SILVERTON MODEL VLIEGKLUB
SILVERTON MODEL FLYING CLUB

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SMFC Chairman's Report – Johan Sieling 26th October 2025

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1. Introduction

This ever-changing world we are living in, has its associated challenges which also affects our flying club, the SMFC. I am happy to report that the club is pretty active at times, and we are still able to maintain the excellent flying facilities and high standards established in the past. As usual we lost a few members and also gained some new members during the past year. As far as the financials are concerned, we are at the end of the day somewhat relying on our savings to pay all our regular debts and we need to take control of this situation going forward. The avenues to rectify this are typically keeping tight control over expenditure, investigating alternative revenue streams such as fund raisers and then possibly relook our member fee structure to make up for any shortfalls in the budget. When I initially accepted the chairman's position, I did point out that I would accept the position for a year or two and therefore the members now need to honour my wish and elect another chairman going forward.

2. Membership

The active membership numbers have once again slowly declined in this past year, and we now have 46 members as follows:

Life/Honorary members	17 (37%)
Junior members	2 (4%)
Regular members	27 (59%)

Some members did not renew their membership by the end of July 2026, but we did gain some new members during this last year.

3. Finances

The club financials are possibly a concern as we are delving into our savings to honour the club's typical expenses. The financial details for the past year are contained in the financial report which is available on the SMFC website. I would like to thank Tiaan Steenkamp for all the treasury work performed. At this point in time all payments are up to date. Thank you to Fanie Nel of DNL Accounts

CC for once again preparing the annual financial statements for the club.

4. Club Facilities

We once again we have to thank Marthinus and his team for the hard work they put in to keep the club facilities in a very pristine condition. Maintenance is ongoing and the water tank stand is in the process of receiving a new coat of paint and it is envisaged that some touch up work will be done to the toilet doors etc.
We are in the process of investigating the painting of the centre stripes on the runways.

5. Club Administration

Thank you, Marthinus for again providing multiple admin services to the club during the past year.
Thank you, Hendrik for providing the WhatsApp messaging service to the club during the past year.
Marthinus Potgieter has indicated that we need assist with some of the admin activities going forward as he is not always available to perform all the required tasks.
Hendrik Coetsee did volunteer to assist but has since indicated that he is too busy at work and with his family to assist going forward.

6. Flight Training & Proficiencies

Flight training and proficiencies is an ongoing process. Congratulations to Ben Moolman and Herman Nel on achieving their solo proficiencies.
Please contact me, should you have any questions or requirements in this regard. Just a reminder that it is each pilot's own decision to improve his flying skills and abilities by having their proficiency tested.
Then also keep in mind, as a minimum, a SAMAA solo proficiency is required for all pilots to fly without supervision! Certain proficiency requirements are also to be met if you wish to fly in events other than normal flying at the club.
Please refer to the latest SAMAA MOPS for the details which were revised by SAMAA earlier this year.

7. Events & Competitions

There were no events or competitions held during the past year. This is a topic that needs attention going forward to prompt the general members to come and fly more regularly.

8. Legends Adventure Farm

Once again, we assisted with this year's Pretoria Air show. The SMFC members helped SAMAA man their stall at the air show and also assisted with the activations at both Menlyn and at the "Kragdag" expo. We have regular communication and meetings with the Legends General Manager to ensure we are updated on possible events and other information from their side. We also keep them informed of any events or issues from our side as far as possible.

9. SAMAA

As SMFC is currently a SAMAA registered club, all club members and visitors flying at our club facilities need to have current/valid SAMAA membership. **Therefore, no SAMAA membership = no fly at the SMFC facilities!**

10. Club Communication

The main communication channels for SMFC are emails and WhatsApp messages. Therefore, all club communications are directed to the members via these two channels only. The club Facebook page is the only window we have whereby we can promote our club to the public, to attract new members. Every member should post pictures etc. on our Facebook page to assist with the promoting of our flying club.

New members mainly find us via word of mouth, mostly referred to us by members and members of other clubs that are aware of our existence.

11. Safety

In terms of safety, there is not much to report other than that no safety incidents were reported since the last AGM.
Please be aware that each pilot needs to ensure compliance with all the safety rules & regulations when operating a model aircraft and that safety always comes first.
The annual SAMAA Risk Analyses documentation will be completed after the AGM.

12. Development Program

The Cornerstone College development program is still ongoing under the guidance of Dr Rob Hurlin assisted by several staff members at the school. At this point in time there are two club members involved who assist with the pilot training on Wednesday afternoon, i.e. Johan Sieling and Hannes Gouws. More information is available from Dr Rob Hurlin, who normally provides us with a report on the progress of this initiative. I am glad to report that we recently received a further donation from Cornerstone College.

13. Management Committee

All the above actions and activities are planned, managed and mostly executed by the management committee and I would like to thank all the committee members for their contributions that make it possible to run the club and its facilities successfully. As mentioned above I am not be available to stand as chairman going forward.

14. Conclusion

The existing economic climate in our country is becoming more and more challenging. We therefore need to find new ways and avenues to generate operating funds for the SMFC. Please remember that the club does not only consist of the committee members, but all the members together form the club, and everyone has an obligation to contribute to the prosperity of the club, not only the committee members. Thanks to everyone that did contribute towards the prosperity of our Club during the past year.

For me, it has been a privilege and honour to serve on the club committee but it is now time to take a break.

Thanks & regards

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