

**MINE METALLURGICAL MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**COUNCIL : 2004/2005**

**President**

N G C Blackham  
De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd

**Senior Vice-President**

J J Watt  
Harmony G M Co Ltd  
(until July 2005)

K McMillan  
Anglo Operations Ltd – SACE  
(from July 2005)

**Junior Vice-President**

C Pearson (Ms)  
Impala Platinum Ltd  
(from July 2005)

**Immediate Past President**

S R Flatman  
Anglogold Ashanti Ltd – ERGO

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2005)**

G J Jonck  
Kumba Coal

J E Wepener  
Impala Platinum Ltd

**Elected Members (until 31 August 2006)**

R Ishwar

New Venture Mining

G Jones  
Lonmin Platinum

**District Representatives**

**Central District**

P van As  
Harmony G M Co Ltd – Randfontein Operations

**Eastern District**

E A Dhlamini  
Anglo Operations Ltd – Kleinkopje Colliery

**Northern District**

M F P Carlisle  
Atok Platinum Mine

**Rustenburg District**

A M Delaney  
Bafokeng Rasimone Mine

**Southern District**

G A Cormack  
Kloof G M Co Ltd

**Co-opted**

C A Roode  
Metenco

M M Valenta  
Hatch Africa

**Secretary**

M Mason

**Offices**

Chamber of Mines of South Africa

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2005**

Presented to members of the Association on the occasion of the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting held at the SA Coal Estates Recreation Club, on Friday, 28 October 2005.

### **FINANCE**

#### **Financial Statements**

The financial statement appended to this report shows that revenue for the year amounted to **R 278 415**, made up of subscriptions received from members during the year, interest earned from funds deposited with the Chamber of Mines Investment Services and revenue earned on the sale of Association memorabilia, plus the surplus arising from the seminars and social events held during the year under review.

Expenditure amounted to **R 298 379**. Accumulated funds at the beginning of the financial year amounted to **R 346 260**. and, with the transfer of the current year's net surplus, an amount of **R 326 302** will be carried forward to the new financial year.

#### **Subscriptions**

In terms of the powers vested in it by the Association's Constitution and Rules, Council fixed subscriptions for the year under review at **R 505** for Ordinary Members, **R 475** for Associate and Affiliate Members, **R 70** for Student Members and **R 65** for Retired Members.

Council's decision to increase membership fees in line with inflation was taken in order to maintain the Association's strong financial base. Council also took the decision to increase the annual fee to include attendance at General Meetings, as this was thought to be a more equitable way of distributing such costs. However, attendance at seminars will continue to be invoiced as a separate item.

A major cause of concern in recent years has been that of subscription collection, which has become an extremely slow and onerous process. The Association relies on this income for its monthly operating costs and members are requested to assist in this process by personally ensuring their subscription has been paid, and also by informing the Secretariat of any change of address.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Association as at 31 August 2005 was **504** (535) members, made up of **119** (122) Ordinary Members, **76** (83) Associate Members, **283** (299) Affiliate Members, **1** (4) Student Member, **14** (17) Retired Members and **11** (10) Honorary Life Members. This represents a net decrease of **31** members.

This small decrease in figures is a cause of slight concern to Council, as a strong membership base ensures the success and long-term survival of the Association. Therefore Council urges all members to assist in its endeavours in identifying and recruiting prospective new members.

## **CONSTITUTION AND RULES : COUNCIL SERVICE**

Members may have noted over recent years the difficulties encountered with the office-bearing positions on Council, which can mostly be attributed to the constant movement of personnel within the mining industry. Council debated this problem at length and agreed that the solution to this would be to change the Constitution to cater for a Senior and Junior Vice-President, as it was thought that this would ensure continuity and an eventual natural succession to the position of President.

This amendment was adopted unanimously at a Special General meeting of Ordinary members on 27 May 2005.

## **SAFETY**

Your Council is proud of its pro-active policy of “Safety First” and, with its many safety interventions, believes that the Association makes a valuable contribution to continued safety awareness in the metallurgical mining industry.

### **Safety Flashes**

As part of Council’s proactive approach informatory, “Safety Flashes” are regularly circulated to members. These are compiled from incident reports given at the monthly Council meetings.

### **Chemical and Allied Industries Association**

Your Association maintains close links with this forum and continues to receive reports of meetings. Any safety items of particular interest are subsequently disseminated to the membership at various Association meetings.

## **Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee**

Council would like to thank the Chamber for making documents emanating from this Committee available to Council as, in this way, it can keep abreast of developments in the area of Health and Safety in the Mining Industry and take up any issues of concern with individual Mining Groups.

