



SOA Africa

Second Annual Meeting
Magaliesberg, South Africa

On the 3rd November, 2019, the second annual meeting of SOA-Africa was held in Magaliesberg, South Africa, in conjunction with the South African Oculoplastics Society (SASOPS). The Order of St John was represented by Mr George Woods (Hon Sec, SOA-Africa), Chris Martin (Hon Treasurer) and Fatima Hoosen (Head of St John Optometry, South Africa).

At the main SASOPS meeting Mr David Verity gave a talk on the history of the Order of St John and the SOA, and the manner in which the Ophthalmic Association could support the work of St John. Mr Woods, CEO of the Priory of St John in South Africa, addressed the audience with an update on the progress of the new St John Eye Hospital in Soweto, South Africa.



After the SASOPS meeting the second SOA-Africa business meeting was conducted, attended by 18 allied health professionals and doctors interested in supporting the work of St John in South Africa. Mr Verity explained the roles in which South African Ophthalmologists could support the work of the Order. Various topics were discussed including strengthening the referral pattern from St John's Optometrists to the correct ophthalmology service, membership structure, the forthcoming SOA optometry symposium in St John Eye Hospital Jerusalem, and the use of web services to link South African Ophthalmologists to overseas SOA meetings. Mr Verity then thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

The SOA is once again most grateful to our colleagues and friends in SASOPS for their hospitality and friendship, without which this meeting could not have taken place.

Following the meeting, two surgeons (Mr Briscoe and Mr Verity) spent two days visiting the St John eye units in Soweto and other rehabilitative facilities in Johannesburg, seeing the remarkable work and leadership of the Priory of South Africa, often in a very challenging environment. They express their most sincere thanks to the Prior and all the Priory staff for their hospitality and inspiration.

Finally, we look forward to our first SOA international business meeting at the World Ophthalmology Congress in June 2020.

Grant Ladner, MD

Chair, SOA-Africa.