



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

The National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa
A Member of the International Amateur Radio Union



MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025 AT THE ROYAL ELEPHANT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, EL DORAIGNE, PRETORIA

Present

Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, SARL President

Members registered and by proxy – 251.

Dennis Green, ZS4BS, SARL Secretary

Item	Discussion	For Action
	WELCOME	
1.1	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, opened the meeting at 08:40 and welcomed everybody at the 2025 AGM at the Royal Elephant Hotel and members on the Zoom platform. A special word of thanks to Annette, ZR6D and Brian, ZS6YZ for the historical display in the foyer and in the hall. We are extremely honoured to be attending this AGM.	
	Nico read out a message from Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR the president of IARU Region 1. "On the occasion of this weekend celebrating SARL's 100th anniversary, I offer my sincere congratulations to the entire South African amateur radio community. Congratulations on the journey you've made, and good luck for the next 100 years"!	
1.2	The agenda is projected on the screen.	
2.	RULES OF DEBATE	
2.1	Nico, ZS6QL presents the rules of debate. It was projected on the screen for the meeting.	
3.	APOLOGIES	
	ZS4VP tendered his apologies.	
4.	DECLARATION OF QUORUM	
4.1	There are 1 566 members allowed to vote. To allow the AGM to proceed, a 10% quorum or 156,6 members is required. Rounded off to 157 members. At 09:20 on Saturday 20 April 2024, the SARL Secretary has 65 members registered and 186 proxies = 251 members or 16,03%. Thus, there is a quorum to continue with the meeting.	
	The oldest member present at the AGM is Tjerk Lammers, ZS1J/ZS6P who is 85 years young and the youngest is Maryna Eales, ZR6MC who is 23 years young. Average age 59,7 years. The oldest member who submitted a proxy is Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ who is 90 years young and the youngest member to submit a proxy is Petrus Lotriet, ZU3PL who is 9 years young.	
5.	REMEMBRANCE	
5.1	Dennis Green, ZS4BS, read the Remembrance for the Silent Keys and the meeting observed a moment of silence.	

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	<p>Hennie Greyling, ZS4HG; Jimmy de Sande, ZS2JIM; Craig Dalglish, ZS5CID; Solly Nieman, V51SN; Artie Perold ZS1HL; Michael Folkey, ZR4MF; Mario Garofoli, ZS6MIO; Andrew van Heerden, ZS6AVH; Viv Wells, ZS6CAA; Neville Engelbrecht, ZS1P (ex-ZS6BSQ); Vic Moore, ZS3VIC; John de Beer, ZS3JDB; Sam Mc Leary, ZS1OR; Rae Vincent-Lambert, ZS6RAE; Gavin Badenhorst, ZS6BG; Hilda Lange ex-ZS6HL; Patty Little, ex-ZR6OBS; Pine Pienaar, ZS4ZB (ex ZS1ZE); Kobus Jooste, ZS3KJ; André Shaw ZS1AN; Tinus Fleming, ZR6PAT; Bert Von Rahden, ZS6LP; Alwyn du Plessis, ZS1APC; Dudley Burrows, ZS1DB; Bernd "Jerry" Sinner, 9J2BS/ZS6JBS; Bill Smith, ZS6XD; Frans Marais, ZS4FM; Les Mandy, ZS1KF (ex ZS2KF and ZS4WA); Andre Meyer, ZS1AMP; Elmarie McCash ZS6EM; Chris Pretorius, ZS1FC; Neville Busse, ZS6BN; Rachel de Bruyn, ZR6RDB; Kleingert Horn, ZS6HRN; Michael Howell, ZS1PE; Koos de Leeuw, ZS6KDL; Andre van Tonder, ZS6HE; Mervyn Todd, ZS5QI; Evert van der Horst, ZS6AQW; Marthinus Delport, ZS6MRJ; Fredericus de Vries, ZS1ADD; Ben Fourie, ZS6BEN; Johan de Bruin, ZS6JHB.</p>	
6.	APPROVAL OF THE 2024 AGM MINUTES	
6.1	<p>The Minutes of the 2024 AGM are accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Jan Botha, ZS4JAN and seconded by Tjerk Lammers, ZS1J/ZS6P.</p>	
7.	PRESIDENTS REPORT	
7.1	<p>Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, presented the Presidents Report and the SARL Annual Report.</p>	
7.2	<p>Dear Esteemed Members of the South African Radio League,</p> <p>Good morning, a warm welcome to everyone present here today as well as online, thank you for joining us as we celebrate a unique milestone, the Centenary of the SARL.</p> <p>We are incredibly grateful to be surrounded by so many people who have been part of this journey, that started from our founding members and continues through dedication and commitment of our current members as well as community partners.</p> <p>I consider myself to be very fortunate to be a radio amateur in this centenary year, let alone being President of the SARL.</p> <p>It is indeed my pleasure and honour to chair this AGM today and not to only reflect on the past but to encourage our current generation to continue to build on this legacy of our pioneers with innovation, renewed commitment, and pushing the boundaries of what is possible as we continue our journey into the future.</p> <p>We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the generations of dedicated individuals who have shaped our history.</p> <p>The South African Radio Relay League (SARL) was formed on 20 May 1925 with Raymond Coombs as honorary organising secretary and through the efforts of several regional and local radio societies including clubs that were established around the time of the First World War.</p>	

