

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF B. LAWRENCE ON 15 MAY 2000

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

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

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - a most interesting/controversial lecture given by Fred Crookes at meeting on 15/5/2000 which has already provoked some feedback (positive and negative) - thanks to CL for making all the arrangements - JW is anxious to find out who sent a misleading fax to the Natal Witness, which resulted in some people getting lost when trying to find the venue ??
  - W.Russell now lecturing in Empangeni during week -cannot attend, or edit STARDUST
3. Planning
  - 16/5/2000 Astro talk to Std 4 pupils at Merchiston School (Tim Wright now teaching there)
  - 3/6/2000 Howick Methodist S/School (Winnie Strydom) will come across to Observatory
  - 7/6 2000 Alliance Francaise to visit the Observatory
  - 14/6/2000 A.G.M.- nobody at the Museum at all helpful about giving a talk
    - we shall therefore have a Club Evening at the Observatory to include the A.G.M. business, viewing, snacks and wine (ASSA audio tape as back up)
  - 19/6/2000 Model Engineers to visit Observatory
  - 22/6/2000 BASIC ASTRONOMY Course until 18/7/2000
  - 12/7/2000 July meeting - viewing ?
  - \*\* Future Astronomical Audio evening , Spectral Classification of stars - how is it done ?
4. Membership New Member Mrs Lynn Wright Proposed R.Roth Seconded R.Clifford  
Good turnout of Visitors at last meeting - hopefully some new members will result
5. Correspondence Newsletters etc from other Centres and May S&T  
Letters of thanks to be written to St Annes, Brookby, Howick Prep and F.Crookes
6. Treasurer Balance on hand approx R 515,00 thanks to generosity of schools  
Agreed not to set a precedent by sending any money to F.Crookes - we normally only help with travelling expenses if appropriate  
Annual subs to ASSA and Sky & Telescope will be coming up soon
7. P.R.O. Publicity - brochure/application form amended/corrected by BL - needs Internet Web-page address  
- put up posters in Libraries, Museum etc - 'The Mirror' articles by RR continue to be excellent
8. STARDUST (to be ready by 31/5/2000)  
RR will edit this month - BL to supply 'Captains Log' - RC to provide 'Library Notes' - if space permits, include a nomination form for the AGM
9. Library Alan Hill is making full use of the Library  
6 missing S&T magazines - maybe advertise in MNASSA before ordering from U.S.A.!
10. Observatory & Instruments  
Future development - met with Girl Guides as planned - they are happy, and will reply in writing
  - '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 & EndorsementsSecurity gate - 'Buzz' Lawrence has submitted quote of R 1200 - reasonable, but exceeds bank balance  
Insurance - JW and RC met with broker (Derek Ridge) on 20/4/2000 - he reckons that our fire and public liability are more important than property - awaiting quote  
Work party on 13/5/2000 - poor turnout but a lot done  
'Dancer' clean-up still planned  
JW and RC have both procured 12V batteries - RR will buy and install 2 more low-wattage lights
11. Education Already have 8 registrations for Basic Astro course in June - BL to prepare posters to go out with next STARDUST  
CL has given slides for JW to go through - only required for MACS at a later date  
Training of members in use of telescopes at observatory - nobody has come forward yet

24/5/2000  
PREBUS  
Lunch

NEXT MEETING - DATE and VENUE to be decided at AGM