



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Held at Afridome, Parys and on Zoom 18 March 2022, At 14:00

1. Opening and Welcoming

The meeting was chaired by Tito Vorster, President of the Simbra Cattle Breeder's Society.

2. Attendance Register

Present:

Tito Vorster (President), Pieter Meyer (Vice-President), Kobus Bester (Breed Director), Rick Dell, Carl Rautenbach, Willie Lubbe, Andre and Arne Grobbelaar, James Prinsloo, Janco Prinsloo, Riaan van Zyl, Pieter Louw, Schalk Erasmus, Andre De Waal, Bles de Klerk, Jaco Meyer, Charles and Shirley Urib, Lizzy and Simon Mphahlele, Lourens Muller, Katja and Diethelm Metzger, Dagmar and Werner Wilckens, Joel and Linley Lutge, Christie Vermuelen, Hendrik Grobbelaar, Kerneels Derksen, Daleen Van Zyl, Chris Richter, Maraldi Steenkamp, Gerrit Viljoen, Hannes Swannepoel, Richard and Robert Venema.

Zoom:

Bayer Olivier, Christiaan Bouwer, Errie, Marius Nel, Marius Potgieter, Willem Fourie, Brink Grobbelaar, Foeta Louwrens, Danie van Vuuren, Ekkehard Pape, Obakeng Mfikwe, Hennie Viljoen.

Apologies:

Jaco Mare, Fanie Mare Jnr, Llewellyn Angus, Pieter van Zyl, Andrew Brink, Andy Brink, Rinus and Madeleen Steenkamp, Gawie Coetzee, Heleen Roux.

It was confirmed that a quorum was present.

3. Tributes to Deceased Members

Desire' Vorsters' Mother – Veryl Ferreira, Dr Kobus Fouries father – Oom Bok Fourie. Special tributes to Wolfhard Aring and Reinie Rusch who were both were standing affiliates, and influential members within the Simbra Community.

James Prinsloo then opened the meeting with prayer.

4. Protocols for the Meeting

- 4.1. No additional agenda points were received for the meeting. As per the Constitution of the Society only matters listed in the agenda can be discussed at the meeting. Matters that are not recorded in the agenda, cannot be discussed at the annual general meeting.
- 4.2. Members attending the meeting via an online platform can participate by posting requests via the platform and will be afforded the opportunity to participate. Members attending in person that wish to raise a point must wait until they are acknowledged by the Chairperson and use the roaming microphone so that both the people present and those online can hear what is being said.

5. Presidents Address (Tito Vorster)

Mr Tito Vorster highlighted on the progress and developments within the Simbra Society in the previous 12 months. He addressed some of the Society's "high-lights", and upon some the weakness. Breeders were encouraged to actively participate, make their skillsets available, promote the breed, use the information available at their disposal, and try to spend at least 10 days a year on continued professional training to improve their stockmanship skills. A copy of the President's address can be seen in Attachment A.

6. Breed Directors Report (Kobus Bester)

Mr Kobus Bester made the point that it was important that Simbra, as a Society aid the success and sustainability of our members/breeders and ultimately develop the Simbra brand.

Mission: To improve the Simbra Breed through genetic progress supported by animal science.

Vision: To profitably produce safe, high-quality sought-after beef, keeping in mind animal welfare and a low carbon footprint.

It is important that we play to our strong points, our "competitive advantages".

- Simbra is an easy to farm, extensive maternal breed of medium frame, and that has the potential to produce "high performance" offspring.
- There is a demand for Simbra genetics for calf production, feedlotting and backgrounding (bull calves) and expansion of the breeding herd (heifers).
- There is a demand for Simbra bulls that have the ability to convert existing breeding herds into easy-to-farm-with, economical producers.
- Simbra is governed by a modern constitution that promotes inclusivity, a bottom-up approach, science-based breed improvement, and a strong organizational structure.

The priorities of Simbra include giving stature to the Simbra brand as a value proposition and ensuring that our breeders/members are successful, profitable, thriving seedstock producers who have focus on improving cow efficiency and increased bull retention. If these priorities are achieved, we will be able to successfully expand the Simbra footprint.

Additional focus areas include individual development through continual training, the New Breeders manual is aimed at providing breeders with useful information that will assist in making informed and better decisions. Clubs are member driven organisations that will help to interact with potential clients and the broader industry, club activities should include farmers days whereby training can take place, and information is shared. The successful mobilization of clubs could also lead to regional auctions and strengthen/ improve current breeder auction platforms.

