



Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
Natal Midlands Centre

P.O. Box 2106
Pietermaritzburg 3200
KwaZulu-Natal
Rep. of South Africa

14 JUNE 2000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEMBERS.

Robin
Ivan Schroeder
Gail Cubenell.
AL Fink Hill
Caryn Murray
Phillip Hawkins.
Roger Roth.
Ross Cluffel
CHRIS LAKE
Jenssep Mann
Steve de Vos
Ted Bates.
John Leyfer
John Watson

VISITORS

CHRIS HAMILTON.
Jill Hamilton.
Caroline Joubert
Peter Joubert

APOLOGIES

LEANNE HEARMON
VICTOR HUGO
← ROY JOUBERT
FRIKKIE DU BRUYN.
VERONICA COLLINGSWOOD
BILL RUSSELL.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Worlds View Observatory, Pietermaritzburg on 14 June 2000 at 19h30

1. The Chairman, Mr Rogan Roth, declared the meeting open at 19h30 and welcomed the 14 members present.
Apologies had been received from 6 members, and there were 4 visitors
2. Minutes of the AGM held in June 1999
The minutes of last year's AGM had been circulated to all members by post, and were accepted unanimously without being read

Proposed Mr P Hawkins Seconded Mr R Clifford
3. Matters Arising
No matters arising regarding the 1998/1999 minutes
4. Chairman's Report
Mr Roth reviewed the various activities of the Centre as follows :-
 - a) The completion and official opening of the Worlds View Observatory in 1999.
 - b) The need for members to actively use the observatory and library, and also to maintain the grounds around it
 - c) The programme of monthly meetings and excursions during the year
 - d) The ever increasing Education program, and the need for members to assist in this
 - e) Membership statistics
 - f) "Stardust" and regular monthly articles in the "Mirror" (published weekly by the Natal Witness)
 - g) Future plans for the development of an Astronomical Educational Centre at the observatory site
 - h) Meritorious Award for 1999/2000 presented to Mr Roger Clifford

Proposed Mr J Watson Seconded Mr S de Vos
5. Treasurers Report
 - a) Mr Hawkins handed out copies of the Statement of Income & Expenditure for the 1999/2000 year which reflected :-
 - i) Bank Balance of R 907,16 ii) Cash on Hand of R 20,80

Proposed Mr R Roth Seconded Mr H Tunmer
 - b) Mr Hawkins proposed that i) annual subscriptions be revised to R70,00 for Individuals, R85,00 for Families and R40,00 for Pensioners and Scholars
ii) an entrance fee of R25,00 be levied on all new members
These proposals were not seconded, and were rejected after some discussion
 - c) A proposal to revise annual subscriptions for the year 1999/2000 was accepted
These will be :- R 75,00 for Individual/Family members R 40,00 for Senior Citizen/Student members

Proposed Mr P Hawkins Seconded Mr J Watson
 - d) Mr Hawkins requested the recording of thanks to Mr J. Sprake (Minolta) for assistance in photocopying, and declared himself unavailable for election to the position of Treasurer again. Mr C. Lake proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hawkins for his excellent work over the past few years
6. Election of Office Bearers 2000/2001
 - a) The following members were nominated and elected
R. Roth, J. Watson, P. Hawkins, R. Clifford, C. Lake, R. Joubert, A. Hill, G. Culverwell

Proposed Mr I. Schroeder Seconded Mr F. Botes
 - b) It was noted that Mr S de Vos would assist with preparation of "Stardust", and that Miss L Hearmon would be co-opted on her return from U.K. if she agrees to this.
7. Other Business
 - a) There are a number of duplicate Sky & Telescope magazines for sale, but also some missing from the library sets
 - b) J. Watson has received corrections to RA and Dec of prominent stars published in the 2000 ASSA handbook
 - c) There is an intention to contact SAAO regarding their Education program(s), with a view to bringing our current and future efforts into line where possible.
 - d) Solar eclipse in Zambia in June 2001, and ASSA Annual Symposium to be held in Harare (Zimbabwe) thereafter
8. Meeting closed at 21h30, after which all those present enjoyed some refreshments and telescope viewing using the observatory instruments

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

NMC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1999/2000

Ladies and gentlemen, members and friends, it gives me great pleasure in welcoming you all to the first AGM held in our very own observatory.

I think this would be a good time to review some of our achievements, highlights and disappointments in the year gone by:

OBSERVATORY/GROUNDS

This past year was very notable for the **official naming and opening** of the World's View Observatory. As you will all remember this event was attended by guests and guest speakers from afar - Mr Danie Overbeek from Johannesburg and Mr Andrew Gray from Cape Town. By the way, Andrew sends his best regards to you all and wishes you well for the future.

