



The 129th Annual General Meeting
& 1358th Meeting of The Owl Club

Tuesday 19 March 2024

in the Grill Room at Kelvin Grove at 8pm, or as soon thereafter as possible

Agenda

A register of Owls present and of Owls from who tender apologies will be taken.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 21 MARCH 2023

- (a) The President will invite a proposal for the adoption of the minutes, originally distributed to Owls with the April 2023 Notice, and now attached.
- (b) The President will invite Owls to raise such matters arising from the minutes as they wish.

2. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR

- (a) The Secretary Bird will present the attached report on the activities of the Club for the year which includes a listing of Owls as on 1 January 2024 .
- (b) The President will invite a proposal for the adoption of the report for 2023/2024 and debate on the proposal.

3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

- (a) The Fiscal Shrike will present
 - the enclosed audited financial statements, as approved by the Committee. for the year ended 31 December 2023 and
 - his report.
- (b) The Chair will invite a proposal for the adoption of the audited annual financial statements and the Treasurer's report, and debate on the proposal.

4. ELECTION OF AN HONORARY AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2024

The Fiscal Shrike will propose the re-appointment of Mr Verwey Wiese of PwC as Honorary Auditor for 2024.

5. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

No notice of motion having been received, there will be no motions before the AGM.

6. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

The President will move the election of the Committee for 2024/2025 as follows no further nominations having been received.

The Constitution requires that at least one of those elected shall not have served on the committee during the previous year; there are three and their names are indicated by a #.

Owl Bruton not being eligible does not seek re-election. Owl Coetzee does not seek re-election as he will be domiciled elsewhere during 2024.

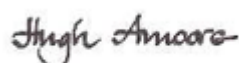
A	President	Ron Duff
B	Senior Vice-President	Mike James
C	Junior Vice-President	David Little
D	Secretary (aka <i>Secretary Bird</i>)	Hugh Amoore
E	Treasurer (aka <i>Fiscal Shrike</i>)	Richard Morris
F	Immediate past President (ex officio)	Geoffrey Ashmead
F	Seven additional members (the constitution requires at least 5 and not more than 7 additional members)	Nigel Gwynne-Evans, # Martin Hess Peter Hyslop; Paul Murray, # Kevin Rorke; # Anthea Serritslev Peter Sutherland. # new committee members

7. DEMISSION OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

- (a) The President will invite the President-elect to come forward for the investiture.
- (b) The President will present the President-Elect with the Presidential lapel pin and declare him President.
- (c) The new President will assume the chair; and will present Owl Ashmead with a lapel owl as a token of the Club's esteem and gratitude and marking his term as President in 2023/2024

8. In the event of there being no further competent business the President will close the AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a WPB to be filled by Owl David Muller



Hugh Amoore
Secretary Bird
29 February 2024

Enclosures Audited Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2023.

Annexures

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 March 2023. P 4 - 17
2. Secretary's Report for 2023/2024 P 8 - 15
3. Club Membership on 1 January 2024. P 15 - 18
4. Fiscal Shrike's report for the year P 19 - 20



Minutes of The 128th Annual General Meeting of the Owl Club
held on Tuesday 21 March 2023
in the Ball Room at Kelvin Grove at 8.25 pm.

Present:

Owls Bruton (in the chair), Amooore, Ashmead, Avery, Babb, Baigrie, Broom, Camerer, Coetzee (WF), Dietrich, Duff, Durnez, Ellenbogen, Everingham, Franks, Freeth, Green, Gregorowski, Grogan, Gwynne-Evans, Hess, Hyslop, James, Jechoutek, Kemp, Kinahan, Lastovica, Le Jeune, Lindhorst, Little, Martin, McCallum (K), Morris (R), Muller, Murray (AS), Nick, Nowitz, Osburn, Rorke, Sandler, Starke, Sutherland (P), Tordesillas (A), Ussher, Van der Linde, Van Niekerk, Veitch, and Webb.

Apologies:

Owls Borrie, Caldwell, Hanley, Hooper (ASC), Howie, Johnson, Leary, Lever, Michelmores, Millar, Rodseth, Salazar, Steyn, and Tarr.

Due notice having been given to all Owls and a quorum of Owls in good standing being present the President declared the annual general meeting duly constituted.

9. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 15 MARCH 2022

As the minutes of the AGM held on 15 March 2022 had been circulated in advance and were tabled at the meeting, the President called for a proposal for their adoption as an accurate record of the AGM held on 15 March 2022.

Owl James, seconded by Owl Baigrie, moved the adoption which the AGM agreed to, *nem con.*

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

10. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR

The Secretary presented the Committee's attached report on the activities of the Club for 2022/2023 which had been circulated to all Owls with the agenda papers. In doing so he drew attention to the importance, and existence, of a happy relationship with the Kelvin Grove Club, expressing the hope that 2023 might see the long-hoped for refurbishment of the Grill Room. He noted that the Club's membership, at 199, was for the first time for some time, below 200 and thus signalling the need to continue to recruit.

The President put the report for consideration by the AGM. There was no discussion.

Owl Sutherland proposed the adoption of the report. This was seconded by Owl Franks and approved *nem con.*

11. CONSIDERATION OF THE AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Fiscal Shrike presented the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 together with his report, both of which had been circulated to all Owls with the agenda papers.

He added his opinion that the financial position of the Club was sound.

There was no debate, after which, on a motion proposed by Owl Green and seconded by Owl Duff, the AGM adopted the Financial Statements and the report of the Fiscal Shrike.

12. ELECTION OF AN HONORARY AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2023

The Fiscal Shrike proposed, and the AGM resolved to approve

- (a) the appointment of Mr Verwey Wiese of PwC as Honorary Auditor for 2023; and that
- (b) the Secretary convey the thanks of the Club to PwC and Verwey Wiese for undertaking the audit, and for doing so for no consideration.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

A. **Dinner time:** The President, observing that some meetings had recently run rather later into the night than some Owls are comfortable with, but that few would wish to curtail them (indeed some, who remember meetings continuing into the early hours, believe that they have been unduly curtailed in recent years) floated the idea that dinners might be scheduled as 6pm for 6.45pm rather than at present 6 for 7pm. He invited Owls who might have a view on this to let the Committee know.

