

REPORT TO THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2021 ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

At the end of my report to last year's AGM I expressed the hope that we would soon be able to go back to the old way of doing things and hold live meetings here at the Mountain Club. Sadly, it was not to be. Another year of the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the activities of the branch. In fact, last year's AGM held almost exactly a year ago was the last "in person" meeting held by the branch until this evening. For the whole of 2021 we have offered a fairly varied series of webinars. It was a completely online year which has the effect described later when I deal with membership.

First off, on 22 February we were treated to another excellent address by Robert Jackson – the third in the series – entitled "Britain after Brexit". He spoke to us from his home in England which worked very well. He brought us up to date on the effects of Brexit on the UK. An enthusiastic Brexiteer, he painted a very positive picture of developments from the British point of view.

In April we offered a double bill: On 7th April, Professor John Stremlau commented on the new Biden presidency in an insightful address. Then at the end of April we hosted Dr Jan Erk from his office somewhere in Africa (with a rather iffy connection), who analysed the crisis in Ethiopia. As Dr Erk said: "most people know the headlines about this" - Nobel prize winner, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his persecution of the Tigrayan region - but Dr Erk laid out the history of Ethiopian politics which brought the country to this juncture and described the challenges of managing ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity in the country.

Our first three webinars were well attended with audiences of over 120. Thereafter in June some branch members participated in a webinar hosted by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and SAIIA Head Office on the crisis in northern Mozambique. Also jointly hosted by KAS and SAIIA head-office in July was a well-attended annual – but this time online- careers event under the theme "Careers in transition: A post-Pandemic green economy and implications for the world of work." I give full details later in my report.

With perfect timing, on 5 August we hosted a webinar on the NATO / US withdrawal from and the future of Afghanistan with our own Greg Mills and journalist John Matisonn, both of whom had fairly recently visited that country, debating the issue. It was a fascinating discussion. The Taliban took over Kabul 10 days later.

August was a busy month for us. On 19th August we invited Dr Jan Erk to pay us a return visit – this time speaking from Ghana where he is currently the visiting professor at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology – on the role of Africa's traditional kingdoms today. As usual it was an interesting address. On 26th August our traditional Schools Quiz took place – again online but with a difference. 92 learners from 25 different schools competed as individuals. A full report is

National Office Bearers

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included below, but I would like to particularly thank Dr Martha Bridgeman and our coordinator Pippa Segall for all their hard work in getting the quiz to function successfully under difficult circumstances. Many congratulations to the top winners who mostly attended an in-person awards ceremony at SAIIA's Cape Town office to collect their prizes. Thanks to a donation by David Lin of the Taipei liaison office in Cape Town: the 4 top winners received not only their cash prizes but also a laptop computer. We thank them for this continued generous support and the winners were clearly thrilled.

Our last event for the year, before this evening, was an insightful webinar held on 30th September on the recent elections in Zambia, their regional impact and Zambia's priorities for reform. Moderated by Exco member Professor Roger Southall, two prominent Zambian academics, Nicole Beardsworth and Linda Kasonde discussed the issues. The record of events is set out below.

RECORD OF EVENTS 2021

	Date	Title	Speaker(s)	Platform	#
1	22 Feb 21	Britain after Brexit	Robert Jackson	SAIIA WC Webinar	125
2	7 Apr 21	South Africa's Stake in Biden's Success	Prof John Stremlau	SAIIA WC Webinar	118
3	29 Apr 21	The Ethiopian Crisis: Understanding Federal Ethiopia and the challenges of managing Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic diversity	Dr Jan Erk	SAIIA WC Webinar	124
4	13 May 21	Authoritarian Politics in Zimbabwe: Independence to Today	Dr Brian Raftopoulos	SAIIA WC Webinar	93
****	14 Jul 21	Careers event	Joint event with KAS and SAIIA JSH		Well attended
5	5 Aug 21	The NATO withdrawal and the future of Afghanistan	Dr Greg Mills and John Matisonn	SAIIA WC Webinar	Attended 75
6	19 Aug 21	Africa's Traditional Kingdoms: what role today?	Dr Jan Erk	SAIIA WC Webinar	Attended 55

