

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr P.Hawkins on 18/1/99

Present: R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies: B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted with correction of all 1999 dates by 1 day !!
2. Matters arising - Leonid observation a wipe-out due to bad weather
- Xmas function at McMuddles great fun and a good PRO exercise despite minimal viewing opportunity
3. Planning 10/2/99 - combined meeting with Natal Centre at Durban Natural Science museum for demo of sky 'projector'
10/3/99 - meet at observatory to plan /discuss the year ahead
17-23/3/99 - SASOL SciFest in Grahamstown
29-30/3/99 - ASSA National Symposium in Capetown
4. Membership - New member - Miss Hayley Wood (welcomed in October Stardust)
- Xmas card from Leanne Hearmon - happy in U.K.
- news of Tim & Hilary Chance - also well settled in U.K.
- Bianca Lawrence spent a few days in hospital - card sent.
- updated telephone directory of members to be sent out
5. Correspondence - letter from R.Arco (Ladysmith) - RR has replied
- RR to reply to ASSA historical database questionnaire
- newsletters from other centres and handbooks from ASSA
- notice of 8th United Nations/European Space Agency workshop on Scientific Exploration from Space to be held in Mafrag, Jordan (13-17/3/99)
- letters from Pmb/Duzi TLC a) request for grant-in-aid not successful b) signage for observatory approved.
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R2456,93 - some subs still overdue
7. STARDUST - RR has agreed to prepare February edition while BL is recuperating
8. Library - cupboard has been moved to observatory - books to be moved from temp storage at JW's office - 'open' bookcase needs a dust-cover (IS to measure, PH to purchase thick plastic)
- agreed to have 1993 and 1994 volumes of S&T bound by the University
- donation of "The Universe in Focus" by R.Clifford
- TV programme 'Mysteries of Deep Space' copied onto video by RR (3 parts)
9. P.R.O. - RR to contact 'The Mirror' re regular articles
- Pmb Publicity leaflets/Hilton meander/Japanese consulate
10. Observatory & Instruments
- RC has completed signs at main road and forest track turnoff
- RC to complete/erect sign at site
- RC has nearly completed the tiling of the plinth, after which the surrounds will be finally levelled, grassed etc
- 'plot' clearing slow but steady - still some plots unclaimed
- 2 second-hand steel pipes with flanges purchased for use as telescope mountings - holes in observatory floor to be dug - concrete 'party' in April for mountings and external viewing platform/braai area - portable vacuum cleaner reqd.
- PH and RR to contact G.Prosser
- plans for security ?
11. Education - Basic Astronomy course 1 → 27/7/99 - a good possibility that the Guide Camp hall could be used this year

* Official opening in June '99 - appoint a convenor and committee asap!