B. **Golden Owls:** The President asked the AGM to note that the following Owls had been members of the Club for 50 years or more.:

Richard Rosenthal (elected 1964)
Denis Davey (elected 1971)
John Earl (elected 1971)
Neil Veitch (elected 1971)
Max Hales (elected 1972)
Brian Warner (elected 1972)
Jimmy Baigrie (elected 1973)

C. **Honorary Life Members of the Club:** The President announced to general acclaim that the Committee had appointed the following Owls, each a former President, each a regular at our meetings, and each a person who had in his own way given important service to the Club: Owl Neil Veitch, Owl JP van Niekerk, and Owl G Babb as Honorary Life Members.

14. MOTION FOR DEBATE: ASSEMBLIES

The President vacated the chair for this item. The Senior Vice-President and President-Elect (Owl Ashmead) took the Chair. The President then moved that the Owl Club in General Meeting mandate the Committee to arrange periodic Assemblies as envisaged in the enclosed report. Owl Everingham seconded the motion.

In moving the motion, the President told the AGM that the intention was that the Owl Club, as one of its official functions, should organise informal events at which topical matters of the day are discussed and debated.

He suggested that these events would be held during week days at Kelvin Grove Club from 10 to 12 in the morning, followed by lunch, at each participant's discretion and expense, in the Terrace Restuarant. Broad ranging topics would be chosen so as to cater for the interests of all Owls. These Assemblies would be held about three times a year and would not interfere in any way with the regular monthly meetings. Owls would be free to bring guests, including partners, to the Assemblies. The discussion topics would be introduced at each Assembly by an expert speaker and the meetings would be conducted through a chairperson. The Assemblies would be self-funding with a small charge of R50 being made to each participant to cover a tea and coffee service.

He told the AGM that the Committee believed that Assemblies of this kind would support the traditions of the Owl Club by promoting debate and conversation and would also give Owls who, for one reason or another cannot attend the regular evening meetings, an opportunity to participate in the activities of the Club, and would add value to the Owl Club without diminishing the centrality of the regular monthly dinner meetings on the third Tuesday.

In seconding the motion Owl Everingham suggested that the scheme as outlined in the Committee's memorandum, should be seen as a framework, not cast in stone, but as the basis for procedures and details that would evolve.

Debate ensued.

Owl Camerer (with the support of Owl Baigrie) in supporting the idea proposed that the Committee find a better name; *assembly* suggested other things and she thought that given the activities proposed the meetings would be better described as *colloquia*.

Owl Murray drew the attention of the AGM to the fact that periodic gala nights, held when significant milestones were celebrated and after intervals of 50 meetings, had been and should continue to be important events to showcase the Club. It was now several years since the Club had held a gala night and he urged first that the Committee consider scheduling a gala night in the not-too-distant future and thereafter at regular intervals and second that were the Club to embark upon the proposed assembles this would not be at the expense of gala nights. His support for the motion was thus conditional.

Owl Broom, with the support of Owl Kemp, argued that were the Club to embark on this new programme, and thereby reach a broad audience, it should consider serving Owls - and others for whom such meetings would have interest - resident in parts other than the southern suburbs .

The President then replied to the debate, promising that the Committee would consider the suggestions that had been made by Owls Camerer, Murray, and Broom, after which the motion was put and adopted *nem con*.

Owl Ashmead then vacated the Chair which the President then took.

15. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

The President moved the election of the committee for 2023/2024 as set out below, no further nominations having been received, and noted that as required by the Constitution at least two of those proposed for election had not served on the committee during the previous year (indicated by # in the list below). He paid tribute to Owls Everingham and Green, who not being eligible had not offered themselves for election.

A	President	Owl Geoffrey Ashmead
B	Senior Vice-President	Owl Ron Duff
C	Junior Vice-President	Owl Bill Coetzee
D	Secretary (aka <i>Secretary Bird</i>)	Owl Hugh Amoore
E	Treasurer (aka <i>Fiscal Shrike</i>)	Owl Richard Morris
F	Immediate Past President (ex officio)	Owl Mike Bruton

G	Up to Seven additional members	Owls Peter Hyslop#, Nigel Gwynne-Evans, Peter Sutherland#, Mike James; David Little and Paul Murray.
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Denotes a member who was not a Committee member in 2022/2023.

16. DEMISSION OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The Owl President Bruton presented the Presidential lapel pin it to President-Elect Ashmead and declared him to be President of the Owl Club.

President Ashmead having assumed the chair presented Owl Bruton with his lapel owl as a token of the Club's esteem and gratitude marking his term as President in 2022/2023. He paid tribute to Owl Bruton who had led the Club with his customary energy and his enthusiasm for innovation..

There being no further competent business the President closed the AGM at 9.00pm.

Confirmed and signed at the meeting held on 2024

.....**President**

Hugh Amoore

Hugh Amoore
Secretary Bird
22 March 2023



The Owl Club

Report of the Secretary to the AGM, 19 March 2024

The Owl Club in 2023/2024

The year under review saw several highlights and innovations. No fewer than ten new Owls were elected, but total membership dropped, the average age continued to climb, and we failed to elect a more diverse membership to our Parliament. Meeting attendance was not consistent, and in total often augmented by bigger numbers of guests than hitherto has been the case, though usually adequate to ensure a good meeting. A gala dinner was held to mark the 1350th Meeting of the Club, a reminder of our longevity! All this despite the fact that meetings scintillated, so good were the talks, the music, and the WPBs.

The Committee has remained active.

And as our Fiscal Shrike has made clear in his understated manner, the state of the chest should give no Owl cause for concern!