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	<p>The first president to be elected was OM Joseph White and the first SARRL conference was held in Johannesburg in April 1926.</p> <p>Later, the name was changed to become the South African Radio League (SARL) as we know it today. "QTC" was the first printed magazine issued by the League. No. 1. Vol. 1 was issued in May 1928. The editor was OM RS Perry, A9Z.</p> <p>It is also important to remember that on 18 April 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris and the SARL a founder member.</p> <p>From humble beginnings to this remarkable milestone are the League's testament to the enduring power of a vision, the strength of its people, and the unwavering commitment to its mission. The SARL and its members can be incredibly proud of what have been accomplished together, and we look into the future to continue building upon this legacy.</p> <p>When one thinks about how the world looked like hundred years ago, the technologies and telecommunication trends that seemed innovative and transformative at that time have been surpassed beyond anything that could have been imagined. Given the incredible increase in the rate of technological change, innovation, and development, we can only imagine what it will be like in a hundred years from now.</p> <p>To me, it is clear that we will continue with the work of shaping and advancing the joy, art and science of amateur radio as our prime mission to ensure a future for amateur radio.</p> <p>To place a centenary in perspective and to give some context to the world we live in at present, Steven Spielberg, the well-known film director, once said, "Social media has taken over in America to such an extreme that to get my own kids to look back a week in their history is a miracle, let alone 100 years."</p> <p>Many of you will remember the 1966 epic spaghetti Western film "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly", starring Clint Eastwood.</p> <p>From a "Good" perspective the SARL has continued to thrive, thanks to the robust foundation built on your commitment and passion. I am pleased to report that the SARL maintained stability both from a membership and a financial perspective.</p> <p>As for "The Bad," growth from an RAE perspective is disappointing, with a drop in candidate numbers and dwindling opportunities to attend RAE classes as very few clubs present lectures and online classes compared to the not too distant past.</p> <p>And for toughest part of this year — "the Ugly" — something very significant threatens amateur radio and the SARL (and no, it is not the website that was a victim of a cyber-attack).</p> <p>We are without a doubt in a bad place when it comes to volunteerism, including leadership. It is a well-known fact that our clubs are the backbone of the SARL and amateur radio within communities. Very noticeable are the clubs that die off as the</p>	

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	<p>members who could have led them into the future were never developed or given the opportunity to be coached. This includes those who never raised their hands to step up to the plate.</p> <p>A determined effort is required to put a spotlight on this issue and the topic of succession planning is not only applicable to the industry and large companies but is also quite relevant on club and council level. We have work to do in this area, and the work is just beginning.</p> <p>All is not just gloom and doom, so let us circle back to “the Good” perspective. I have experienced a remarkable level of support and assistance from our members in many ways to the SARL, including council. Without your dedicated support, the League will not be able to function to provide the service that is due to our members.</p>	
7.3	<p>Volunteering in the SARL</p> <p>Milton Friedman who received the Nobel prize in 1976 once said, “There's no such thing as a free lunch” and although he was talking about economics, there is a definite bearing on life itself. Nothing in life comes without a cost – time, energy, commitment and sacrifice.</p> <p>The SARL depend entirely on a group of volunteers and appointees to perform various tasks and to fill several portfolios. To recruit capable volunteers with the time, dedication, and commitment to execute these routine and time-consuming work within the SARL, is most challenging.</p> <p>Most concerning is that certain skills and experience, including a willingness of members to step forward to fill positions within the SARL, is declining. We are extremely grateful for the excellent work being done by fellow councillors, portfolio managers and appointees with families and full-time occupations, committing their personal time and expertise at no cost, to run the SARL successfully.</p> <p>You may be asking, “Where do all these volunteers fit to ensure that the League operates successfully?”</p>	
7.4	<p>SARL Centenary Publication</p> <p>I would like to step back for a moment and mention the significant effort started in 2021 to capture and document the rich history of the SARL. These artifacts and related information will serve as a valuable reference for current and future generations, detailing the achievements and challenges faced by the league over the past century.</p> <p>The outcome of this project will be a Commemorative Handbook to be published upon completion.</p> <p>The research and processing of all historical information into a book is an enormous task and, in all fairness, does not end, as the League’s history will need to be kept alive and recorded as we journey into the future.</p>	