Our **12" reflecting telescope** was also completed and installed during this period and we owe much to Dr Geoff Prosser for producing such a wonderful instrument - thank you Geoff! By the way, how many of you have yet to have a good look through it? Tonight is as good a time as any - we need more people to man/woman telescopes during public viewing evenings - any takers?

Our Centre **library** has been pulled into shape during the year and is now a valuable asset - please use it in future.

A fair amount of **work** has been put into the areas around the Observatory, but much work still has to be done. Many of the adopt-a-plot plots have been abandoned by their adopters and are in a terrible state - please, if you have promised to keep an area clean, but haven't started yet, now is a good time (the moon is nearly full), considering that the fire season is nearly upon us!

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

The **monthly meetings** have been, on average, fairly well attended throughout the year; some attendances have been rather poor and others have been really good. The talk presented by Mr Fred Crooks last month drew a large crowd of nearly 80 souls, many of which were visitors to our Centre. Other subjects, which seemed to be quite popular with the membership, were talks on cosmology, the sun and the constellations.

Viewing evenings are always popular and most people seem to really enjoy a few hours under the stars, however, the inclement weather seems to have played a part in dampening our spirits - who can complain about the beautiful skies we have been having recently though?

One **trip to the country** was organised during the year last November. Three adventuresome souls made a pilgrimage to the clear skies of Himeville to view the Leonid meteor shower. None were disappointed as the shower turned out to be a spectacular, once-in-a-lifetime event.

EDUCATION

Once again a very successful year of educational lectures to schools and other groups was orchestrated by our very busy education officer - does anybody know who he is? The Basic Astronomy Course was a real hit as usual and the next course is about to start later this month.

We must all realise just how important to the general well-being of the Centre these lectures

are and how much revenue they generate for future projects. I am sure our honourable treasurer will fill you in on the details later. But, please remember we need your support in these endeavours and if you feel you can lend a hand at any time let someone on the committee know, you will be welcomed with open arms, I can assure you (especially if you can operate a telescope!).

Thank you John (and helpers).

MEMBERSHIP

We have had quite a number of **new** members joining our ranks during the year and we have inevitably lost a few as well. We had to say **good bye** to one of the stalwart stalwarts, Miss Kerry Hampson, as she decided the clear skies of (...where?) Uniondale were preferable to our own murky ones here. We will really miss her as her telescope-handling abilities are quite legendary!

We had 59 **paying** members and 16 **honorary** members at the beginning of the year. We had 14 new members sign up and 4 or so resignations, so our membership appears to be more-or-less static.

We were fortunate to have had **contact** with far-off members, including Messrs et Mesdames Rusty Jarman, Andrew Gray, Danie Overbeek, Magda Streicher, and lightning **visits** by Leanne Hearmon and Rusty Jarman. We also had a **visit** by a professional astronomer, Dr Tony Fairall from Cape Town.

STARDUST

Stardust continues to be published regularly and, hopefully is fairly well read. Thank you to our editor-in-chief for maintaining the quality of our newsletter.

GENERAL

We are VERY proud to present this years Meritorious Service Award to someone who has put a great deal of effort into making our dream come true - the World's View Observatory. Without his dedication, vision, drive and just good old fashioned hard work we would not be sitting comfortably ensconced as we are at this moment in time - A big, collective THANK YOU to Mr Roger Clifford.

THE FUTURE

New developments at the observatory site and fund-raising for the planned education centre/planetarium, ablution blocks, etc. will continue in earnest. If you are not sure what has been planned for the future please study the excellent model on display.

Thank you to the 'old' outgoing committee for all their hard work and support during the year and a big welcome to the new committee for 1999/2000.

AND, LAST-BUT-NOT-LEAST, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SELFLESSLY CONTRIBUTED THROUGH THE YEAR

EXPENSES 1999/2000

<u>DATE</u>	<u>POSTAGE</u>	<u>REFSMINTS</u>	<u>STATIONARY</u>	<u>PHOTOCOPY</u>	<u>BLD MATS</u>
11/06/99	R94.20				R60.00
22/06/99	R27.55				
04/07/99					
15/07/99	R90.00				
25/07/00					
16/08/99					
16/08/99	R102.60	R65.90		R175.00	R115.17
17/09/99					
17/09/99					
17/09/99					R2,969.28
17/09/99					
17/09/99	R107.70			R71.80	
02/11/99	R27.10	R27.82	R30.56	R52.20	
02/11/99	R197.15				
30/11/99	R97.20				R592.92
30/11/99					
07/12/99					
15/12/99	R12.00	R3.29	R59.52	R46.40	
19/01/2000					
19/01/2000					
19/01/2000					
31/03/2000	R111.00	R41.60		R123.40	
11/04/2000					
12/04/2000					
12/04/2000	R200.00				
06/06/2000	R112.90				
08/06/2000	R104.00	R45.45		R106.00	
08/06/2000					
	R1,283.40	R184.06	R89.08	R678.80	R3,737.97