Dinner meetings are the core elements of Owldom, with the standard ingredients of a good dinner, dinner-time conversation, and the meeting proper with an invited talk, a musical programme, and the filling of the WPB. Eleven meetings have been held as scheduled throughout another year such that we will finish the year with the 1458th Meeting of the Club. The year under review has seen innovations in support of these core activities: the first has been the occasional excursion following up a talk or WPB; the second, following acceptance of the idea at the 2023 AGM, have been focused colloquia on subjects of interest to Owls, and on which Owls have been able to contribute. More of these below.

Talks and WPBs

As Familiar Chat, Owl James has provided the Club with a range of excellent and a stimulating talks. As with the previous year several talks were enhanced by displays that added to our understanding and enjoyment of the speaker's subject. Some were enhanced by carefully selected projected images, though slide projection is never really successful in the Grill Room. Owls at induction pledge to bear their part among us and the WPBs filled by Owls this year have again entertained and enlightened Owls and guests alike.

Lists of talks given this year are to be found at Appendix A.

Appendix 'B' lists WPBs given over the past five years.

Music

The range and standard of music we enjoyed in 2022/2023 has been more than maintained this year. Owl David Little, as Chorister Robin, and thus responsible for the music programme, has used his knowledge of the local musical scene – and his familiarity with many of the performers- to gives us varied programmes performed by seasoned professionals, amateurs, and promising students. He, too, has performed for us, and it is a difficult question as whether to class him as an amateur or a professional!. Several recently elected Owls are performers, and we hope to hear them perform before too long!

The extent of the range of the music programme will be clear from the details given in Appendix C; the Owls who were privileged to be present at these meetings will be able to attest to the quality of the performances. This has been much enjoyed. Repeated, and indeed repetitive, standing ovations may have rendered this form, usually and appropriately rare, devoid of its meaning.

One of the Club's prized possessions, lovingly cared for by generations of Owls, was the Club's 1904 Bluthner grand piano, acquired in 1961 for £300. Sadly, by 2023 it was no longer fit for purpose, a fact brought home to us when a leading pianist who was asked after performing how she had enjoyed the piano replied evasively and then conceded that it was "clunky"!

The Chorister Robin was given the task of researching a solution. It became clear that the Bluthner's inadequacy for our purposes could at best be resolved by a major, expensive (and uncertain) rebuild. The alternative was to find a replacement instrument: so, a notional budget having been set – made possible by the bequest from the late Owl Geoffrey Wittenberg -- the subsequent search identified a 2008 Kawai RX-5H, at 200cm in length, a grand piano that qualifies as a recital level instrument or "conservatory grand" which would suit our use and venue ideally. Being only 15 years old it was in the first stage of its useful life. When the Chorister Robin heard it played his assessment was that it had a warm sonority, a great dynamic range, with a lively resonance in the treble register (which seems to be a particular benefit in chamber music), and with its 200cm length, an advantage in sonority over shorter instruments – the longer and thinner the strings and the bigger the soundboard, the greater the richness, complexity, and purity of the sound. This new piano is expected to afford the Owl Club five or six decades of artistically fulfilling pianistic service - if properly maintained - and will ensure that guest pianists (and piano playing Owls) enjoy playing the instrument, and that Owls have the best possible musical experience.

Colloquia

Owls will recall that the 2023 AGM gave a mandate to the Committee to arrange periodic Colloquia, as official Owl Club functions, at which topical matters of the day are discussed and debated. It was envisaged that these would be held about three times a year, would not interfere in any way with the regular monthly meetings, that Owls would be free to bring guests, including partners, and that the discussion topics would be introduced by an expert speaker. The Colloquia were to be self-funding.

Acting on this mandate, and with the energetic organisational skills of the Immediate Past President, two well-attended colloquia were held, the first on the subject of **The COVID Pandemic: A Balance Sheet of Impacts** and the second on **What is AI and how will it change our world**. These colloquia exceeded initial expectations and the topics were of the kind envisaged in the proposal put to the 2023 AGM.

Planning is at an early stage for the first colloquium of 2024. Owl Bruton has a mandate from the Committee to undertake this planning; it will be for incoming committee to assign responsibility for colloquia to an Owl or a subcommittee of more than one Owl.

Club Outings

Owls have been given the opportunity of an outing to follow on after talks where this has seemed appropriate. The first was to see the SAAF Museum at AFB Ysterplaat, following the talk given by Norman Larsen on its history; a second, followed Owl Morris' WPB and was a hike from the Upper Cable Station to Maclear's beacon. A further outing is planned to the studio of artist Johann Steyn, to follow his talk to the Club in September and it is hoped that this may take place in 2024.

Monthly Notices

Owl Ron Duff, as the Club's *Sociable Weaver*, has edited the monthly *Notices* since taking over from Owl Oliver Trevor in 2017. Indefatigable as ever, Owl Duff, has continued his well-tried formula giving Owls regular accounts of meetings. These record who said the grace (and what the grace was), what was served for us at dinner, any toasts and birthday notices, the gist, if not the actual text of the talk, notes on the music, and a record of the night's WPB, illustrated by cartoons (usually by Owl Grogan but from time to time by Owl Beckurts or Owl Hyslop) or photographs taken by the peripatetic Editor himself ! Owl Duff will take the Presidential Chair for 2024/2025 and the mantle will fall to Owl Hyslop who has served the past year as editor-in-waiting. He will bring his own style to the work.

Owls can be assured that the Notice will continue as a record of our meetings; it is sure to entertain.

Membership

This report is accompanied by the Club's membership on 1 January 2024. The roll stood at 189 This compares to the numbers since 2014 as set out below: While 44 new Owls have joined since 2020, in this period the Club has lost 65 members, a net loss over the period 2020 to date of 21, (or 45 in the last ten years)..