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	<p>A warm thank you to Anette, ZR6D supported by Brian, ZS6YZ who took on this enormous task to ensure that the history of the League will be preserved for future generations.</p>	
7.5	<p>News and Publications</p> <p>Our news team compiled the weekly national news bulletin for publication and transmission on Sundays from various clubs, and by individuals. This includes the newsreaders and relay stations as well. Then there is the monthly SARL publication of Radio ZS and the weekly HF Happenings, which are published through the dedicated work of the Editor of Radio ZS.</p>	
7.6	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>A group of appointees attend to the Forum and Swop Shop, the Website, and performs Database Management. The portfolios pertain to Awards Management, Repeater Coordination working groups, V/UHF working groups, QSL Bureau Management, Contest Management, youth development, the Amateur Radio Today-programme and Regulatory Affairs.</p> <p>We also acknowledge the crucial work of the SARL/ICASA liaison committee, currently reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICASA and the League signed way back in 2016.</p> <p>Then the work done by our Legal Advisor, Treasurer and councillors, and the excellent work of the SARL HAMNET organisation, serving our communities and providing a public service.</p> <p>To these individuals my message is that your devotion and dedication in applying your talents, skills, and experience timeously to fuel our mutual efforts in running the League is remarkable and is sincerely appreciated.</p>	
7.7	<p>Lectures and Annual RAE Examinations</p> <p>The RAE examinations during May and October are administrated by the SARL on behalf of ICASA, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between ICASA and the SARL.</p> <p>This is accomplished with dedication and commitment from the RAE Manager, Noel, ZR6DX, Gerhard, ZS6CRS, assistant RAE Manager, Kelley Heslop, our Office Administrator, Gary Immelmann, ZS6YI and numerous lecturers and Chief Invigilators, allowing for a successful RAE to be held countrywide.</p> <p>Council is most grateful for the excellent work being done by these individuals, including everyone who continually seek better ways to accomplish successful lectures and training.</p>	
7.8	<p>SARL HAMNET</p> <p>HAMNET, the SARL division for disaster communication, under the leadership of Brian ZS6YZ, the national HAMNET Director, Keith Lowes, ZS5WFD, the deputy national Director and regional directors, does excellent work within society that allows for awareness and public relations pertaining to amateur radio.</p>	

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	<p>HAMNET works closely with the South African Search and Rescue (SASAR), which is a division of the Department of Transport, Local Government Disaster Management and disaster management in local municipalities, the Western Cape with Wilderness Search and Rescue, the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination (ARCC) and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).</p> <p>May I take this this opportunity to thank you all for always being the best you can be, working as a team in the execution of this important task of providing emergency communications during search and rescue incidents.</p>	
7.9	<p>The 2025 BACAR Centennial Launch</p> <p>Every year the BACAR launch and recovery event in Secunda is a highlight that we look forward to. A commemorative SARL Centenary launch is earmarked for October this year. The team of the Secunda Radio Club is a group of seasoned experts offering us their commitment to do so again this year, as stated by Christo ZR6LJK during last year’s launch.</p>	
7.10	<p>Workshop and Presentation</p> <p>SARL Centenary Technical Symposium - this event was held on Saturday, 22 March, online, with attendance from amateurs in Europe with a programme that covered a broad list of topics and organised by Hans van de Groenendaal ZS6AKV.</p> <p>AMSAT South Africa Space Symposium - another event that deserves to be mentioned involving many of our member, is the AMSAT South Africa Space Symposium to be held on Saturday, 4 August 2025. Every year this event attracts local and international interest. The aim of the AMSAT SA Space Symposium is to take amateur radio into space, and to encourage more amateur satellite operation, development, and research.</p>	
7.11	<p>Contest Working Group</p> <p>Contesting is an integral part of our hobby and popular from a national and international sporting perspective. Under the experienced leadership of Johann Bezuidenhout, ZS6JBZ with team members Gerhard Coetzee - ZS3TG; Phillip van Tonder - ZS6PVT, Karel Bezuidenhout - ZS6WN and Karel Bezuidenhout (Junior) - ZR6K ensures that this important aspect of our hobby functions extremely well.</p> <p>I would like to thank this team sincerely for your continued support and dedication in executing this important work, ensuring that the contesting management required continue to cater for the contest preferences of a broad spectrum of amateur radio operators.</p> <p>I have touched on various topics in this report. Detailed information on these topics is available in the SARL Annual Report. Please read more about these topics, achievements, and work done</p>	