Your Association was represented at the First Health and Safety Summit, convened by the Chamber of Mines during June 2005, and at which Safety and Occupational Health Milestones and Targets were set.

## **Safety Competition for Plants**

It is well over 10 years since the inception of this annual competition in 1994 and, although the adjudication criteria has recently been changed, this has not affected the popularity of this competition.

The Safety Sub-Committee of Council has evaluated the entries, the measurement period being July 2004 to June 2005, and the awards will be made at the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting.

The 2004 Safety Awards were awarded to:

### ***Category 1 - + 150 tpm***

Bank Colliery - 2 Seam Plant

### ***Runners-up***

Anglogold Ashanti - West Wits Tailings and Land Management

Anglogold Ashanti– Nologwa Gold Plant

Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River South Metallurgy - South Uranium Plant

Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River North Metallurgy – West Acid, Float and Uranium

Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River North Metallurgy – West Gold Plant

Anglogold Ashanti – Ergo Operations CIL

Anglogold Ashanti – Ergo Operations Flotation

Aquarius Platinum – Minopex Kroondal

Bafokeng Rasimone Process Plant

Crown Gold Recoveries – Crown Plant

De Beers Namaqualand Mines – AK3 Plant

Elandsrand Gold Plant

Greenside Colliery – 4 Seam Plant  
 Greenside Colliery – 5 Seam Plant  
 Goedehoop Colliery – Goedehoop Plant  
 Impala Platinum – Merensky Plant  
 Impala Platinum – MF2 Plant  
 Impala Platinum – UG2 Plant  
 Karee Mine – UG2 Plant  
 Karee Mine – Mix Plant  
 Landau Colliery – Navigation Wash Plant  
 Namakwa Sands – PCP West  
 New Vaal Colliery – New Vaal Processing Plant  
 RPM Amandelbult – Merensky  
 RPM Rustenburg – Waterval UG2 Concentrator  
 RPM Rustenburg – Waterval Merensky Concentrator  
 RPM Rustenburg – Frank Concentrator  
 Western Platinum – Rowland Concentrator

***Category 2 - - 150 tpm***

Rustenburg Platinum Mine – Klipfontein Concentrator

***Runners-up***

AngloGold Ashanti – Mponeng Gold Plant  
 AngloGold Ashanti – Ergo Operations Gold Plant  
 Barberton Mines – Sheba Gold Plant  
 De Beers – The Oaks Mine Treatment Plant  
 Kloof Mine – No. 3 Gold Plant  
 Messina Platinum Mine – Voorspoed Concentrator  
 Namakwa Sands – Secondary Concentration Plant  
 RPM Amandelbult – Opencast

***Category 3 – Assay Laboratories***

Anglo Coal Central Laboratory

***Runners-up***

AngloGold Ashanti – West Wits Chemical Laboratory  
 AngloGold Ashanti – Ergo Operations Chemical Laboratory  
 AngloGold Ashanti – Vaal River Chemical Laboratory  
 Messina Platinum Mine – Voorspoed Laboratory

Northam Platinum – Laboratory  
 Rand Refinery – Analytical and Assay Laboratory  
 RPM Amandelbult – Assay Laboratory

***Category 4 – Acid Plants and Smelters***

Namakwa Sands Smelter

***Runners-up***

Anglogold Ashanti – Ergo Operations Acid Plant  
 Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River North Metallurgy – East Acid Plant  
 Anglogold Ashanti – Vaal River North Metallurgy – West Acid Plant  
 Lonmin Platinum Metallurgical Services – Smelter  
 Northam Platinum Smelter

***Category 5 – Refineries***

Lonmin Base Metal Refineries

***Runners-up***

Northam Platinum BMR  
 Rand Refinery

**PUBLICATIONS**

During the year under review the following papers were published, in Circulars 1/2004 and 1/2005:

- The Unique Challenges Associated with the Closure of a Surface Operation : J van Huyssteen
- The Potential Economic Impact of Platinum Mine Expansions in the Eastern Limb of The Bushveld Igneous Complex : R McGregor
- Modikwa Concentrator Overview : L Nyandeni
- Status of, and Challenges in, Ferrochrome Production : H Visser

- A Practical Guide to Re-treatment of Gold Residues : S R Flatman  
J Mitchell  
A Muir  
C M Sabbagha

Council would like to place on record its appreciation to the Chamber of Mines for its annual publication subsidy, which enables it to continue with publication of these prestigious Circulars. These publications, as well as being useful reference documents, are a permanent record of the Association's achievements throughout the years.

### **AWARDS FOR BEST PAPERS PRESENTED**

Council was very concerned that, due to the lack of suitable papers, it was not able to publish a circular during the 2003/2004 year, which made it impossible to make any best paper awards at the 2004 AGM.