	Number of new Owls in prior year	Number of Owls at 1 Jan
Jan 2014	9	234
Jan 2020	6	210
Jan 2021	7	203
Jan 2022	7	202
Jan 2023	14	201
Jan 2024	10	189

In 2023

- 12 Owls had flown to higher perches (Owls P Beighton, DM Dent, M Hales, M Maas, A Storr Lister, J Rich, J Terblanche, B Warner, J Murray Wilson, and D Worrall, and retired Owls DA Davey, and Mike Cluver
- 13 resigned or failed to renew their membership (Ian Burgess Simpson, David Clegg, J Davey, T Emslie, G Finch, S Harper, D Hilton-Barber, M Levin, J Lister, T Makgoba, B Salsone, A van den Berg, NJ Van der Merwe)
- 10 new Owls had been elected: (Owls Baker, Beckurts, Broekman, Horn, S le Jeune, Rall, Raposo, Roos, Skelton, & Wannell)

We have had reasonable attendance at monthly dinners and meetings, but here again the figures in Appendix C show that fewer Owls have dined during 2023/2024 than did in the year pre covid19.

An analysis of attendance undertaken at the Committee's direction failed to show any patterns, but steps are to be taken to encourage Owls rarely sighted at meetings to resume their perches.

Club Finances

Each year at the AGM the Fiscal Shrike in his inimitable style describes the Club's financial position as *sound*. He has done so again, and for good reason, though this is perhaps an understatement. The improved position of the Club shown in the audited Annual Financial Statements is a result of the Fiscal Shrike's close attention to costs, to the performance of investments he so astutely manages, and the Wittenberg bequest.

The income from the Club's invested funds and the net income from the regular sweeps ensure that the dinner fee has not increased; it is less than the Kelvin charge and the dinner subsidy covers the balance as well as the dinner costs of the Club's guests, wine at dinner, honoraria paid to visiting musicians, and Kelvin service charges.

The Moulting Fund

I again remind Owls of the ***Moulting Fund***. Contributions to this Fund have continued and made it possible for the Fiscal Shrike to subvent membership and/or dinner fees for a small number of Owls otherwise unable to afford to continue enjoying the Club's fellowship. Owls are invited to approach the Fiscal Shrike or the Secretary Bird, should they know of an Owl who might need to be supported from the Moulting Fund, and may be assured that such matters will be handled with the necessary discretion.

Club possessions and Club records

The Club possessions are listed in our asset register; all assets have been found and confirmed as in good order. During the year, the Committee has acquired an additional handheld wireless microphone, which has ensured that speakers have been audible.

Special Toasts

Each year, at the appropriate meeting

- (a) The Immediate Past President pays tribute to Owls who have flown to higher perches, proposing the toast *to departed Owls*. In 2023 this was the privilege of Owl Richard Morris..
- (b) An Owl, invited to do this by the Committee, reminds us of the debt we owe to our founders and benefactors, proposing the toast to *Our Founders, Alfred Holtzer, Arnold Matthews, and the Club's benefactors*. In 2023 Owl Glenn Babb proposed this toast.

- (c) An Owl attending the Christmas meeting proposes the toast to absent Owls, unable for one reason or another to join the celebrations that by custom characterise the December meeting. In 2023 Owl Ian Glass proposed this toast.

At the September meeting special toasts were proposed

- (i) By Owl Little – an epitaph - to the memory of the Club’s much cherished Bluthner grand piano, built more than a century before, in Leipzig in 1904 , which had served the Club for over sixty years, consigned to an auction house; and
- (ii) By the Owl President – a welcoming encomium – to the Club’s new Kawai Grand piano, acquired at significant cost, made possible by the recent benefaction to the Club.

Kelvin

Kelvin has again served the Club well.

Kelvin allows the Club a permanent display at the entrance to the Grill Room; this had become outdated, and the Club must thank Owl Tony Murray for bringing this up to date, and doing so in a way that annual changes will be easy.

Kelvin has for some years envisaged, and did hold out the prospect, of a refurbishment of the Grill Room. Despite repeated representations for interim relief, there has been none, and there is no indication that the long-hoped-for refurbishment is imminent. Yet again we have to report that Kelvin’s capital budget limitations have yet to prioritise this work.

The Club’s website and domain

Owls Bill Coetzee and Kevin Rorke have attended to the long-needed revamp of the Club’s website, now to be found at www.owls.org.za. The website now has an updated public page and much more on the members section, though the work of populating this continues.

At the same time, we closed the domain @owls.capetown

Archives

A start has been made to sort the recent Club records held in the store at Kelvin. Once this has been done the next step will be to ensure that recent records (copies of the *Notice*, AGM papers etc) are placed on the members section of the website. At the right time consideration will be given to digitising the paper archive, currently stored in the National Archives and in the UCT Special Collections Archive, and to transferring paper records older than five years currently held in the Kelvin store to the National Archives or UCT Special Collections archive.

The Committee

The Committee has as required, met monthly, other than in December. Committee meetings have been chaired by the President and a record of attendance is to be found at Appendix D.

As Owls know, the Club chooses a President, a Senior Vice-President, a Junior Vice-President, a Fiscal Shrike, and a Secretary Bird, who, with the Immediate Past President, constitute the office bearers, and they in turn, with up to seven others elected by the AGM and such as may be co-opted, constitute the Committee. The Committee in turn assigns duties to its members, so that:

- One, dubbed the *Sociable Weaver*, takes responsibility for editing the Notice.
- Another, styled *the Familiar Chat*, invites people to give talks and cajoles Owls to fill the WPB.
- A third, *the Chorister Robin*, arranges the music at our meetings.
- A Fourth is the Club’s *Webmaster*. and
- Lest we run dry, an Owl has the onerous responsibility of being the Club’s Cellar Master!