<u>SUNDRIES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
	R154.20	BRAAI PAVE BLKS
R11.45	R39.00	PHONE CALLS 98/99
R0.20	R0.20	BANK CHGS
	R90.00	
R500.00	R500.00	OB OPENING EXPNS
R227.95	R227.95	VHS TAPE +12VOLT LITE FITS
R158.66	R617.33	
R50.00	R50.00	PMB Tourism subs
R55.36	R55.36	OB opening invites + bal on refreshments
R200.00	R200.00	Spark wine + visitor transport re OB opening
	R2,969.28	Repayment to R Clifford of part loan
R259.00	R259.00	Girl Guides rent July/ Aug/Sept '99
R96.94	R276.44	Repair slide projector/Keys/Batteries/Dancer
R28.22	R165.90	Nt Wit photo
	R197.15	
	R690.12	Plinth + misc
R50.00	R50.00	Rent Oct + Nov to G G Ass
R150.00	R150.00	J Watson gift vouchers
R130.00	R250.21	Post BOX rent R130.00
R320.00	R320.00	ASSA Year Books
R20.00	R20.00	Site rent to Girl Guides
R0.20	R0.20	Bank/Gvt Levy
R99.00	R330.00	Scifest Prog + Globe for OM
R160.00	R160.00	Binding
R50.00	R50.00	Feb + March Rent to G G's
	R200.00	March + April news letter pstg
	R112.90	June news letter pstg
	R255.45	May news letter pstg
R50.00	R50.00	April + May rent to G G's
R2,616.98	R8,490.69	
		R8,490.69

The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

Natal Midlands Centre

Income and Expenditure Statements as at 14 June 2000

INCOME

Balance at Bank as at 6 June 1999	1,751.68	
Subscriptions	3,170.00	
Sales	280.00	
Donations	3,290.16	
Sundries	880.00	
Interest	26.01	
	<u>9,397.85</u>	

EXPENDITURE

Stationery	89.08	
Refreshments	184.06	
Building Expenses	3,737.37	
Postage	1,283.40	
Photocopies	579.80	
Sundries	2,616.98	
	<u>8,490.69</u>	
Balance as per Bank Book 14 June 2000		<u>907.16</u>

PETTY CASH

Cash on Hand as at 6 June 1999 33.30

EXPENDITURE

Stationery	7.50	
Phone Calls	5.00	
	<u>12.50</u>	
Cash on Hand as at 14 June 2000		<u>R20.80</u>

~~TREASURER~~
~~NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE~~

~~TREASURER~~
~~NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE~~

TREASURER
A.S.S.A.
NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

AM Southwood

02/11/1999	42	R60.00		
02/11/1999	43	R40.00		
02/11/1999	44	R60.00		
30/11/1999	INT			
30/11/1999	45	R110.00		
15/12/1999	46	R60.00		
15/12/1999	47	R30.00		
19/01/2000	INT			
25/01/2000	INT			
25/02/2000	INT			
11/04/2000	48			R200.00
11/04/2000	49	R40.00		
11/04/2000	50	R30.00		
12/04/2000	INT			
16/05/2000	INT			
15/05/2000	51		R280.00	
15/05/2000	52		R300.00	
15/05/2000	53	R60.00		
15/05/2000	54			R60.00
15/05/2000	55		R36.00	
24/05/2000	56	R30.00		
24/05/2000	57		R75.00	
06/06/2000	INT			
08/06/2000	58	R40.00		
		R3,170.00	R3,290.16	R280.00

	R7,941.64	
	R7,981.64	
	R8,041.64	
R2.24	R8,043.88	
	R8,153.88	Subs 98/99 + 99/200
	R8,213.88	
	R8,243.88	
R1.41	R8,245.29	
R0.99	R8,246.28	
R0.20	R8,246.48	
	R8,446.48	
	R8,486.48	
	R8,516.48	
R0.19	R8,516.67	
R0.12	R8,516.79	
	R8,796.79	
	R9,096.79	
	R9,156.79	
	R9,216.79	
	R9,252.79	
	R9,282.79	
	R9,357.79	
R0.06	R9,357.85	
	R9,397.85	

