

Pretoria

contributed by Bill Prinsloo SC
Pretoria

Waarnemende aanstellings

Sedert die laaste uitgawe verskyn het, het die volgende lede van die Pretoriase Balie waargeneem op die regbank:

Transvaalse Provinsiale Afdeling

B C van den Heever SC; F G Preller SC; J W Louw SC; B C Bredenkamp SC; J Engelbrecht SC; L I Vorster SC; A de Vos SC.

Venda Hoogeregshof

J A Coetzee SC; N J Coetzee SC; F J Jooste SC.

New members and pupils

As at 28 February 1998 the total membership of the Pretoria Bar stood at 337. This includes 14 associate members and 31 new members who joined during 1997, mainly from the ranks of new pupils.

In February 1998 35 new pupils were accepted for training at the Pretoria Bar. It may be added that the training sub-committee of the Bar is putting in a great deal of effort with workshops, seminars and the like and they are improving and refining the training schedule all the time.

Toekenning van ere-lidmaatskap

Tydens die algemene vergadering op 22 Februarie 1998 is ere-lidmaatskap van die Vereniging op gepaste wyse toegeken aan P R van Rooyen SC en R K R Zeiss SC wat vir baie jare met onderskeiding as lede van die Pretoriase Balie gepraktiseer het. Van Rooyen SC het in 1957 by die Vereniging aangesluit en Zeiss SC in 1962. Langs hierdie weg word die twee lede van harte gelukgewens met die onderskeiding wat hulle te beurt geval het en die hoop word uitgespreek dat hulle, ten spyte van die nuwe status, nog vir baie jare gelukkig en voorspoedig sal kan praktiseer.

Accommodation

Because of the phenomenal growth in membership and the ever increasing work

load of the administrative personnel it has become necessary to redesign and expand the "engine room" of the Society on the 17th floor of the Momentum Building. The whole 17th floor will shortly be occupied by the administrative section and the common room, library and conference room facilities with the result that members who occupied offices on that floor will be accommodated on the newly opened 8th floor which has been refurbished and redesigned for that purpose. It is anticipated that the 7th floor of the building will follow the same route during the course of this year and negotiations are under way with the owners of the building to embark upon an upgrading process of the whole building. This has become necessary after ten years of occupation by the Society.

Nuwe Balieraad

Tydens die Algemene Jaarvergadering is 'n mosie aanvaar waarkragtens die Balieraad vergroot is van 9 na 11 lede om tred te hou met die groeiende ledetal asook die feit dat die Balie nou in twee geboue gehuisves is. Die gewysigde grondwet maak voorsiening daarvoor dat verteenwoordigers uit die geleedere van die Nuwe Hof Kamers sitting kan kry op die Balieraad.

Die pas verkose Balieraad bestaan uit die volgende lede:

Senior lede: E Bertelsmann SC (voorsitter); J W Louw SC (ondervoorsitter); L J L Visser SC; J H Dreyer SC; W R C Prinsloo SC.

Junior lede: D S Fourie; A J Louw; P Ellis; A A Louw; T Strydom; C Pretorius.

Social news

The annual tennis match between the Pretoria Bar and the Johannesburg Bar for the Blen Franklin Memorial Trophy

Japie Vorster, a regular in the Pretoria team, reports as follows on the occasion:

"This annual match was played at the Pretoria Country Club on Saturday, 1 November 1997. In a previous edition of this venerable publication, the Pretoria Bar undertook to regain the trophy which had been wrested from its grasp in such unfortunate circumstances last year. However, the holders of the trophy had the temerity to fail and/or refuse to bring the trophy to Pretoria on this occasion.

The Pretoria team was not deterred by this transparent attempt to frustrate their efforts. Fortunately the Pretoria selectors got it right this time and included Gené Visagie in the team. She made a substantial contribution (aesthetically and otherwise) and remained unbeaten throughout the morning. Highlights include her clean ace against John Roos and her failure to be intimidated by the unbridled power of Nicholas Tee. At the trophy-less post-match ceremony Johannesburg Captain, Morkel Bosman, magnanimously conceded that Pretoria's victory may be described as comprehensive".

The Midmar Mile and Argus Cycle Tour

It appears that a multi discipline approach has crept into the athletic pursuits of some of our members.