Owl Bruton retires in terms of the rules at the AGM. Owl Bill Coetzee who will find himself in a different continent, at least for 2024, has as a result declined to offer himself for re-election All other committee members are eligible for re-election and have agreed to offer themselves for re-election. The constitution requires that we elect at least one Owl who

has not previously served onto the committee; in 2024 we will need to elect at least two. The Committee has been giving attention to the need to plan for succession especially in regard to the offices filled by Owls; in 2024 the AGM must choose a new Junior VP (given Owl Coetzee's unavailability) and should note that the Fiscal Shrike, if re-elected, will be serving in this role for the 10th year while the Secretary Bird, similarly, will be doing duty for the 7th year (short tenures when compared to such predecessors as Alfred Holtzer and Arnold Matthews!).

Hugh Amoore

.Hugh Amoore
Secretary Bird
29 February 2024

Appendix A: Talks, and WPBs in 2022/2023

Date	Guest speakers and titles of talks
March 2023	AGM
April 2023	Vince van der Bijl <i>'Masi Sports'</i>
May 2023	Patrick Woudt <i>The impact of the James Webb Space Telescope</i>
June 2023	Norman Larsen, <i>The History of the SAAF Museum Ysterplaat</i>
July 2023	Brendan and Danelle Murray of Owl Rescue on <i>Giving a boot about owls and wildlife</i>
August 2023	Mark Solms, <i>The brain and consciousness</i>
Sept 2023	Johan Steyn, <i>My life in sculpture</i>
October 2023	Jim Adams, <i>Spinoffs; How space exploration makes life better on Earth</i>
Nov 2023	John Compton <i>Life After People: Examples from the Ghost Towns of coastal Namibia</i>
Dec 2023	no guest speaker
January 2023	No meeting
Feb 2024	Glynis Humphrey, <i>Fire</i>

Appendix B: WPBs 2021 to 2023

Month	WPBs in 2021/2022	WPBs in 2022/2023	WPBs in 2023/2024
March (AGM)	Owl Mike James <i>'Macbeth and Richard III – Political Pawns in Shakespeare's Dramas'</i>	Glenn Babb <i>Humour and cruelty with special reference to Lewis Carroll, Peter Sellers, and Herman Charles Bosman</i>	Seven mini-WPBs based upon <i>'What Owls Collect'</i> by Owls Hugh Amoore, Mike Bruton, Tony Grogan, Al Lastovica, Roger Stewart, Angel Tordesillas, and John Webb
April	None (postponed as the meeting ran over time)	Sheila Camerer <i>Being an ambassador in Bulgaria – Facing the Russian Bear</i>	Owl Kate McCallum <i>'The search for Thomas Bain's sketchbook of rock paintings'</i>
May	Owl Mike Bruton <i>'Curator and Crusader: The Life of a Pioneering Museum Director'</i>	Owl Tony Hooper <i>'Win in Washington'</i>	Owl Richard Morris <i>'The Spirit Of The Mountain : Jan Christian Smuts'</i>
June	Owl Peter Hyslop <i>'The Bishops Epic'</i>	Owl Geoff Everingham <i>'Cabbages and kings'</i>	Paul Murray <i>Colenso and the Owls</i>
July	Owl John van der Linde <i>'A Twist on Oliver Twiss'</i>	Owl Nigel Gwynne Evans <i>The Annual Hermanus Camp</i>	Joe Tyrrell <i>Make love, not war! A social History of the nitrates</i>
August	Owl John Freeth <i>'Across the Top of the World'</i>	Owl Frank Raimondo <i>'Challenges of managing a private coastal reserve'</i>	Owl Mike Bruton <i>'What was the impact of Charles Darwin's visit to the Cape of Good Hope in 1836?'</i>
September	Owl Nick Ellenbogen in conversation: <i>Memories of the Duke</i>	Owl Dirk Durnez <i>'Art as an agent of change' (with display)</i>	Owl Jimmy Baigrie <i>"... and worthily uphold the honour of Owldom": Hooting in the dark for two score years and ten'</i>
October	Owl Paul Mills <i>The perils of being published</i>	Owl Roger Stewart <i>'Would William Burchell have made a good Owl?'</i>	Owl 'Doc' Caldwell <i>Thoughts on Herman Charles Malan Bosman – my father's cousin</i>
November	Owl Clive Keegan <i>'An Irishman in Africa'</i>	Owl Stan Sandler <i>Aristotle and Secular Humanism as a Religion</i>	Owl JP van Niekerk <i>'Major medical mishaps, quacks and frauds'</i>

December	none	Owl Ron Duff <i>'Is public speaking feared more than death itself?'</i>	None
February	Owl Paul Murray <i>'Chalkis and other Owl Club memorabilia' (with display)</i>	Owl Norton Tennille <i>Achilles and Odysseus, Heroes or Zeroes?</i>	Owl John Hund

Appendix C: Music at meetings 2023/2024

March	AGM
April	The Kirby Quartet, Classical String Quartet
May	Peter Martens & Elna van der Merwe (Piano & cello duo) works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Hendrik Hofmeyr.
June	Matthew Reid's group Playing with fire (Matthew Reid (alto saxophone) Joe Bolton (tuba), Keith Tabisher (guitar), Angus Warden (drums) and Andre van Vuuren (accordion), Balkan Music
July	The Cape Consort – Antoinette, Hans Huyssen, and Grant Bräsler; early Italian Baroque music for soprano, cello and harpsichord.
August	Three UCT Opera School students (Lauren Pharao, Ondelwa Martins, and 'Sakhi' Martins) accompanied by Samantha Riedel 'An evening at the Opera
September:	Simon Bell, Liezl Jobson, Owl David Little & Willem Luiting 'Musical memories of the late Owl John Juritz'
October	Nerina von Mayer, Pam Wijmberg & Albie van Schalkwyk 'Trio: 'Viviamo per l'Arte'' presented a programme including works by Bach, Ravel, Debussy, Bizet, and Clarke
November	Sipho Fubesi & the Mzansi Tenors male vocal choir (Sipho Fubesi (founder), Dumisa Masoka, Sakhi Martins, and Vuyisa Xipo) The Mzansi Tenors in concert'
December	Performing Owls
January	No meeting
February 2023	Len Worthington Smith, Luicia Scott, Jessica Scott, Karen Gaertner, and Remi Ludick <i>Mozart String quartet No1 and the Mozart Horn Quintet</i>
March 2023	AGM