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	by the League, working groups and appointees, as compiled by our Secretary, Dennis Green ZS4BS.	
7.12	<p>Affiliated Clubs</p> <p>Throughout amateur radio's history, clubs have recruited and trained new radio amateurs and have provided a community setting in which radio amateurs have been able to continue their education and training.</p> <p>I receive many calls and emails for advice on the topic of how to grow our club. Over the years I have come to realise that expectations have become the main obstacle, and to quote William Shakespeare "Expectations are the root of all heartache". In a world where instant gratification is the standard, we measure ourselves and get hurt by our expectations.</p> <p>A club with a vision to grow needs to take a holistic view. It all starts with presenting a RAE course. These courses include lectures and practical training in preparation for the examination. Sadly, after an examination session, many candidates who successfully passed the RAE, lose interest over time and do not renew their licences. The root cause is mainly that there is very little support from clubs after becoming licenced.</p> <p>The success factor lies in a basic principle of not doing the same old activities organised by the same individuals, but by allowing RAE candidates and all current members of all ages to be active participants, knowledgeable, and responsible members of the amateur radio community.</p> <p>To club members: find your passion, your topic of interest, and take up the challenge to grow and contribute along the way in assisting a fellow radio amateur as part of the amateur spirit as we know it.</p> <p>On the bright side, the above noted tendency is not standard practice within our well-known clubs who continue to support newcomers, building their on-air confidence in various ways to ensure that they become seasoned operators.</p> <p>Do not forget the importance of our public presence and image. We need to improve on our public relations and image to strengthen our position, as the current image in society is very often that amateur radio is a relic from the past. What is there that we offer and do to attract today's younger generation? We need to embrace modern technology and demonstrate its usefulness both as a self-learning platform and its practical use within society.</p>	
7.13	<p>In closing...</p> <p>May I use this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors and members for another successful year. Your admirable commitment and dedication over the past year has been pivotal in managing the League, and I sincerely appreciated it.</p>	

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	<p>Looking into the future, as individuals, clubs, working group members and council, we give back to amateur radio that pays (to a certain extent) the debt that we owe to those who came before us who built and established what we enjoy at present.</p> <p>"Today is not just a celebration of the past, but a celebration of the potential we have for the future."</p> <p>Amateur Radio has changed tremendously in a hundred years and will continue to change. The SARL and its members must be ready to keep up with the ever-changing technology environment to adapt and respond to ensure that we stay relevant in the future.</p> <p>May this centenary inspire us to reach even greater heights and to make an even greater impact on the world of amateur radio and our service to society.</p> <p>Here's to the next 100 years! May it be filled with enjoyment, success, personal growth, and a committed effort to advance the art and science of amateur radio.</p>	
8.	FINANCES	
8.1	Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB presented the Financial Report.	
8.2	<p>I can once again report that Council has succeeded in improving the financial position of the SARL for the financial year ending 30 June 2024. The Cash and Cash Equivalents have risen from R2 935 857 to R3 059 103 a net change of R123 246 (4,2%) for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.</p> <p>The League's income increased year on year by R267 606 mainly due to the use of transfers from contingency / surplus funds to the value of R211 293 and other income equating to R56 313. Thus, if the League did not have these contingency / surplus funds available it would have only been an increase of 6,8% year on year.</p> <p>The SARL, excluding SARL HAMNET showed an operating surplus of R20 511 against the budget surplus of a R3 500. The difference between the AFS surplus of R57 372 is directly attributed to expenditure of SARL HAMNET. Because SARL HAMNET is a division of the SARL, the League is legally required to report movements in the AFS. Any increase or decrease in the SARL HAMNET finances does not affect SARL members related finances in any way.</p> <p>The Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2024 and a summary of Income and Expenditure vs Budget for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 and the proposed budget for 2025/2026 is available either in the 2025 AGM Booklet or website that was made available to all members.</p>	
8.3	2025/2026 BUDGET	
8.4	As per AGM booklet council proposes to increase membership subscriptions by an average of 2,9% except for SADC Members that will now be the same as an ordinary member.	
8.5	Motion 2025-01. To receive the 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements.	