Members are urged to submit any papers they have written to the Editorial Subcommittee for evaluation on their suitability for publication.

### **THE ASSOCIATION AS A FORUM**

In line with the Association's declared objectives, that of addressing issues relevant to the metallurgical profession within the mining industry, many pertinent matters have received attention at the many diverse meetings of members.

The Association's continued viability and success depends largely on active participation by members at the many diverse meetings and functions which, for the most part, have attracted excellent attendance levels. Council would like to stress that members, rather than feeling obligated to take part in Association activities, should actively enjoy their participation.

In addition to the regular monthly Council meetings, the following meetings were also convened:

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Twenty-first Annual General Meeting was held at RPM Sports Club, Rustenburg, on 28 October 2004 and was attended by 109 members and guests.

Three interesting and topical presentations were delivered, with the guest speaker at the luncheon being Mr S van der Woude, Safety and Sustainable Development Adviser to the Chamber of Mines, who gave an extremely entertaining, lively and thought-provoking address to members and guests present.

### **General Meeting**

The General Meeting, incorporating technical visits, was hosted by Kloof Mine on 27 May 2005 and attracted some 69 members and guests. Several very diverse presentations were delivered at this meeting.

### **District Meetings**

Council is pleased to report that for the most part these meetings, held regularly during the current year and incorporating technical visits, attracted good attendance levels.

Your Council acknowledges the hard work of the District Representatives in organising these meetings and relies heavily on them to disseminate information to the membership on Association matters and activities.

Council would like to place on record its thanks to the hosts for providing the venues for all Association meetings.

### **Meetings with other Professional Associations**

During the year under review the Association was once again represented at meetings between Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the 11 mines Professional Associations and Senior Officials of the Chamber of Mines. These meetings continue to be a useful forum and an ideal opportunity to receive feedback on the Chamber's activities, particularly regarding new legislation being promulgated.

The Caucus meeting of Association Presidents, which is held immediately before the Chamber meeting, is an extremely useful communication tool, where matters of mutual concern and interest to the Professional Associations can be discussed at an inter-Association level.

### **Seminars / Workshops**

An extremely successful seminar on “Safety, Health and Environmental Considerations in a Changing Metallurgical Industry” was held on 29 April 2005, at the Village Club, Western Levels, and attracted an attendance of 60 delegates.

A second successful seminar entitled “The Application of New Technology in Metallurgy” was held on 19 August 2005 at Randfontein Estates Sports Club. This seminar once again attracted an excellent attendance of 88 delegates.

Council wishes to place on record its appreciation to all involved in the organisation of these interesting and informative seminars, which have long been a highlight of the Association’s calendar.

### **Presidential / Technical Visit: 2005**

A very successful 4 x 4 rally to Lesotho, was held from 1 to 4 September 2005. Members participated in extremely interesting and informative visits to Letseng Diamond Mine and Katse Dam, staying at various lodges *en route*. The 18 participants all greatly enjoyed the driving experience over the Lesotho roads and high altitude passes.

Council wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation to the hosts of the technical visits and their staff members, as well as to all others who contributed towards the success of the visit.

It should be pointed out that, although the technical content of these visits is of great interest and value, the sharing of ideas and information as well as the sense of camaraderie that is generated during such visits are also of paramount importance to participants.

### **Golf Day**

The ninth annual golf day was held on Sunday, 17 April 2005, at Stilfontein Golf Club, with all the players having enjoyed an extremely successful day. The floating trophy was again won by Mr B Beylefeld.

### **Race Day**

The sixth annual race day was held at Turffontein Race Course on Saturday, 18 June 2005. This year, the function attracted another record attendance of 75 members and guests.

### **Association Dinner**

The fifth annual dinner was held in the Oppenheimer Room, Gold Reef City on 18 September 2004. A convivial evening was enjoyed by the 250 guests, with entertainment having been provided by the Blarney Bros.

Preparations are underway for the 2005 dinner dance and, this year, Cheers Comedy Showband have been engaged to entertain guests. Council is pleased to note that this function continues to be an immensely popular initiative.

### **Sponsorship**

Council would like to express its appreciation to all those companies who offered generous sponsorship for these social functions and would like to stress that any surplus funds arising from them are used for the benefit of young metallurgists by way of Council's educational initiatives.

Council also wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to all who contributed to the success of the three social functions. It would also like to encourage those members who have not yet participated to take advantage of Council's efforts to promote social interaction.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Other issues addressed by Council, and its Sub-Committees, during the year under review include:

### **Mines Qualifications Authority (MQA)**

Council has long realised the importance of this issue and is keeping abreast of developments in such areas as licence to practise, voluntary vs compulsory registration, currency of competency, identification of engineering work, etc. A watching brief is being maintained on all these issues.