Appendix D: Attendance at dinners March 2019 to February 2024 & Owls saying grace

Month	2019#	2021#	2022#	Meeti ng no in 2023/ 2024	2023/2024 Members + guests	Grace 2023/2024
March	63	43	46	1347	53+1= 54	Owl Norman Osburn
April	63	53	73	1348	58 +12=70	Owl Nigel Franks
May	61	54	57	1349	54+13=67	Owl Stan Sandler
June	63	51	49	1350	61+15=76	Owl Sheila Camerer
July	60	46	71	1351	53+10+63	Owl Noel Veitch
August	79	34	54	1352	58+12=70	Owl John Green
September	70	67	58	1353	38+14=52	Owl Andrew Girdwood
October	59	76	64	1354	65+8=73	Owl Nigel Gwynne Evans
November	75	53	62	1355	63+20=83	Owl Peter Underwood
December	56	35	49	1356	52+3=55	Owl Christopher Gregorowski
February (y+1)	85	60	96	1357	60 +19	Owl Colin Sutherland
Total	734	572	679	-	609+124=733	
Average	66.7	52	61.7	-	55+11=66	

These numbers include post prandial Owls and guests..

Appendix E: 2021/2022 Committee Membership and attendance

The Committee met eleven times.

Office bearers	Owl	Office	Meetings attended
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	Ashmead, Geoffrey	<i>President</i>	11
	Duff, Ron	<i>Senior VP & Sociable Weaver</i>	11
	Coetzee, Bill	<i>Junior VP</i>	8
	Morris, Richard	<i>Fiscal Sbrike</i>	10
	Bruton, Mike	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	11
	Amoore, Hugh	<i>Secretary Bird</i>	11
Additional Members			
	Gwynne-Evans, Nigel		6
	Hyslop, Peter		1 -see note-
	James, Mike	<i>Familiar Chat</i>	8
	Little, David	<i>Chorister Robin</i>	4
	Murray, Paul	<i>Archivist</i>	8
	Sutherland, Pete	<i>Cellar master</i>	8

Note: Owl Hyslop indicated on election that his existing commitments for 2023/2024 would preclude committee attendance; he nonetheless was elected as Sociable Weaver-in-waiting,

Treasurer

☎ 083 272 0500



Secretary

secretary@owls.org.za

☎ 082 440 8204

THE OWL CLUB

LIST OF OWLS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2024

with year of election and qualifications

Legend

(A) Art	(D) Drama	(L) Literature	(M) Music	(S) Science
◦ Past President	P President			

Honorary Life Members

1977	Grogan, Tony (A)	1989 ◦	Van Niekerk, JP (S)
1980 ◦	Steyn, Owl Peter (L)	2008	Tarr, Grant (S)
1982 ◦	Hooper, Tony (D / L)	1991 ◦	Babb, Glenn (L)
2002 ◦	Murray, Tony (D / S)	1988 ◦	Frew, Alex (S)
2005 ◦	Van der Linde, John (S)	1999 ◦	Martin, Duncan (M / S)
2005 ◦	Trevor, Oliver (L / S)	1971 ◦	Veitch, Owl Neil (M)

Ordinary Members

2019	Allen, Dean (L)	2000	Bruce, Nigel (L)
1990	Amoore, Hugh (L)	1996 ◦	Bruton, Mike (S)
2016	Anderson, Alex (S)	2010	Bryer, Keith (L)
2005 P	Ashmead, Geoffrey (L)	2016	Caldwell, Doc (D / L)
2019	Avery, Graham (S)	2021	Camerer, Sheila (L)
1973 ◦	Baigrie, Jimmy (L)	2004	Cerling, Thure (S)
2023	Baker, Michael (S)	2005	Chandler, Clive (L)
1996	Banks, Roy (M)	2015	Cherry, Mike (S)
2023	Beckurts, Michael (A)	2022	Clark Brown, Gabriel (A / L)
2010	Beets, Henk (S)	1990	Clayton, Rod (L)
2022	Bernstein, Mariette (A / M)	2002	Cleary, Seán (L)
1997	Bicket, Nick (D / M)	2000	Cleaver, Roger (L / M)
2010	Blyth, Bob (S)	2008	Coetzee, Edward (M / S)
2014	Boniface, Tony (S)	2021	Coetzee, Bill (D / S)
2020	Borrie, Mark (L)	2014	Cottrell, Rodney (A)
2013	Bourne, Peter (L)	2003	Cowling, Rob (S)
2022	Brand, Rudolph (A / D / M)	2013	Crook, Roger (S)
2022	Bridgman, David (A / S)	2013	Davies, Geoff (L)
2023	Broekmann, Steve (L / M)	1993	de Kock, Brian (D / L)
2013	Broom, Mike (S)	2021	De Wet, Leon (A / M / S)
2010	Brossy, Martin (S)	2010	Dietrich, Bruce (S)

