

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF P.HAWKINS ON 16 JANUARY 2001

Present : R.Roth, R.Clifford, A.Hill, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, C.Lake, G.Culverwell

Apologies : R.Joubert

1. Meeting commenced at 7.00pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted with corrections as follows
 - Public Star Party/Display date is 21 **July** 2001 (not 21 June 2001)
 - spelling of **Tiffindell** (not Tiffendal)
2. Matters arising - JW distributed schedule of 2001 dates for Centre and Committee meetings
 - JW talk to Minerva Club (20/12/2000) well received - R50 donation to observatory
3. Planning
 - Wed 14/2/2001 - VIRGO (RC), EROS (RR), VENUS (?), Year ahead (JW) (Valentine's Day !!)
 - Sun 18/2/2001 - Work party at observatory site to clear summer growth
 - Wed 14/3/2001 - Astrophotography (RR, H.Buchler, G.Prosser, H.Tunmer)
 - Fri 6/4/2001 - Observatory evening (members/public) - thereafter every Friday evening on trial basis
 - Wed 11/4/2001 - International Space Station (I.S.S)
 - Thu 21/6/2001 - Solar Eclipse in Zambia
 - Sat 21/7/2001 - Public Star Party/Display for fund-raising
 - Future - P.Vermaak (Univ.Natal) to be invited to speak on Extra Solar planets (JW to track down)
4. Membership S.Dale grateful for offer of 'anonymous' sponsor to pay subs - JW has contacted same G.Culverwell intending to go overseas Feb/Mar this year - new librarian needed
5. Correspondence - Letter of thanks to Hubers (McMuddles), and schedule of dates sent to G.Guides (with request to have our own set of keys)
 - 2001 Handbooks have arrived (GC to sell) - ASSA Council minutes received by e-mail ?
 - Newsletters from other Centres (including Xmas card & calendar from Pretoria)
 - MNASSA - interesting write up on new Infra-red telescope at Sutherland
 - e-mail request for 2001 dates from Andre Burton (who is he ?)
6. Treasurer Balance on hand : R 3647,55 (O/S subs R 77,35)
7. STARDUST (to be ready by 31/1/2001)
 - RR prefers to have 'local' content rather than extracting articles from magazines, internet etc
 - GC to submit another library report
8. Library - GC has supplied list of missing S&T magazines - looks a bit long ! - RC to confirm
 - D.Mann has moved and changed tel.number - GC to follow up on his S&T donation offer
9. P.R.O. - Approx 250 copies of new brochures/application form have been printed by L.Hill (at no charge !!)
 - CL to be responsible for initial distribution of these to Pub.Assoc, Libraries, Museums etc (JW to stock)
 - RC agreed to head-up sub-committee to plan for Pub S/P on 21 July 2001 - needs ideas
 - Money from overseas to Educ Dept for 'enviro education' - do we qualify ?
 - RR will not be submitting any more articles to the MIRROR - total lack of co-operation on their part !!
 - RR working on a Calendar (for sale ?) with important astronomical dates this year
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - Security gate installed - keys given to RR, JW, AH, GC, RC, CL and RJ
 - JW to contact H.Buchler re "rifle sight" for 12" telescope & also a "sleeve" for a 30mm eyepiece
 - Wattle/grass growth - Plot-clearing contractors too busy at this time of year to be interested - need regular work parties & 'plot' clearing (first one on 18/2/2001)
 - Lighting - need 2 more fittings and possible purchase of a deep cycle battery (as used for TV sets)
11. Education - SASOL Scifest coming up in March - new MTN Science Centre in CapeTown
 - request from Dr.Longmore for a quarterly Star-gazing evening

NEXT MEETING - **Tuesday 20 FEBRUARY 2001** at home of **R. Roth** at **7:00 pm**