

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF J.WATSON ON 13 MARCH 2000

Present : R.Roth, J.Watson, R.Clifford

Apologies : P.Hawkins, W.Russell, C.Lake, R.Joubert Absent : B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - Good attendance at meeting on 8/3/2000 (17 members, 7 visitors)
 - Thanks to JW for giving COSMOLOGY talk 1 month early
 - Izinkanyezi cancelled due to low number of bookings
 - R.Radford dithering about overheads - unlikely to attend any future meeting
3. Planning 15/3/2000 Durban Centre meeting - Prof AJIT KEMBAVI (from India) to lecture on Cosmology
29/3/2000 SCIFEST in Grahamstown until 4/4/2000
12/4/2000 STELLAR FAMILY (Birth, Life & Death) - Extra Solar planets - Hubble pictures etc
15/4/2000 Practical viewing of Sunspots followed by braai
10/5/2000 Invite Fred Crookes (Howick) to give talk
14/6/2000 A.G.M. - invite Ann Solomon (Museum) to give talk on African STARLORE
22/6/2000 BASIC ASTRONOMY Course until 18/7/2000
12/7/2000 July meeting - viewing ?
4. Membership New Members - Mr Alan Hill and Miss Monique Hill Prop: R.Roth Sec: R.Clifford
Magda Streicher (Pietersburg) sending material she has prepared for some practical observation (Bennett objects, Apollo Landing Sites, Pluto etc)
5. Correspondence Newsletters etc from other Centres
ASSA Hon Treasurers Report to Council (15/2/2000) forwarded by M.Christianson
Brochures received from MMI
R.C. has ordered catalogue from ORION (USA) as advertised in Stardust Sky & Telescope
6. Treasurer Balance on hand R 1074,14 (Bank R 994,14 Cash R 80,00)
7. P.R.O. Publicity - photos for brochure/application forms still O/S
- put up posters in Libraries, Museum etc
S.de Vos has found Photos of Observatory Opening - fund raising "glossy" needed
"Village Talk" (Howick & Midlands) happy to advertise our meetings
8. STARDUST (to be ready by 29/3/2000)
In the absence of W.Russell, R.Roth has agreed to be the Editor this month
9. Library R.C. feels that the Library is not being used enough, despite many invitations & early 'opening'
Binding of Sky & Telescope is done - we still have some duplicates for disposal ?
10. Observatory & Instruments
J.W. has given R.C. copies of lease, plans etc - we are supposed to fence the building !
Future development - must meet with Girl Guides and Pmb Municipality
- plans for Education Centre to be presented in suitable 'glossy' brochure
Les Holtze happy to quote for security gate
Further work party on 8/4/2000 - notice in "Stardust"
Insurance - JW to investigate insuring of building / instruments / library contents
'Dancer' clean-up still planned
Need 2 more low-wattage lights - possible use of solar panel battery charger (on sale at Makro) ?
11. Education Model Engineers want to visit Observatory on 5/6/2000
JW to reorganise slides - training of members in use of telescopes at observatory
Basic Astro Course in June/July - hall booked (JW to update notes - database from BL)
- 3 applications already
R.C. requires use of slides on development of Observatory (talk to MACS on 13/5/2000)

NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY 17 / 4 / 2000 - VENUE STILL TO BE ARRANGED