7	26 Aug 21	SAIIA WC Inter-Schools Quiz	Quiz	SAIIA WC Quiz Committee sponsored by Abe Bailey Foundation	93 learners
8	30 Sep 21	A referendum on government – Zambia's 2021 elections, regional impact and priorities for reform	SAIIA WC Webinar	Nicole Beardsworth, and Linda Kasonde. Moderator Prof Roger Southall	53
9	23 Nov 21	Will Cyril Ramaphosa's second term have a more domestic or a more international orientation?	Prof Anthony Butler	SAIIA WC at MC. In-person and webinar [AGM]	TBA

MEMBERSHIP

This time last year we said: *“Covid 19 may have an effect on membership. For the year under review, the absence of live events from March to June will have reduced the usual number of visitors joining. For the next period, July 2020 to June 2021 this effect may persist. Also, it remains to be seen how many members do not renew their membership as a result of limitations on live events.”*

And so, it came to pass!

We lost about a third of our membership [including students, 38.5%] between 1 Jul 20 and 30 Jun 21 through non-renewal. Also, with no in-person events the main source of recruitment dried up.

The attendance of a spread of four excellent webinar events was analysed. There was a total of attendees 452 of whom 87 [19%] were members. It is obvious that most members did not like the webinar format. On the other hand, there were many non-members country-wide, and even internationally, who followed the SAIIA WC webinar programme.

In July, Exco decided to hold on to as much of the membership base as possible into 2022. Deeply discounted subscriptions were offered for a limited period, both as an incentive to renew but also to compensate for the non-delivery of the type of events favoured by members.

The success or otherwise of the discounted subscriptions is difficult to gauge. However, the Baseline Table below illustrates the Covid 19 impact on the Branch to date.

The basis for recording numbers for the Baseline Table differs from that applied to the standard membership table. A specific difference is that MEMBERSHIPS are recorded as opposed to MEMBERS on the standard membership table e.g., Family/M+1 membership is recorded as two members.

Baseline Table:

<u>Memberships</u>	<u>1 Jul 19 to 30 Jun 20</u> [Y1]	<u>1 Jul 20 to 30 Jun 21</u> [Y2] BASELINE	<u>Loss/gain Y1 to Y2</u>	<u>Subs paid 20 Jul 21 to 30 Oct 21</u>
Diplomat	9	7	-2 [- 23%]	9
Institution Com	5	1	-4 [- 80%]	2
Family/M+1	44	35	-9 [- 20%]	28
Individual	60	38	-22 [- 37%]	30
SUB TOTAL	118	81	-37 [- 31%	67
Student	17	2	-15 [- 88%]	2
TOTAL	135	83	-52 [- 38,5%]	71

Donor Members. The membership category “Donor Member” was revived last year as a result of generous donations to the Branch’s Sustainability Fund. Article 8 of the Branch Constitution reads as follows: *“Donor Members. Individuals who pay membership fees in excess of the normal individual membership fee by an amount acceptable to the Executive Committee shall be regarded as donor members.”*

In 2020/2021 there were three donor members. In the current year, 2021/2022, there are nine donor members who donated a total of R2,720.

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP TABLE

Note 1. The figures for 2020 and the preceding years have been adjusted so that the nominal figures relating to Members of Parliament [44] and Schools [50 schools] are NOT included in the overall membership total.

Note 2. The key revenue producing categories [Diplomatic; Institutional; Member+1/Family; Individual; and Student] are shown in bold.

Category	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Corporate nominees for JSH	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Diplomatic	9	9	9	7	7	7	3	X	X
Institutional	2	5	4	4	4	X	X	X	X
School	Nominal	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom
Member+1/Family [recorded as 2 people per membership]	56	88	92	86	74	76	90	76	56
Fellow/ Complimentary	3 [adjusted]	10	10	10	10	10	10	7	7
Honorary	9	10	12	8	8	8	8	6	6
Individual	28	60	56	76	73	82	77	64	64
Members of Parliament	Nominal	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom	Nom
Students	3	17	13	18	15	20	22	15	12
TOTAL	115	204	201	214	196	208	215	173	150
TOTAL: REVENUE PRODUCING	97	179	174	191	173	185	192	155	132