Feedback from the Breed Improvement Committee was based on four main points:

- 1) Genotyping
 - a. Special Offer has ended.
 - b. A total of 480 SNPs were sent on the special offer. ¼ of our target of 2000.
 - c. Breeders are encouraged to make use of the DNA pipeline and keep sending Stud Sires to be genotyped before 1 September 2022.
- 2) Breedplan V6.2

- a. A changeover to an updated software used by Breedplan will bring about a few changes including the potential to switch on Net Feed Intake EBVs and genomically enhanced breeding values (when we have enough samples).
- 3) Selection Indexes
 - a. The Breed Improvement Committee is in the process of updating the selection indexes. Changes will take place simultaneously with the change to Breedplan V6.2.
 - b. First drafts have been received; multiple drafts will be run before the final indexes are selected.
- 4) Beef Genomics Project (BGP)
 - a. Proposals have been submitted for approval of funding. Awaiting response from Technology Innovation Agency (TIA).

Some of the up-and-coming events include:

- Simbra Heifer Carnaval - March
 - Training days
 - Annual General Meeting
 - Auction
- Judges and Inspectors Course – 12 and 13 April
- Simbra Spring Showcase – September
 - Training Days
 - Breeders Meeting
 - National Championship
 - Spring Show case Auction
- Animal Inspections

Other things that are happening in the Society:

- AI Semen bank has been established on the Simbra Website; breeders are encouraged to make use of this platform. Terms and Conditions for use of the Semen Bank are also on the website. The Simbra office can be contacted if there are any further queries.
- A Simbra Show participants group has been established for those breeders interested in participating in shows. Any breeders not on the WhatsApp group who would like to be are encouraged to contact the office.
 - A Simbra Show committee has been established as representatives of the breeders who frequently show. Pieter Louw was elected as chairman of this committee.
- A new judge and inspectors' policy is being established.
- The LRF is hosting a Onderstepoort Bull Project directed at emerging and developing farmers, there is a demand for structurally sound affordable Simbra bulls.
- There are a number of farmers days coming up
 - Kamab – April
 - Mica – May
 - Malemba – September

Activities undertaken by the Breed Director in the previous year include training, breed promotion, inspections, herd visits, interaction with the industry. The Breed Director is part of the managing committee of the LRF and serves as the LRF representative on the RPO. Additional activities can be summarised in Attachment B.

Financial statements were circulated to the breeders prior to the AGM meeting with the agenda. The financial position was discussed, and summaries can be found in Attachment B.

7. Simmentaler- Simbra Legal Dispute Feedback (Tito Vorster)

The status of the legal dispute is ongoing. After the previous court case, we felt we had grounds for appeal, the appeal was granted, and the next court date is the 13 June where we will be required to submit heads of argument

to be heard, thereafter a court date will be set. We are confident that the current Society's model is strong enough to sustain the society.

8. Approval of Financial Statements

Approval of the financial statements, as circulated, was requested by Mr Tito Vorster. The financial statements were accepted by the attendants of the meeting.

Proposer: Mr Kerneels Derksen

Secondant: Mr Hannes Swannepoel

9. Club in Focus (Linley Jones)

Mrs Linley Jones spoke about the need for the Eastern Cape members to work together and not compete against each other, this was overcome by the construction of a club. When forming the club there were 5 areas that were identified to form the basis of the club. There were Mutual respect and transparency, a solid constitution which Tukkies Fourie is working on, Channels of clear communication within the club and the society, inspections, Courses and sharing of knowledge and genetics, setting annual goals as a club. The club meets regularly with two formal meetings per year. It is encouraging to see how the club has benefited all the members and they can see that they are making progress. The club does inspections together as a collective, to help broaden their knowledge and share in each other's vision and brand. The club has brought all the members vision together to strive towards functionally efficient Simbras.

10. Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements were made – further acknowledgements were given in the evening function thereafter.

Attachment A

President's Address

1st Annual General Meeting of the Simbra Cattle Breeders Society of Southern Africa.

On this day, the 1st Annual General Meeting of the Simbra cattle breeders Society of Southern Africa, it is my pleasure to report on the state of affairs for the year under review. The Simbra Society, its members and the Simbra breed came of age on the 15th of January 2021.

Within weeks after our independence the broader Simbra community pulled together and embraced our new beginning. A new dispensation had unlocked many opportunities for us to move forward and re-engineer our vision, processes, and the way we operated to **"The Simbra Way"**

Within weeks we elected a new President, Council and appointed a Breed Director in terms of a fresh and dynamic constitution. Days later we had our Breed Improvement Committee in place and the stage was set for a 2021 that turned out to be a very successful year for us irrespective of the challenges that we had to overcome.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Breed Director had to establish an independent office for the Simbra Society, employed suitably qualified staff and had our office operational within weeks. The resilience of the team was tested, and they were not found wanting.

