

# **CORROSION INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**12 September 2003**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Corrosion Institute of Southern Africa.

We continue to live in interesting but busy times and this is particularly true for the Institute and its elected members. I have, however, been fortunate to be supported by a strong and active Council during the year. Meryl Nixon retired at the beginning of the year, and unfortunately also resigned as Immediate Past President placing a greater load on the remaining Council members. Fortunately Rob White stepped into the breach and ably filled the position. Despite this difficulty a great deal of progress was made in several areas.

Malcolm Smith was Chairman of the KwaZulu Natal Region, and under his stewardship the Region has continued to perform well. Not least because of the help of a strong and active committee. Malcolm Wilson has recently been elected as Chairman of the KwaZulu Natal Region for the coming year.

Dan Durler was Chairman of the Western Cape Region. Activities have continued to be slow. Regular Committee meetings were held during the year but only two Technical Meetings were arranged. On the positive side, Fabio Torrente and Jeandre Gouws were co-opted onto the Committee and as a result activities have started to regain momentum. The most recent meeting was very well attended by sixty six people. This indicates that there is still a keen interest in Institute activities in the Region and things bode well for the future. The AGM has been rescheduled for the end of October.

On a sad note there were three deaths during the year. Peter Gate, an active member of the SAQCC (Corrosion) for several years, died in November. Pat Edwards, the wife of Tom Edwards, one of the earliest Honorary Life members died in March. Stan Roberts who was Technical Marketing Director for the HDGASA for many years until his retirement in 1993 died last month. Our condolences go to Tom Edwards, Mrs. Gate and Mrs. Roberts.

I will now report on the major activities for the past year.

### **Technical Programme**

The technical programme in Gauteng has again been ably organised by Michelle Sephton, supported by Bruce Trembling. They have continued to give us a stimulating and interesting programme. Presentations included the protection of bulk acid storage tanks by CP, fouling, microbial scaling and corrosion in cooling towers, protective coating at Mozal, ESKOM's paint testing programme, and the manufacture of paint brushes. The attendance at the nine meetings averaged twenty five, which is an improvement on previous years. Again the notable exception was the joint meeting held with OCCA in July, where the attendance was over seventy. This meeting returned to the tried and trusted concept of a fun function and addressed the cost-life analysis of painting versus hot dip galvanising in a tongue in cheek fashion. Graeme Stead attacked with paint whilst Bob Wilmot defended with galvanising. As expected the outcome was that in severe environments duplex systems gave the best cost life. We continued with a plant visit prior to the Christmas break when a successful visit was

arranged to the SAB brewery in Rosslyn in November. Eighteen people toured the brewery and were introduced to the corrosion problems experienced.

Our thanks again go to Michelle and Bruce for organising the programme and we look forward to another set of interesting presentations next year.

In order to improve attendance in Gauteng, a questionnaire was sent out to all members in August to ascertain what they required from future Technical Meetings. Members are asked for their preferences on venue, time, topics, format etc. The programme committee will design the technical programme with reference to members' needs.

KwaZulu Natal continued to put together a good and varied programme Rob Boyter, came back on the committee as the programme co-ordinator and was helped by the rest of the committee. Nine technical meetings were hosted with an average attendance of twenty four; this is a slight increase on last year. The Vic Earle debate, in November, was again well attended by forty five people. Malcolm Smith chaired the debate on the topic of grit blasting versus ultra high-pressure water for surface preparation. Brad Storer gave the advantages of grit blasting and Chris Botha countered with UHP water.

Dan Durler continued to run the technical programme in the Western Cape. The programme started very slowly and only two Technical Meetings were during the year. At the latest meeting in July the topic was grit blasting and as mentioned earlier, it was very well attended by sixty six people.

An international corrosion conference was held at the Misty Hills in Muldersdrift in May. One hundred delegates attended the two-day event entitled "Innovations in Coatings". The twenty two papers were a very high standard, and covered all of the common aspects of coatings and their application. Plenary presentations were given by Mike Mitchell from International Coatings in the U.K. and Peter Farinha from Extrin in Australia, and Keynotes were given by Andrew Cockcroft from Akzo Nobel in the U.K., and Derek Lamble from Stoncor Africa in South Africa. All of the delegates that replied to the questionnaire considered they gained a great deal from attendance and recommended that the Institute continue holding these events. Thanks go to the committee, Philippe Scheers, Chris Pistorius, Michelle Sephton, Bruce Trembling and Neil Webb for organising a very successful conference.

The monthly Newsletter continues to keep our membership updated on current and future events. Most of the members are on email but a few still only have mailing address. We will continue to send those through the normal mailing channels. Thanks go to Philippe Scheers for looking after the content.

### **Education**

Chris Pistorius continued to ably run the Education portfolio and a number of courses and activities were undertaken.

The flagship course "Corrosion Engineering" was run twice in Gauteng. There were 16 students in July, of whom 15 passed and there were eight students in July; all of them passed. Both the courses generated a healthy income. A Corrosion Engineering course that was scheduled for KwaZulu Natal last year has been postponed until early next year.

At the tertiary level, poster sessions on final year corrosion projects were held at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria in May.2003. Prizes were awarded for the best

posters at each institution. Thanks to Chris Pistorius and Michelle Sephton for organising these events and to Philippe Scheers, Neil Webb, Josias van der. Merwe and Jose Prozzi for giving their time to adjudicate the posters.

Only fourteen copies of the first edition of the textbook "Corrosion Control in Southern Africa" remain in stock. The second edition has been updated and the final proof is ready for printing.

The SAQCC Coating Inspector Level 2 course was not held during the year.