Turning to the various portfolios handled by Exco members, this has been a second Pandemic impacted year, resulting in very little activity in liaising with Parliament, the universities, the Cape Chamber and the diplomatic corps. Unfortunately, a projected address by the new Moroccan Ambassador had to be cancelled when the Ambassador fell ill. We are fortunate to have Exco member Richard Morris handle the branch's finances and his report appears below.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The key SAIIA Western Cape Branch financial results may be summarised as follows:

Year ended	30 June 2021	30 June 2020	30 June 2019
	R	R	R
Operating surplus i.e., income less expenses	1,054	18,064	8,794

Capital inflows - donations received	-	5,000	-
Net surplus	1,054	23,064	8,794

The results for the year to 30 June 2021 were, as expected, barely a breakeven. It is important to bear in mind that the bulk of the operating surplus in the prior year was due to sponsored subscription contributions to the branch of R12,500 relating to schools that participated in the 2019 quiz event and this did not continue in the current year due to a reduced sponsorship from the Abe Bailey Trust. Please refer to the attached financial statements for further details of the income and expenditure and the balance sheet that includes the movements on the Quiz Fund.

We are most grateful to the Abe Bailey Trust for the continued sponsorship of R72,000 (year ended 30 June 2020 R147,000) for the Inter Schools Quiz Event. This was held online on 26 August 2021. The large balance in the Quiz account of R155,283 at 30 June 2021 arises because the full R72,000 was received before 30 June 2021 while the bulk of the related expenditure takes place after 30 June 2021 in the 2021/2022 SAIIA financial year. Accordingly, the quiz account balance reduces substantially after the branch financial year end.

We greatly value and depend upon the ongoing support from SAIIA head office towards our WC Branch administration of R16,000 (2020 R16,000).

It remains important to promote the longer-term financial sustainability of the branch. In the prior financial year several members contributed R5,000 between them to the branch in support of this objective. For individual donations of over R1,000 we arranged with SAIIA head office that these donors were provided with corresponding Section 18A certificates that enabled the related income tax deductions to be claimed in their personal tax returns. I am happy to report that for the 2021/2022 financial year to date a number of generous members have, in conjunction with settling their required annual subscriptions, made donations to the branch totalling R2,700. These have been added to the branch sustainability fund.

Unfortunately, the financial outlook for the year to 30 June 2022 remains constrained due to:

- the ongoing disruption of Covid 19 with attendant restrictions and uncertainties that have meant no live events and hence no door takings for the year to date with the exception of this AGM.
- the relative difficulty of growing membership in the absence of the more normal social interactions that are possible at live events as opposed to webinars
- the experience of a further decline in subscriptions received

We are grateful to our loyal membership for the continued funding from subscriptions that have been kept up to date. This is vital to the Branch's financial well-being. Naturally we look forward to resuming in-person functions with the enthusiasm that will assist to restore and expand our membership base.

I wish to thank our administrator, Pippa Segall, our honorary Treasurer, Richard Morris, and our honorary auditor Johan Hauser for maintaining and authenticating the branch financial records and accounts.

QUIZ 2021

On Thursday 26 August 2021, 92 learners from 25 Cape Town schools participated in the 29th Annual Interschool Quiz which was organised by the Western Cape Branch of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). This quiz was hosted online for the second time, due to continued concerns about COVID-19. SAIIA invited learners from Cape schools to compete in answering questions relating to international affairs taken from news articles and SAIIA policy briefs which were emailed to the learners.

Learners registered online as individual participants; there was no charge for the Quiz, but each learner needed to have access to a device (for example: laptop, PC, smart phone, iPad) with internet connectivity. Data was offered to those who required it.

Africa Melane of Cape Talk radio again served as Master of Ceremonies, opening the quiz in Zoom and then handing over to Pippa Segall and her team who took the learners through the 80 questions on the AHASlides platform. A full report with more details of the quiz is available upon request.

