

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF R. CLIFFORD ON 17 APRIL 2000

Present : R.Roth, W.Russell, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, R.Joubert, J.Watson, C.Lake

Apologies : B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted after correction of source of ORION advertisement from 'Stardust' to 'Sky & Telescope'
2. Matters arising - excellent presentation by RR at meeting on 12/4/2000 - small turnout on Sat 15/4/2000
 - PH expressed regret concerning cancellation of Izinkanyezi - after discussion, committee agreed to put down any suggestions on paper, which can then be sent to Durban Centre
 - 8 April 2000 was World Astronomy Day - why didn't we know ?
3. Planning
 - 2/5/2000 Astro evening at St Annes school - 18:30 - 2 x 30 Grade 8 pupils
 - 6/5/2000 Astro evening with Brookby School at Observatory - 18:00 - approx 30 people
 - 9/5/2000 Astro evening at Howick Prep - 17:30 - 3 x 30 Grade 4 pupils
 - 10/5/2000 Fred Crookes (Howick) to give talk - CL to liaise regarding subject and cost
 - 13/5/2000 Observatory work party
 - 14/6/2000 A.G.M.- invite Ann Solomon (Museum) to give talk on African STARLORE
 - use Girl Guide premises or Observatory ?
 - 19/6/2000 Model Engineers to visit Observatory
 - 22/6/2000 BASIC ASTRONOMY Course until 18/7/2000
 - 12/7/2000 July meeting - viewing ?
4. Membership Potential member - Mrs Pat Bennett
5. Correspondence Letter from Rusty Jarman
 - Newsletters etc from other Centres and April S&T
 - ASSA Council minutes of meeting held on 15/2/2000
 - ORION catalogue received, together with address of agency in Randburg
 - Material received from M.Streicher
 - Phone call from Paul Dogon (Capetown) - can import telescopes
6. Treasurer Balance on hand R 444,33
 - P.Welch to be suspended as subs have not yet been paid
7. P.R.O. Publicity - brochure/application form has photos - wording & layout need attention - use black on pastel coloured paper
 - put up posters in Libraries, Museum etc
 - RC has got Photos of Observatory Opening
8. STARDUST (to be ready by 27/4/2000)
 - Welcome back to Bill Russell
9. Library RC has received a 2nd copy of "Full Moon" - committee felt it would be dishonest to keep it
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - Future development - meeting with Girl Guides set for 10:00 on 20/4/2000
 - 'glossy brochure' re plans for Education Centre is being prepared - RR agreed to write up a short History of the Centre
 - need for professional advice re PR, Sponsorships & Endorsements
 - Security gate - 'Buzz' Lawrence has at last arrived to measure up & prepare quote
 - Insurance - JW to meet with broker (Derek Ridge) at 11:00 on 20/4/2000
 - Work party on 13/5/2000 - still lots of clearing to be done - RC to attend to small rust spots
 - 'Dancer' clean-up still planned
 - Need 2 more low-wattage lights - possible use of solar panel battery charger (on sale at Makro) ?
11. Education Schools are starting to get busy - enquiries from Girls High and Merchiston as well
 - JW to reorganise slides - RC needs slides on 13/5/2000 - CL has slides for JW to go through
 - Training of members in use of telescopes at observatory - nobody has come forward yet
 - Basic Astro Course - BL has agreed to do posters, but will sadly be away overseas
12. General Invitation from 'The Dargle Inn' to go out there for supper and a viewing evening
 - H.Buchler has pointed out errors in the 2000 ASSA Handbook

NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY 15/5/2000 AT HOME OF W. RUSSELL