2016	du Toit, Mike (S)	2016	Lawrence, Jeremy (L)
2011	Duff, Ron (A)	2001	Le Jeune, Denis (L)
2020	Durnez, Dirk (A)	2023	Le Jeune, Stefan (S)
1971	Earl, David (M)	2011	le Roux, Rudi (D / M)
2011	Earle, John (S)	1979 °	Leary, Mick (S)
2019	Ellenbogen, Nick (D)	2008	Leatt, Jim (L)
2004	Ellis, George (S)	2022	Leisegang, Derek (M)
2011 °	Everingham, Geoff (S)	2016	Lever, Peter (M)
2020	Fabry, Luc (L)	2007	Lindhorst, Alan (L)
1981	Farlam, Ian (L)	2018	Little, David (M / S)
2010	Foster, Kevin (L)	2013	Llewellyn, Richard (S)
2007	Fourie, Herman (M)	2010	Lumb, Rob (L)
2011	Franks, Nigel (A)	2022	MacHutchon, Keith (S)
2020	Freeth, John (M / S)	2001	MacKellar, Robin (S)
2012	Gerber, Lewis (L)	2008	Mall, Anwar (S)
2012	Gilchrist, Peter (D)	2016	Manning, John (S)
2012	Gilmore, Rory (S)	2022	Mather, Roxane (S)
2016	Girdwood, Andrew (S)	2018	McCallum, Ian (L)
2004	Glass, Ian (M / S)	2021	McCallum, Kate (L)
1998	Grant, David (M)	2005	McClure, Doug (L / S)
2003	Greaves, Duncan (L / S)	2011	McLean, Leigh (D)
2010	Green, John (S)	2019	Michelmores, Gavin (M)
2017	Gregorowski, Christopher (L)	2013	Millar, Alastair (S)
2013	Gwynne-Evans, Nigel (L / M)	1991	Mills, Paul (L)
2022	Hanley, James (L / M)	2003	Miszewski, Macio (A)
1990	Harley, Eric (S)	2015	Morris, Neville (S)
2017	Haw, Rick (S)	2000 °	Morris, Richard (L / S)
2016	Head, Vernon (A / L / S)	2020	Muller, David (D)
2020	Herrick, John-Willard (D / S)	1998	Murray, Paul (L)
2022	Hess, Martin (S)	1994	Ncayiyana, Dan (L / S)
1990	Hiddema, Erwin (M)	2021	Nick, Dennis (L)
2005	Hooper, Norman (L / S)	2009	Nicoll, Justin (A / M)
2023	Horn, Jonathan (S)	2021	Nowitz, Mark (L)
1988	Howie, Craig (L)	2015	Ongers, Grant (S)
2004	Hoy, Geoff (S)	2007 °	Osburn, Norman (A / L)
2011	Hund, John (L / M)	2006	Pendleton, Wade (S)
1998	Hunt, Keith (L)	2002	Pitt, Doug (L / M)
2002	Hyslop, Peter (A)	2001	Price, James (L / M)
2018	Jacobs, Louis (S)	2021	Raimondo, Frank (S)
2005	James, Mike (L / S)	2023	Rall, Medee (L)
2006	Jechoutek, Karl (S)	2023	Raposo, Teresa (A)
1975	Johnson, Michael (L)	1998	Reddy, Daya (L / S)
2013	Jones, Llew (S)	2022	Reed, Dallas (A)
2018	Kemp, Mr Dirk (L)	2018	Robertson, Brian (L / S)
1995	Kent, Athol (S)	2018	Robertson, Dugald (L)
1986 °	Kinahan, Owen (L)	1980 °	Rodseth, Chris (S)
2022	King, Sean (M)	2023	Roos, John (S)
2007	Lastovica, Al (S)	1994	Rorke, Kevin (M)
2015	Lavin, Dominic (A / D)	2016	Roseman, Ralph (S)

1980	Rosenthal, Gerald (S)	2015	Sutherland, Ian (L / S)
1964	Rosenthal, Richard (L / M)	2011	Sutherland, Peter (L / S)
1988	Rourke, John (S)	2019	Swanson, Archie (L)
2019	Ryan, Gavan (A)	2022	Tennille, Norton (L)
2010	Salazar, Philippe (L)	1990	Tordesillas, Angel (L)
2020	Sandler, Stan (L)	2006	Tordesillas, Miguel Angel (S)
2016	Scott, Douglas (L / M)	2017	Tuft, Richard (S)
2022	Serritslev, Anthea (A / M)	2011 °	Tyrrell, Joe (S)
2016	Shabala, Alex (S)	1994 °	Underwood, Peter (L / M)
2013	Shand, Mike (S)	2016	Ussher, Christopher (S)
2023	Skelton, Robert (S)	2012	Van Heerden, Hans (S)
2005	Smuts, Norman (A / S)	1985	Vaughan, Kit (S)
2010	Soltynski, Maciej (S)	2008	Veldhuizen, P-J (L)
2015	Starke, Nick (S)	2023	Wannell, Julian (M)
2018	Steer, John (S)	2010 °	Webb, John (S)
2017	Stewart, Roger (S)	1986	Weir, Alastair (L)
2022	Strandvik, Ulrik (D / L)	2003	Willcox, Paul (S)
2016	Strang, Craig (L / M)	1995	Woods, Ian (S)
2017	Sutherland, Colin (S)		

Numbers Of Owls By Category And Residence

HON. LIFE	ORDINARY	TOTAL
12	177	189

Numbers Of Owls In Various Age Groups

<40	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	≥ 90
7	0	4	6	13	9	17	26	38	48	18	3
4,2%	2,1%		10,0%		13,7%		33,7%		34,7%		1,6%

