



*The South African Institute of Tribology*

*Established 1985*

*“understanding friction, lubrication & wear”*

## **SAIT Presidents Report 2018**

With this year 2018 well on its way, it is time for SAIT in general to pause, assess where we are, especially in comparison to the 2017 Presidents report, evaluate if we are currently meeting the ever-changing environment and requirements of the technological world in which we operate, where we are aiming to be in the medium to long term, and thus give some guidance and support to the incoming Executive Committee.

The Constitution has been re-drafted and circulated to membership for comment, as it should reflect the amended mission statement and the thus necessary changes in the objectives and the way we communicate, develop expertise in Tribology and advance the Science and Benefits of Tribology to all.

### **MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS**

***Old Mission “Promoting technology transfer, whereby local tribological problems can be solved and products improved”***

#### **NEW**

- ▶ ***Promoting knowledge and skills transfer in friction and wear to achieve a lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).***
- ▶ ***To be the tribology authority in Sub-Saharan Africa.***

The proposed amended Constitution has been circulated to members, and we need your feedback so we can either now or at an extraordinary general meeting ratify it.

The committee got together to map the way forward and whilst agreeing that our Training courses were important, and in demand, a division occurred over the query that Training is not the only or main function of our Institution. This also raised the Question – How do we communicate effectively with each other without having to attend meetings in a geographical location? The digital/electronic route is the only practical means and can be easily access through web based applications.

This has been done with Webinars replacing certain Technical evening presentations, more electronic news letters and emails and a revamp of the Website

The Training course material has been considerably updated, hard and soft wise and prepared for online applications where applicable, in terms of homework, revision modules and introductory courses.

Thanks and acknowledgement must be given to John Fitton for his considerable time and effort expended on this aspect, as well as Thomas Sermon and Pat Swan for their input.

SAIT is also beginning the process of updating our computer hardware and software, and this will continue going forwards

We are embarking setting up our basic introductory training courses online. This will allow SAIT to develop as an international training facility.

We will look at developing chat forums for advice sharing and learning.

We are looking at new office and training facilities, and the July Lubrication Engineering Course will be held a new venue, fortunately not too far from here

All the above has naturally incurred large costs, as can be seen in the Financial Statements, but this is a justified worthwhile investment in the future not only of Tribology in SSA, but of this Institute as well.

Thomas, John and Gerard have asked to stand down from the Executive Committee, due to work and personal pressures, but have all agreed to continue their important roles in our Lubrication Engineering Courses. This has been reluctantly accepted, and we owe them a considerable appreciation of their long and excellent services., and hope to see them back again in the future.

Thank you, John and Thomas, for all you have done, and what you will continue to do. Also to Pat Swan for his flying the flag around the country, especially in Cape Town, and his willingness to travel. Also thanks to David Beard our Treasurer for his workl.

Considerable thanks and appreciation are also due to Gill, Isobel and Berice for the day to day running and organising of the Institute and its functions. Thank you, Ladies, and our IT and Auditing support personnel.

Some statistics:

Webinars held	5	Private Members	119
Technical Presentations Held	3	Corporate Members	20
CLS Study and Exam	1	Supplementary	137
Lube Engineering Courses held	6	Students	6
University and Corporate Courses Held	2	Total thus approx.	340

*(allowing for Corporate membership numbers)*

Membership has stayed static over the last year, the increase is in private membership but the offsetting decline in Corporate and Materials membership is somewhat dramatic and disturbing. Investigation Work needs to be carried out in this area.

Due to work and health issues I have not participated in all, or achieved all that we wished to do, and for that I apologise, and wish the incoming Executive Committee well in their endeavours.

They will need the increased support of our membership, and we request that from all of you, especially to assist in gaining new corporate membership and participation.

We hope to see you all at the Annual Awards Dinner this Friday at Wanderers, better phone Gill asap if you have not booked.

*DJGamble*

Dave Gamble  
President SAIT 2017 / 2018

15<sup>th</sup> May 2018