I assumed the position as Chairman of the SAQCC (Corrosion) as part of the presidential portfolio two years ago. Several courses were held under the auspices of the SAQCC (Corrosion) during the year, and the following numbers have been certificated:

Coating Inspector Level 1 -	34	Total	316
Coating Inspector Level 2 -	04	Total	27
Paint Supervisor -	03	Total	128
Paint Applicator -	17	Total	107

The response for formal registrations as Coating Inspectors has continued to be poor with only three applications during the year of which two were granted. There are now five registered Level 1 inspectors and one registered Level 2 inspector.

Discussions with representatives of ECSA have not been fruitful in our attempts to have the SAQCC (Corrosion) courses approved to SAQA and NQF requirements. The Executive committee of the SAQCC (Corrosion) will continue to pursue all possible avenues.

Council decided that, in future, the Immediate Past President should replace the President as Chairman of SAQCC (Corrosion). The President will become a member on the Executive Committee.

Council initiated negotiations with NACE International to procure a licence to run NACE corrosion courses in Africa. The progress on this front has been communicated to members in emails and in the Newsletter during the year. I also gave presentations at Technical Meetings in KwaZulu Natal in April and in Gauteng in May. Council approached a number of market research organisations to ascertain the potential size of the market for NACE courses within Africa. The cost to conduct a survey in South Africa and four other countries - namely Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Namibia and Zambia was over R240 000. Council therefore decided not to pursue this option. A business plan was compiled and was recently sent to all Corporate Members and nominated representatives of Sustaining Members. In addition, a proposal for Council to continue negotiations with NACE to purchase a licence to run NACE courses was sent out with the Agenda for the AGM.

## **Membership**

In May, Council made a decision to offers a one-year complimentary Affiliate membership to all those students who passed Institute courses. Five people have accepted the offer.

Ten members resigned and unfortunately three members died during the year. In addition, a further fourteen members were deleted from the membership list because they defaulted on membership subscriptions. Seventeen new members were accepted during the year.

Our overall membership has therefore decreased by ten during the year; currently it stands at a total of 311 comprising as follows:

Sustaining members	90
Honorary Life members	10
Retired members	32
Fellows	13
Members	69
Associates	48
Affiliates	50 (includes five complimentary members)

The perennial problem of members defaulting on their membership subscriptions continued. Much administration time was used trying to secure fees from these recalcitrant members. This was an onerous task and thanks go to Chris Gross for his endeavours in this regard. Nevertheless R11382 was written off as a bad debt because of outstanding fees.

### **Strategy Meeting**

Council held a strategy meeting at the Indaba Hotel in May. A number of important issues were discussed and the following actions were decided:

- Become more representative of the corrosion protection industry
- Continue to negotiate for NACE courses. Determine the size of the market and formulate proposal and a business plan for decision at the AGM
- Canvass members to ascertain their requirements from Technical Meetings and courses
- Look for an alternative venue for meetings
- Enhance the perceived value of awards
- Update the Sustaining Members details on the Web Site
- Draw up an advertising budget
- Compile a comprehensive database - including members and other interested parties
- Look into the feasibility of hosting the Web site in house
- Obtain an 086 telephone number

Some of these actions have been completed and are covered in this report. The others will be completed in the next couple of years.

### **Journal**

There were five issues of the journal this year. It continues to maintain a very high standard providing interesting topics and good coverage of general industry events, enhancing the image of the Institute. Our thanks to Gerd Muller and his team for their efforts.

### **Web Site**

The web site continues to be a valuable information portal for our members and also non-members. It has gone from strength to strength and the total number of individual "hits" now exceeds 3100. Our thanks go to Philippe Scheers for maintaining and updating the Web Site. A communication was sent to all Sustaining Members to update their records for incorporation onto the Web Site. This initiative will be completed early next year. Thanks to Michael Bennett for organising the communication and to Heather Forret for chasing up and ensuring that all replies are received.

## **Awards**

One of the most important functions of the Institute is to recognise excellence in our industry and to promote the development of corrosion engineering by means of awards. It is traditional that the awards are given at the Annual Dinner.

The best student on the "Corrosion Engineering" courses held during the year was awarded to Christian Botha from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry who achieved 85%.

The Ivan Ogilvie scholarship will be awarded to Mantsaye Raseroka who is conducting research towards a MSc degree in metallurgy at the University of Pretoria.

The Silver Medal will not be awarded this year. Even though there have been a number of high quality presentations at Institute Technical Meetings this year, there has been a dearth of written papers. This is a sign of the times, where people have less time to compile a written paper. Council will consider a review of the criteria for the Silver Medal next year.

An Honorary Life membership will be conferred on Meryl Nixon. Meryl has worked in the corrosion protection industry for more than thirty years. She served on Council for more than ten years and was President from 1999 to 2001.

## **Social**

The regional golf days continue to be very popular providing a relaxed social occasion for our members and of course, to the benefit of well deserving charities. Our thanks to Walter Barnett, Geoff Harris and Genevieve Budler who arranged the golf day at Modderfontein in November, where R1 000 was donated to Cotlands Baby Sanctuary. Our thanks also go to Andrew Stuart for arranging the event at Mount Edgecombe in August, where R8000 was donated to Highway Hospice.

## **Thanks**

My thanks and appreciation go to all the Council members and Regional Committee members for giving up their valuable time during the year. I thank Bev van Niekerk for putting up with me. I would also like to thank Walter Barnett, Colin Alvey and Rob White for their valuable advice during my tenure. Finally, I wish Chris Pistorius and the incoming Council all of the best for the coming year. I hope you all enjoy the evening.

John McEwan  
PRESIDENT  
12 September 2003