R2,631.68

R26.01

R9,397.85

INCOME 1999 / 2000

Date	Rept No	Subs	Donations	Sales	Sundries	Interest	TOTAL	
06/06/1999	Bal B/Avd				R1,751.68		R1,751.68	
10/06/1999	85		R150.00				R1,901.68	
10/06/1999	86			R20.00			R1,921.68	
10/06/1999	87	R60.00					R1,981.68	
10/06/1999	88	R60.00					R2,041.68	
10/06/1999	89	R60.00					R2,101.68	
10/06/1999	90	R40.00					R2,141.68	
25/06/1999	INT					R3.32	R2,145.00	
14/07/1999	91	R60.00					R2,205.00	
14/07/1999	92	R60.00					R2,265.00	
14/07/1999	93	R60.00					R2,325.00	
14/07/1999	94	R60.00	R40.00				R2,425.00	
14/07/1999	95	R40.00					R2,465.00	
14/07/1999	96	R40.00	R20.00				R2,525.00	
14/07/1999	97	R60.00					R2,585.00	
14/07/1999	98	R100.00					R2,685.00	
22/07/1999	99	R60.00					R2,745.00	
22/07/1999	100	R60.00					R2,805.00	
22/07/1999	1	R60.00	R40.00				R2,905.00	
22/07/1999	2	R60.00					R2,965.00	
22/07/1999	3	R60.00	R140.00				R3,165.00	
22/07/1999	4	R60.00	R100.00				R3,325.00	
22/07/1999	5	R40.00	R60.00				R3,425.00	
22/07/1999	6	R40.00					R3,465.00	
22/07/1999	7	R60.00					R3,525.00	
22/07/1999	8	R60.00					R3,585.00	
22/07/1999	9		R100.00				R3,685.00	
22/07/1999	10		R20.00				R3,705.00	
22/07/1999	11				R600.00		R4,505.00	99 Course Fees
22/07/1999	12	R60.00					R4,565.00	
25/07/1999	INT					R3.70	R4,568.70	
28/07/1999	13				R80.00		R4,648.70	99 Course Fees
31/07/1999	14	R30.00					R4,678.70	
31/07/1999	15	R60.00					R4,738.70	
31/07/1999	16	R60.00					R4,798.70	
31/07/1999	17	R60.00					R4,858.70	
03/08/1999	18	R60.00					R4,918.70	
13/08/1999	19	R60.00					R4,978.70	
15/08/1999	20	R60.00					R5,038.70	
16/08/1999	21	R40.00	R15.00				R5,093.70	
16/08/1999	22	R60.00					R5,153.70	
16/08/1999	23	R60.00					R5,213.70	
25/08/1999	24	R60.00					R5,273.70	
25/08/1999	25	R60.00					R5,333.70	
25/08/1999	26	R60.00	R40.00				R5,433.70	
25/08/1999	27	R60.00					R5,493.70	
25/08/1999	28	R60.00					R5,553.70	
25/08/1999	INT					R5.88	R5,559.58	
10/09/1999	29	R40.00					R5,599.58	
10/09/1999	30	R60.00	R40.00				R5,699.58	
10/09/1999	31		R300.00				R5,999.58	
10/09/1999	32		R1,000.00				R6,999.58	
17/09/1999	33	R60.00					R7,059.58	
17/09/1999	34	R60.00					R7,119.58	
17/09/1999	35	R40.00					R7,159.58	
17/09/1999	36	R60.00					R7,219.58	
17/09/1999	37	R60.00					R7,279.58	
17/09/1999	38		R134.16				R7,413.74	
25/09/1999	INT					R5.88	R7,419.62	
25/10/1999	INT					R2.04	R7,421.66	
02/11/1999	39		R300.00				R7,721.66	
02/11/1999	40		R100.00				R7,821.66	
02/11/1999	41	R60.00					R7,881.66	

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

2000/2001 COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Mr R. Roth
Secretary:	Mr J. Watson
Treasurer:	Mr R. Clifford
Newsletter:	Mr R. Roth
Observatory:	Mr R. Joubert
Instruments:	Mr A. Hill
Library:	Miss G. Culverwell
Council Rep:	Mr J. Watson
P.R.O.	Mr C. Lake
Education:	Mr J. Watson
Member:	Mr P. Hawkins

Addresses and telephone numbers

Mr R. Roth	P.O.Box 100210, SCOTTSVILLE, 3209	033 - 3442635 (h) 033 - 2605147 (w)
Mr J. Watson	P.O.Box 330, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3433646 (h)
Mr P. Hawkins	1 Ashbourne, Harwin Rd, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3460303 (h)
Mr A. Hill	P.O.Box 101441, SCOTTSVILLE, 3209	033 - 3961710 (h) 033 - 2606816 (w)
Mr C. Lake	P.O.Box 912, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3433710 (h)
Mr R. Clifford	145 Howick Rd, Wembley, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3423625 (h)
Miss G. Culverwell	6 Dennis Shepstone Drive, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3473402 (h) 033 - 3945485 (w)
Mr R. Joubert	4 Sanders Rd, Scottsville, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3460666 (h)

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All correspondence should be addressed to :-

The Secretary
A.S.S.A. (Natal Midlands)
P.O.Box 2106
PIETERMARITZBURG
3201