South Africa is playing an increasingly important role in global affairs. The Quiz is part of the South African Institute of International Affairs' ongoing programme to cultivate awareness among our younger citizens of the importance of South Africa's foreign affairs. SAIIA hopes to stimulate interest that will inspire learners to take an active role in foreign affairs in the future.

The top 10 places won the following prizes: 1st prize = R4500 and a tablet; 2nd prize = R2000 and a tablet; 3rd prize = R1500 and a tablet; 4th prize = R1250 and a table; 5th prize = R1000. Places 6 – 10 also received money vouchers. The top four learners received a tablet from the Taipei Liaison Office. All the schools received a stack of books for their libraries.

Congratulations to Greg van Selm from SACS for winning first prize! Kate Forrest from Herschel came a close 2nd and Pollyanne Carlos from Wynberg Girls High School came third. Muddathir Furfrey of SACS came fourth and won R1250 and the fourth tablet. Well done to all our learners who participated.

KAS-SAIIA Careers Event 2021:

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) hosted the annual KAS-SAIIA Careers Event on 14 July 2021, under the theme **'Careers in Transition: A Post-Pandemic Green Economy and Implications for the World of Work'**. The event provided a platform for university students in the fields of Political Studies, International Relations, Journalism, Law, and Economics to receive practical insights from professionals pertaining to their career paths.

The event focus was on unpacking the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the South African unemployment rate, and the country's journey towards a sustainable green economic recovery. Hence, the event aimed at informing students and young professionals

about how these intersecting contexts are changing and shaping the world of work, in order for them to position themselves in a competitive labour market.

The guest speakers were Ronak Gopaldas, Director at Signal Risk and Co-founder of Mindflux Training; Farai Mubiawa, Partner Implementation Lead of YES and Co-founder of Africa Matters and Cathy Mohlahlana, Broadcast Journalist and Anchor. Unfortunately, Mohlahlana cancelled a few minutes before the event. The event was well attended with 180 live attendees with 299 registrants prior to the event.

A homepage was created prior to the event, for participants to access information concerning the KAS-SAIIA Scholarship, general resources for students, as well as registration links for event itself. The webpage included alternative scholarship opportunities, information about the ten exhibitors, a resource pack containing tips on how to apply for jobs, information about the panellists, the event programme, and an 'about' page for KAS and SAIIA. The webpage received 464 visitors prior to the event.

The KAS-SAIIA Scholars of 2021 (Stephanie Meek, Minenhle Nene, Ndeapo Wolf, Yulea Roopia and Nkanyiso Simelane) would like to extend our sincere gratitude to both KAS and SAIIA, as well as co-ordinator, Pippa Segall for the support in planning and hosting the event.

CONCLUSION

It has been a very difficult year and I want to compliment and thank the members of our Exco for all their efforts in keeping the show on the road. Our new members Roger Southall and Anne Thomson have played their part and have been a great addition to our Exco as have the three new university representatives, Ndeapo Wolf, Minenhle Nene and Stephanie Meek. Our Deputy Chair Martyn Trainor has been a rock in difficult times and does a huge amount of work in the background on membership and all sorts of administrative issues. Thanks to Richard Morris for all his hard work on our finances in these difficult economic times, ably assisted by Johan Hauser. Jeremy Wiley keeps up our connection with the Cape Chamber and in touch with economic issues and SAIIA National Council member, Mike Spicer, does valuable work on our Exco. I would like to thank Dr Martha Bridgman and our coordinator Pippa Segall for their huge efforts in holding a very successful schools quiz and a big thank you to Pippa for always being there for us and running an efficient administration. Last but not least I have to mention with regret that two long serving Exco members Rob Mackay and Chris Saunders are calling it a day. Rob has been on Exco for so long he is almost part of the furniture. He looks after diplomatic liaison, but he is always ready to step in to help from taking minutes to chairing meetings. He and his wife will now spend much more time abroad with their children. Thank you, Rob, for your great contribution. Chris Saunders who has held our university portfolio for many years has been a wonderful resource. We never settle on the title of an address without getting Chris' advice. We will greatly miss his wisdom and insight. Thank you for your years of support of the branch.

Sheila Camerer
Branch Chairperson