

Chairman's Report 2020

The past financial year has been an unusual one for all organizations including FoMM due to the Covid virus which resulted in a general lockdown from the end of March 2020. So we have had far fewer open milling days than usual.

Towards the end of last year the mill exterior was whitewashed using the traditional method of lime and salt. The exterior woodwork was also touched up. The interior wall of the dust floor was also given a coat of whitewash. The men's toilet was emptied of its fittings and made ready for our proposed museum.

On the 9th July my fellow miller and I operated the mill in light winds to make sure that all was still in good working order. The stones, tun and meal shoot were all thoroughly cleaned of any old meal. The two of us operated the mill again on the 1st August with a perfect South Easterly wind and ground approximately 24kgs under full sail. The mill performed better than ever. The only large maintenance item still to be undertaken is to improve the braking mechanism. We have consulted with two people who will help us achieve this in the near future.

We continue to get a supply of wheat donated to us by Cape Grain for which we are most grateful.

The gardens surrounding the mill continue to be well maintained by the Groote Schuur Estate's gardening division.

We currently have 98 paid up members. This is less than usual due to the far less open milling days this year.

A young apprentice miller whom we haven't seen for some time reappeared at the mill on our last open milling day before lockdown and we are hoping that he will once again come to mill operating days on a regular basis and qualify to be a miller.

Thank you to the committee and our members for continued support of FoMM in carrying out our mandate of keeping the only working windmill in Africa maintained, operating and open to the public on joining as members on our open days.