### **ECSA**

The Association enjoys its ties with ECSA and is recognised by that body as a "Voluntary Association". This has resulted in a substantial discount in ECSA membership fees. Members can obtain a "proof of membership" letter on application to the Secretary.

The Association has also recently been recognised as an “Expert” by ECSA and can now act as an accreditation agency for the purpose of awarding Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits.

## **SAIMM**

The good working relationship, established some time ago with this Institute is ongoing, with the Association being represented on the Council and Technical Committees. A reciprocal agreement is also in place, whereby the two bodies keep each other’s members informed of forthcoming conferences, seminars, etc.

### **Educational Initiatives**

It has now become a tradition to utilise surplus funds, generated throughout the year from social events, seminars, ect, for the benefit of young metallurgists. During the current year, the following initiatives have been undertaken.

#### **Bursary / Award**

Bursaries, for full tuition fees, were awarded to Ms M M Ramakokovuh and Mr G T Papo, who are currently studying at the Witwatersrand University of Technology and the University of the Witwatersrand, respectively.

#### **Travel Grant / Technical Visit**

The 2005 travel grant, to participate in the Presidential Visit, was awarded to Mr J Motaung of Anglo Coal. Mr Motaung will deliver a presentation on the visit at the AGM in October.

#### **Donation of Technical Books**

The annual book donations, in the amount of R 1 500 each, offered to nine Institutions of Higher Learning on a three year rotational basis, were this year offered to the Universities of Cape Town, Potchefstroom and the Witwatersrand.

#### **Educational Institutions**

Your Association enjoys a good relationship with the Institutions of Higher Learning situated throughout South Africa and, whenever possible, visits these

Institutions in order to inform students about the Association and bring their attention to the prospect of metallurgy in the mining industry as a career choice.

### **Website**

The website, which is considered to reflect the status and professionalism of the Association, is now fully operational and updated regularly. The website gives members valuable information on Association activities, as well as the containing the presentations given at various meetings and seminars. Members are invited to visit the site at [www.mmma.org.za](http://www.mmma.org.za).

### **Electronic Mail / Communication**

The membership database contains email addresses of members and, as a cost saving initiative, the Secretariat is utilising this preferred method of communication as much as possible.

However, Council stresses that for this initiative to be fully successful, the responsibility falls on individual members to keep the Secretary informed of current e-mail addresses and contact details.

## **REPRESENTATION**

The following internal, as well as external, Sub-Committees were formed to assist and advise Council in its deliberations:

### **Standing Committee**

N G C Blackham	President
J J Watt	Vice-President
S R Flatman	Imm-Past President
P van As	Central District
E A Dhlamini	Eastern District
M F P Carlisle	Northern District
A M Delaney	Rustenburg District
G A Cormack	Southern District

### **Editorial**

J E Wepener (**Chairman**)  
G Cormack(**Vice-Chairman**)

R Ishwar  
C Pearson  
M M Valenta  
J J Watt

**Membership**

K McMillan (**Chairman**)  
E A Dhlamini (**Vice-Chairman**)  
A M Delaney

**Safety**

S R Flatman (**Chairman**)  
P van As (**Vice-Chairman**)  
A M Delaney  
K McMillan  
J J Watt

**Seminar/Workshop**

M M Valenta(**Chairman**)  
G Cormack (**Vice-Chairman**)  
A M Delaney  
S R Flatman  
K McMillan  
J E Wepener

**Strategic Planning/Budget**

N G C Blackham (**Chairman**)  
K McMillan (**Vice-Chairman**)  
S R Flatman

**Security**

G A Jones (**Chairman**)  
S R Flatman (**Vice-Chairman**)  
J J Watt

**Presidents and Vice-Presidents**

N G C Blackham

K McMillan

**MPAS Budgetary**

N G C Blackham

K McMillan (Alternate)

**SAIMM**

N G C Blackham

S R Flatman

M M Valenta

**ECSA / MQA**

C A Roode

M M Valenta

**Standing Committee on Security**

G A Jones (Representative)

**Chemical & Allied Industries Association**

S Flatman (Representative)

Your Council wishes to place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to all those members who gave of their time and effort to represent the Association on the various committees.

**APPRECIATION**

Finally, the Council wishes to express its appreciation to all members, both old and new, for their support, and especially to those who have provided input in one form or another, as well as to mining groups and metallurgical companies for their continued support of the Association.

The Council also wishes to record its appreciation, on behalf of the Association, for the Administrative services and other facilities rendered by the Chamber of Mines and to extend its gratitude to the Secretariat and its staff for their good management of the Association's affairs.

**N G C BLACKHAM**

**PRESIDENT**