The Pretoria Bar was well represented at the annual Midmar Mile swimming event over some 1 500 metres in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The participants included Bill Scales, Quintus Pelser SC, André Horak, Ben Swart and Danie van Wyk.

The Argus Cycle Tour was even more popular with a large contingent from our Bar making the trip to the Cape Peninsula for the scenic ride. Some of the members also made use of the opportunity to combine the trip with quality family time and bonding. Quintus Pelser SC completed the ride with his young son, Malherbe, whilst Dave Smith SC, Johan

Ströh SC and Japie Vorster cycled with their wives. Rumour has it that in some instances the wives got the better of the husbands. Other participants included Piet du Plessis SC, Bill Scealess, De Wet Marais, Paul van Ryneveld, Danie van Wyk, Tokkie van Zyl, Johan Gouws and Ben Swart.

We take the opportunity to congratulate these energetic colleagues with their achievements.

Pretoria Bar cricket match: Under 35s v Over 35s

Our intrepid sports reporter, Japie Vorster, who in his own right managed a couple of good catches at deep midwicket and gully respectively, filed the following report:

"For cricketing purposes the Pretoria Bar may conveniently be divided into two distinct groups, being on the one hand the "upstarts" or "young turks" (hereinafter referred to as the "under 35s" and on the other the "golden oldies" (hereinafter referred to as "over 35s"). A two-match series was played

between these two teams on 21 and 28 March 1998. In the first match the over 35s batted with some authority to reach 99 all out. Opening bat, Mike Maritz SC played a presidential innings of 23. The innings was, however, marred by incessant appeals by the overzealous youngsters. An oldie was constrained to opine that the young wicket keeper's continuous and frivolous appeals might in the long run have a career limiting effect. For the youngsters, South, though feigning injury, bowled a few useful seamers, while Scheepers again proved the truism that bad balls do get wickets.

The under 35s' innings was a tense affair, for the youngsters that is. After a good start wickets tumbled with monotonous regularity. The die was really cast when young Van Onselen panicked in the face of Goosen SC's intimidating bowling and played a rash shot. Eventually, the self-appointed and unofficial under 35s scorer noted that the youngsters had scored 100/8. The correctness of this score cannot be con-

firmed as it is at present the subject of a disciplinary enquiry at the Bar.

At the time of going to the press, the result of the second match in the series was not yet available. However, the pundits anticipate a convincing win for the over 35s".



"Renate Erasmus was sent in at a critical stage by her under 35 colleagues to excite alternatively stimulate alternatively confuse alternatively annoy the older opposition. It appears to have worked."

The Law Society of South Africa

Ashwin Trikamjee, immediate past president of the former Association of Law Societies of South Africa

ON Monday 16 March 1998 at 11h00 the Law Society of South Africa was formally launched at a historical signing ceremony in the Old House of Assembly Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Cape Town.

The formation of the Law Society of South Africa was the culmination of lengthy and ongoing negotiations for a considerable period of time between the Association of Law Societies, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Black Lawyers Association. The negotiations had reached a somewhat significant stage in July 1996 when the parties had agreed on a statement of principles. Thereafter there was something of a lull in the process until the middle of 1997 when the whole issue regained momentum.

The Association of Law Societies in its endeavour to resolve the various matters for debate was always influenced in its thinking by its four statutory members – the Natal Law Society, the Orange Free State Law Society, the Transvaal Law Society, and the Cape Law Society.

The discussions, deliberations, negotiations, and debates were intense, at times highly emotional, but otherwise always conducted in the best interests of the profession. It became clear, as the negotiations progressed, that all three parties were willing to make sacrifices in a genuine attempt to resolve the issue once and for all. The technical drafting committee, which was entrusted with the drafting of a constitution produced five drafts which became the basis of negotiations from time to time. It can be safely

said that, in as much as the final draft may not be regarded as a model of classy draftsmanship, it is nonetheless a document which correctly represents the final intentions of the parties.

Once the ALS, BLA and NADEL had agreed to the terms and conditions, it was then necessary for the four provincial law societies to be given the mandate by its general body of members to proceed with the finalisation of the Constitution. This caused no problems in the Transvaal, a minor problem in the Free State but major problems in both Cape and Natal as some members were not entirely happy with the final solution. However, thanks to the persuasive powers of the presidents and the majority of members, this hurdle

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