Numbers Of Qualifications Nominated By Owls

ART	DRAMA	LITERATURE	MUSIC	SCIENCE
22	15	74	35	93

Owls Listed by Year of Election

1964 Rosenthal R 1	1971 Earl Veitch 2	1973 Baigrie 1	1975 Johnson 1	1977 Grogan 1	1979 Leary 1	1980 Rodseth Rosenthal G Steyn 3	1981 Farlam 1
1982 Hooper A 1	1985 Vaughan 1	1986 Kinahan Weir 2	1988 Frew Howie Rourke 3	1989 Van Niekerk 1	1990 Amoore Clayton Harley Hiddema Tordesillas A 5	1991 Babb Mills 2	1993 De Kock 1
1994 Ncayiyana Rorke Underwood 3	1995 Kent Woods 2	1996 Banks Bruton 2	1997 Bicket 1	1998 Grant Hunt Murray P Reddy 4	1999 Martin 1	2000 Bruce Cleaver Morris R 3	2001 Le Jeune D MacKellar Price 3
2002 Cleary Hyslop Murray A Pitt 4	2003 Cowling Greaves Miszewski Willcox 4	2004 Cerling Ellis Glass Hoy 4	2005 Ashmead Chandler Hooper N James McClure Smuts Trevor Van der Linde 8	2006 Jechoutek Pendleton Tordesillas M 3	2007 Fourie Lastovica Lindhorst Osburn 4	2008 Coetzee E Leatt Mall Tarr Veldhuizen 5	2009 Nicoll 1
2010 Beets Blyth Brossy Bryer Dietrich Foster Green Lumb Salazar Soltynski Webb 11	2011 Duff Earle Everingham Franks Hund le Roux McLean Sutherland P Tyrrell 9	2012 Gerber Gilchrist Gilmore Van Heerden 4	2013 Bourne Broom Crook Davies Gwynne-Evans Jones Llewellyn Millar Shand 9	2014 Boniface Cottrell 2	2015 Cherry Lavin Morris N Ongers Starke Sutherland I 6	2016 Anderson Caldwell du Toit Girdwood Head Lawrence Lever Manning Roseman Scott Shabala Strang Ussher 13	2017 Gregorowski Haw Stewart Sutherland C Tuft 5
2018 Jacobs Kemp Little McCallum I Robertson D Robertson B Steer 7	2019 Allen Avery Ellenbogen Michelmores Ryan Swanson 6	2020 Borrie Durnez Fabry Freeth Herrick Muller Sandler 7	2021 Camerer Coetzee W De Wet McCallum K Nick Nowitz Raimondo 7	2022 Bernstein Brand Bridgman Clark Brown Hanley Hess King Leisegang MacHutchon Mather Reed Serritslev Strandvik Tennille 14	2023 Baker Beckurts Broekmann Horn Le Jeune S Rall Raposo Roos Skelton R Wannell 10	2024 0	2025 0



REPORT OF THE FISCAL SHRIKE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Fellow Owls

The audited Annual Financial Statements are attached.

RESULTS

The financial results for year reflect a net surplus of R536,000. This arises from the substantial, long anticipated and most generous bequest of R500,000 from the late Owl Geoffrey Wittenberg, realised investment gains of R15,000 and an operating surplus of R21,000. This compares to a net surplus of R18,000 for the prior year arising from realised gains of R28,000 reduced by an operating deficit of R2,000 and R8,000 net usage of the moulting fund.

Dinners

There was a surplus of R32,000 on dinners compared to a deficit of R13,000 in the prior year. The significant improvement in this result is due to the dinner price being increased from R290 to R320 from January 2023 and the notional grossing up of the dinner proceeds to reflect honoraria provided in the form of free dinners as explained in the administration commentary below. Music and incidental meeting costs increased to R53,000 compared to R48,000 for the 2022 year as the Chorister Robin continued to engage top drawer musicians.

Administration

There was a deficit of R11,000 on administration compared to a surplus of R11,000 for the prior year. This swing was mainly due to a decision of the committee to reflect the cost of free dinners provided to certain committee members and Owl Tony Grogan as honoraria with the dinner proceeds grossed up by the equal and opposite amount of R14,000. Otherwise, costs were in line with those of the prior year and within budget.

Support for the Club Sweep, the Moulting Fund and Ons Plek

Many owls volunteered contributions to the Club Sweep R18,000 and the Moulting Fund R4,000. Individual owl philanthropy in December raised R7,600 that was duly passed on, in 2023, to Ons Plek, the charity focussed on uplifting girl street children. The club and the charity we chose to support highly appreciate this spirit of generosity.

Capital inflows and realised investment gains

The bequest of R500,000 from the Estate of the late Owl Geoffrey Wittenberg was received on 3 May 2023. These funds enabled the acquisition of a second-hand Kawai grand piano at a cost of R350,000 in September 2023. This replaced the former Bluthner grand piano that had been bought in 1960. The Bluthner was disposed of by auction and realised net proceeds of R22,000. The balance of the funds from the Wittenberg bequest are invested in the Coronation Strategic Income Fund and the Coronation Resources Fund and the additional income that will flow from this will assist to subsidise meeting costs.

In December 2023 an investment gain of R11,000 was realised on a switch of R25,000 from the Coronation Capital Plus Fund to the Coronation Industrial Fund. A gain of R4,000 was recognised in August 2023 on transfer of the balance of R84,000 on the Coronation Money Market Fund to the Coronation Resources Fund.

BALANCE SHEET

At 31 December 2023 the total unrealised investment gains amounted to R1,086,000 compared with R644,000 at the prior year end. The unrealised gains are not reflected on balance sheet as the investments are carried at cost rather than at market value.

During the year the club acquired a further handheld wireless microphone and receiver for use with the sound system, at a cost of R7,000.

OUTLOOK FOR 2024

The annual subscription for 2024 is R360. This is unchanged from that of 2023 despite ongoing inflation both locally and globally.

The 2023 Owl dinner price of R320 continues but may require to be increased during 2024 as and when Kelvin increases food costs billed to the club and because the club's wine costs are likewise increasing.

The main subsidy available for set off against dinner costs continues to be the investment income that is distributed from the club's collective investments with Coronation. These investments have accumulated over the years from bequests and donations from benefactors of the club such as, the late Owl Michael Fisher and more recently the late Owls Taffy Lloyd, Michael Keall and Geoffrey Wittenberg.

When settling their annual subscriptions, many Owls volunteer generous purchases of tickets for the Club Sweep quarterly draw. It is hoped that this support will once again be available to defray dinner, wine, music, and other incidental meeting costs.

The club continues in a sound financial position.

APPRECIATION

I am most grateful for the continued support of:

- The Secretary Bird for advance advice of dinner attendance details and refinements thereto.
- Committee members
- Owl club members who settle their subscriptions and dinner dues promptly by EFT
- Verwey Wiese and PricewaterhouseCoopers as the annual audit is on an honorary basis.

Richard Morris

Fiscal Shrike

4 January 2024