Diethelm Metzger, representing our Namibian members and the Council member on the Breed Improvement Committee, in collaboration with our Breed Director, established the Breed Improvement Committee. Thys Meyer was elected as the Chairperson of the Breed Improvement Committee and became an ex-officio member of the Council. In the year under review the Breed Improvement Committee gave stature to the fact that the value proposition of the Simbra breed is underpinned by animal science.

Within the twelve months to date, we had three outstanding events. The Heifer Carnival in May 2021, the Simbra Spring Showcase, inclusive of a fantastic golf day in September 2021, and here we are with our third event. Thank you to our Breed Director, Daleen van Zyl and the volunteers from the ranks of our members and their families for their hard work to elevate mundane member functions into unforgettable events. We salute you all.

I wish to thank our Vice-President Pieter Meyer and Council for their commitment and contributions to our success. A special word of thanks to Kobus Bester our Breed Director. His vision, task orientation and commitment as Breed Director is exemplary. His performance vindicates the decision of the Council to appoint him as the Breed Director of the Society.

We must however not become complacent with our performance. We need to identify and address our weaknesses, failures and missed opportunities as well. We need to prioritize those aspects that will have the biggest impact on the Simbra brand in the shortest space of time. I specifically wish to implore and motivate our members, as the producers of our product, in this regard.

- Breeders need to get involved and make their skillsets available to the broader Simbra community. This involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Regional club activities

- Farmer's days
- Road trips where commercial breeders visit stud breeders.
- Working together within regions to create pockets of excellence. This will ultimately culminate in joint regional auctions. We need to build on this model.
- Within the ranks of our individual breeders and grouping of breeders which have established pockets of excellence. Collectively these pockets of excellence are the core of the Simbra community. Unfortunately, we do have breeders within our ranks that are not producing quality beef profitably or sustainably. It is our collective responsibility to assist these breeders to become part of the core.
 - We firstly need these breeders to reach out and attend our Simbra activities such as the Simbra school and various other training courses.
 - The Society must have induction course which current breeders and new entrants could attend to hone their knowledge and skill; and
 - We need our successful breeders to become mentors of breeders within their regions.
- Clubs are elevated by our constitution as one of the important corner stones of the Society. The Chairperson of each club has a seat on the regional representative's forum. The Breed Director and Council members must have regular meetings with these representatives to solidify our bottom-up approach. This forum creates the platform between members, the Breed Director and the Council. The Council member responsible for clubs is Pieter Meyer. I appeal to our members to take up this challenge so that we can establish a footprint in all regions. Today the Eastern Cape club will be making a presentation on the club and what they have achieved.
- Collectively we should acknowledge the importance of both phenotype and genotype. We are debating these important advances in technology at length and at levels where it becomes unpleasant. We disregard the fact that phenotype is a function of genotype, environment, and the influence of us as breeders. We should not debate this matter we should rather understand it better and embrace continued professional development so that we as breeders can make better decisions. After all we are the custodian of the Simbra brand. Furthermore, we need to produce quality beef profitably. Without this stud breeding is not sustainable. Our resistance to embrace animal science as the strategic competitive advantage of the Simbra breed is hampering our breed improvement progress.
- The empowerment of breeders by the availability of real-time information available from the Internet Solution System of Breedplan is under-utilized by members. There is no need for the office to produce your annual animal listing used to determine your annual per capita account. It is always at your disposal. Likewise, you can produce your own list of animals to be inspected or weighed. You can view all the traits you have submitted and identify those that require your attention. As breeders we make far reaching decisions, using the information available at our disposal such as mating predictor, inbreeding coefficient, farm report and completeness of information, will empower you to make better informed decisions.

I implore you to take up the challenge. Actively participate, make your skillsets available, promote the breed, use the information at your disposal to make informed decisions and spend 10 days a year on continued professional training to hone your stockmanship skills.

Let's Just Do It

Attachment B



Rasdirekteur Verslag



Simbra Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** To improve the SIMBRA breed through genetic progress, supported by animal science.
- **Vision:** To profitably produce safe, high-quality sought-after beef, keeping in mind animal welfare and a low carbon footprint



*As a Society, it is important to focus on:
Aiding the success and sustainability of our members
as breeders*

*Develop the Simbra (brand) as the Breed of choice
for beef production*



The Competitive Advantages of the Simbra Breed

- The easy to farm with extensive maternal breed that produce high performance off-spring
 - Demand for Simbra genetics –
 - Produce calves for
 - Feedlot/backgrounding – Bullcalves
 - Expanding of breeding herd – heifers
 - Demand for Simbra bulls
 - Convert existing breeding herds into easy to farm with economical producers (cow factory)



