# Hamerkop Mountain Trust Annual General Meeting 2025
## Held on Thursday 23 October 2025 at 7.30 pm
## by virtual Zoom Meeting

1. **Welcome** The Chairman Jad Ball welcomed all present.

2. **Attendance and apologies**
   **Present:** Jad Ball, Margie Owen-Smith, Steve Spottiswoode, Karin Spottiswoode, Duncan Barker, Serv Venter, Magdeleen Enslin, Paul Mackenzie, Roy Kendall, Tina Culwick-Fatti, Jane Luck, Judith & Oliver Oppler, Annabe Pretorius, Gavin Ehlers, Petrus Nel, Helen Perry, Paul Rainier-Pope, Daniel & Justine Limpitlaw, Oliver Barker, Humphrey Farrer
   **Apologies:** Paul Carstensen, Ray & Jenny Basson

3. **Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**
   The minutes had been circulated within 10 days of the 2024 AGM and re-circulated with the documents for the present meeting. No amendments were forthcoming, so they were considered as accepted – proposed by Paul Mackenzie and seconded by Annabe Pretorius.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
   **Dog policy:** As decided at our last AGM, our rules on dogs (Sec C11) remain unchanged awaiting the outcome of the MCSA's review.
   **Going solar:** Further investigations have confirmed the costs and complexities involved, but we will keep considering options for the future.
   **Beneficiary participation:** Mention was made of Jane Luck's suggestion that one of the criteria for the acceptance of new beneficiaries should be their willingness to participate in the Hamerkop Affairs.
   **Trustee proposals aimed at promoting beneficiary participation:** Margie briefly outlined the proposals put to the last AGM limiting the accumulation of units within families and requiring local advertising of units. They were given overwhelming support in the vote after the AGM, with the results circulated to all with the 2024 minutes.
   **Raising funds beyond levies in the future:** The proposal to grow a bigger reserve fund for contingencies or special projects will be considered again by MCom next year.

5. **Annual Maintenance report**
   Serv reported as follows:
   **Buildings:** An opening was cut into the dam next to the staff quarters, so there is no need to climb into the dam to store, collect and use wood. The garden furniture was painted thanks to a Magaliesberg section team. **Electrical:** A Certificate of Compliance was required for our insurance policy and a lot of improvements have been made by the electrician. A COC was issued with success. **Outstanding work:** The fireplace unit and

chimney in the house needs to be repaired or replaced. Investigations have begun on the costs. Justine pointed out the importance of the fireplace during winter weeks and questioned the capacity of the existing unit.
*More detail on maintenance work done over the past year is provided in the Chairman's Report.*

6. **Chairman's Annual Report**
   Please see the Chairman's Report attached.

7. **Proposals for a new rule to optimise time utilisation at Hamerkop**
   Two proposals aiming at minimising no-show weeks and optimising the use of empty mid-week time were discussed. The first proposal, obliging all of us to confirm our plans with Judith one week before due date, or have our time automatically offered to others, was rejected unequivocally. But the second was well received – that Judith's six-weeks-in-advance discussion with beneficiaries, together with her check one week before, should be collapsed into a single consultation two weeks beforehand. See full proposals attached. (*MCom will consider a trial run along the lines of the latter before deciding whether any voting on the matter is necessary).*

8. **Nominations for a new Trustee – voting result**
   Mark Epstein was thanked for his seven years as a Trustee and many more as a very active worker on the management committee. Jad announced Paul Carstensen as our replacement Trustee. He thanked both Paul and Gavin Ehlers for their willingness to stand for the position.

9. **Volunteers called to assist with the management of Hamerkop in 2026**
   Jad reiterated the call for new management committee members. Willingness from Gavin Ehlers to get involved was welcomed. Daniel Limpitlaw indicated willingness to help on an ad hoc basis.

10. **Adoption of the financial statements for 2025 (attached)**
    The externally reviewed Annual Financial Statements as at 30 June 2025 were presented by our treasurer, Paul Mackenzie, and unanimously adopted. Paul thanked Andre Dalais for his support in their preparation. Proposed by Gavin Ehlers and seconded by Tina Culwick-Fatti.

11. **Adoption of the Budget for 2026 (attached)**
    Paul Mackenzie took the meeting through the pre-circulated details and outlined the aims of our proposed budget. **An increase of 7% amounting to a total levy of R5950 per unit was proposed for 2026** (discounted to R5550 for payments received before the end of January 2026). The budget and levy were proposed by Annabe Pretorius, seconded by Paul Rainier-Pope and unanimously adopted. Paul reminded us that levies need to be paid in May 2026 before the close of the financial year.

12. **General**
    Annabe followed up about a serious hailstorm in the Valley, but nothing had been reported on the Valley WhatsApp groups.

Serv gave a brief history of Mr Swanepoel's latest trespassing incident. It was reported at the Marikana Police station but the police can only intervene if the trespasser is still on the property. In future we will handle trespassers in collaboration with Oracle (our security company) and the RGKB (our local community association for Rietfontein, Grootfontein, Kromrivier and Buffelspoort). Pretty and Aleck have been instructed not to engage with Mr Swanepoel in any way but to contact Oracle immediately he appears. Serv urges beneficiaries to do the same and if possible to get photographic evidence (without putting themselves in harm's way). Gavin mentioned the paths running from the Swanepoel property onto Grootkloof and enquired about the nature of our relationship with this neighbour on our north-west. He was briefly filled in on some incidents like his erection of the concrete weir on our riverfront in 2010 despite all our efforts to prevent him, his abusive actions at that time and other problematic behaviour.

Paul Mackenzie reminded beneficiaries about the updated alarm system and App as was communicated in the newsletter. Further communications will follow.

Justine expressed thanks for the overall improvement in the kitchen thanks to the beautiful new table and the new stove. Annabe thanked MCom for all their efforts.

**13. Closure**

Margie thanked Jad on behalf of MCom and the trustees for chairing the meeting and for his leadership and encouragement over the past three years as Chairman. Jad thanked everyone for attending and the team for their support. The meeting was officially closed at 21h30.