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8.5.1	Proposed by ZS6YI and seconded by ZS6SKY. Agree: 251. Disagree: 0 Abstain: 0.	
8.6	Motion 2025-02. To receive and ratify the proposed subscriptions for year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.	
8.6.1	Proposed by ZS6WN and seconded by ZS6RSW. The proposed subscription was accepted - Agree: 251. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	
8.7	Motion 2025-03. Receive the proposed budget for year ending 30 June 2026.	
8.7.1	Proposed by ZS6GUY and seconded by ZS6YZ. The budget was accepted - Agree: 251. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	
8.8	Motion 2025-04. Appointment of Beans Accounting Services as reviewers until the 2026 AGM	
8.8.1	Proposed by ZS1DFR and seconded by ZS6P. The proposal was approved - Agree: 251. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0. The SARL Secretary will submit a motion to the 2026 AGM to change the text of the Rules pertaining to the Auditors.	ZS4BS
9.	MOTIONS	
9.1	No motions were received by 31 January 2025.	
10.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL	
10.1	The following Councillors are in the middle of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2026 SARL AGM – Dave Higgs, ZS2DH; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR6K; Chris Turner, ZS6GM; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT and Dennis Green, ZS4BS. The following Councillors are at the end of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2025 SARL AGM - Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL; Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN; Guy Eales, ZS6GUY; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT.	
10.2	By 31 January 2025, nominations, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, were received for Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL; Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN; Guy Eales, ZS6GUY; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT. There are five vacancies and five nominations and in terms of Rule 16.5, such nominees shall be declared by the chairman of the relevant AGM to be duly elected.	
10.3	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL declared the five nominees duly elected.	
11.	OTHER MATTERS	
11.1	<u>The SARL Web Site.</u> ZS6GUY gives feedback on the cyber attack on the old SARL website and the way forward with the new site.	
11.2	<u>SA-QSL.</u> Dave, ZS2DH gives feedback on the new SA-QSL system on the mysarl site.	
11.3	<u>The Swop Shop.</u> Rassie, ZS1YT reports that he met with ZS1AI and discussed the use of the Swop Shop. A link has been placed on the SARL website taking members to https://www.ham-radio-swop-shop.co.za/ .	
11.4	<u>QSL Cards.</u> Gert, ZR6GRT reminded members to collect their QSL	

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	cards at the West Rand stand.	
11.5.	<u>Greetings.</u> Riaan, ZS4PR brings greetings from the Sasolburg ARC.	
11.6	<u>Thank you!</u> The Pretoria ARC is thanked for hosting the 2025 National Convention and the PARC-95 event.	
12.	THE 2026 SARL AGM	
12.1	No motion was received to host the 2026 SARL National Convention. Council will deal with the matter during the year.	
13.	CONCLUSION	
13.1	The meeting closed at 11:20 with a vote of thanks to Nico, ZS6QL. The vote of thanks was proposed by Chris, ZS6GM.	

Rule 13.1 Minutes of the proceedings at all general meetings of the League shall be kept by the League Secretary and shall be ratified by the Council not later than at its second meeting after the AGM or SGM and confirmed at the next general meeting of the League and shall be signed by the chairman of such meeting. A copy of the minutes shall be forwarded to the honorary legal advisor within sixty (60) days after such meeting. A synopsis of the minutes shall be circulated to the members in the first newsletter following the ratification.

Acceptance of the minutes.

Proposed: Jan Botha, ZS4JAN

Seconder: Donovan van Loggerenberg, ZS2DL

Date: 2 May 2026.