus far.

Thanks & regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johan Sieling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Johan Sieling  
SMFC Chairman  
Mobile: 0828988810,  
Email: johansieling61@gmail.com