The Competitive Advantages of the Simbra Breed

- Governed by a modern constitution, promoting:
 - Inclusivity
 - Bottom-up approach
 - Science based breed improvement
 - BIC compulsory, chair on Council with voting rights
 - Strong organizational structure
 - Clubs, council, regional representative etc.
- Sound Organisational Structure
 - Council
 - Breed Director
 - Office
 - Competent staff
 - Animal scientist majoring in animal breeding



Simbra Priorities

- Give stature to the Simbra Brand as value proposition
- Breeders/members
 - Successful profitable thriving Seedstock producers
 - Improve Cow efficiency
 - Increase bull retention
- Expand the Simbra footprint



Focus areas (P=G+E)

- Members
 - Individual development
 - Continual training
 - “New” Breeders Manual
 - Utilizing available tools/information better
- Clubs
 - Member driven
 - Interact with current potential new clients and broader industry
 - Farmers days
 - Training & share information
 - Regional Auctions

Focus areas (P=G+E)

Profit drivers (Sustainable profit)

- Breed development – Modern Breeding Techniques
- Stockmanship
- Feeding
- Diseases & parasites

Simbra School

- Continual Training programs
 - Practical
 - Online

Breed Improvement Committee

Genotyping

- Special offer Ended on 1st March.
 - We sent of a total of 480 samples for genotyping.
 - ¼ of our target of 2000.
- Urge increased participation
 - Approximately 40 Breeders sent samples to Neogen.
 - Encourage all breeders to genotype stud sires
 - Please make use of our DNA pipeline.



Breedplan V6.2

- Enhanced options for genetic groups.
- Expanded Trait Range
 - NFI EBV
- Updated Days-to-Calving
 - Age of first of record
 - Heterosis Adjustments based on Multi-Breed research
- Enhanced Solver and Accuracy Algorithms
 - Option for implementing Single Step to get GEBVs



Breedplan Selection Indexes

- Updated each Index and explored possibility of including a new 4th Index.
 - Export Index that favours carcass characteristics for export market.
- 1st group of draft Indexes have been received.
 - BIC will assess and run multiple drafts until we see the responses we want to see.
 - Emphasis on Fertility and Cows Size
- When Final Selection Indexes have been decided. Changeover to new V6.2 of Breedplan will happen simultaneously with the indexes.



BGP Round 2

- Each Society has submitted updated data collection plans and proposals to LRF.
- LRF representatives have been in negotiations with the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) over funding for BGP round 2.
 - Final Submission for funding for BGP2 has been submitted.
 - Awaiting feedback
- Society will circulate communication if BGP2 funding is approved.



The Simbra Way - What to expect?

1. Heifer Carnival – March
 - Training
 - AGM
 - Auction
2. Judges and Inspectors course – 12&13 April
3. SSS – September
 - Training
 - Breeders Meeting
 - National Championship
 - Show Case Auction
4. Animal Inspections
 - Linear Classification
 - 5&6 Scoring animals
 - Enhance the breeder's business





The Simbra Way

- AI Semen bank – web based
- Simbra Show Participants Group
 - Simbra Show Committee (6 Members and Namibian representation)
 - Pieter Louw – Chairman
 - New Judges & Inspector Policy and guideline document
- New/Emerging Farmers development
 - LRF Onderstepoort Bull Project
 - Huge need/demand for structurally sound affordable bulls
- Farmers days
 - Kamab - April
 - Mica - May
 - Malemba - September



Breed Director Activities 2021

- Continue contact sessions with groups and individuals' members in various regions.
 - Training
 - Breed Promotion
 - Inspections
- Breed Promotion General
- Interaction within the Industry
- Member availability
- New members
- Problem solving

Statistieke vir die jaar

	Huidige Jaar	Vorige Jaar
Aantal Lede	127	125
Aantal diere	29 500	28 600

Rasdirekteur Aktiwiteite

Ras Direkteur Aktiwiteite		
Kudde Besoeke van huidige en potensiële nuwe lede		22
Keuringsbesoeke		16
Opleiding Sessies		4
Lede wat opleiding sessies bygewoon het		140
Twee besoeke na Namibia		2
Deel van die Bestuurskomitee van die LRF		
LRF verteenwoordiger op die RPO		

*Staat van die
Finansiële Posisie
soos op
31 Desember 2021*

Bates

Toerusting	34 350
Debiteure	40 780
Deposito	2 300
Kontant op hande	964 861

Totale Bates	1 042 291
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Ledebelang en Krediteure

Onaangewende Inkomste	317 786
Krediteure	724 505

Totale Ledebelang en Krediteure	1 042 291
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*Staat van
winste of
verliese vir
tydperk
onder
oorsig*

Totale Inkomste	2 398 476
Totale Uitgawes	2 106 022
Operasionele Wins	292 454
Rente Inkomste	25 332
Wins vir die Jaar	317 786