

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF P. WESSELS ON 16 JULY 2001

Present : P. Hawkins, R.Joubert, J.Watson, A. Hill, F. de Bruyn, P. Wessels

Apologies : R. Roth, R.Clifford, T.Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - in the absence of R.Roth, P.Hawkins took the chair, and thanked PW for hosting the meeting
 - 24 members and 7 visitors (including FC himself) attended the screening of F.Crooks video "The Cosmic Constant" ; this was a disappointing turnout, no doubt due to the cold weather ; comments range from 'good entertainment' to 'controversial' (FC avoided giving direct answers to questions !)
 - successful work party on 15/7/2001 despite poor turnout (6 people) - see below
3. Planning Thu 28/6/2001 until Tue 24/7/2001 - Basic Astronomy Course
 - Fri 20/7/2001 and 27/7/2001 - Observatory evenings - getting a good response to advertising
 - Fri 3/8/2001 and 17/8/2001 - Observatory evenings
 - Wed 8/8/2001 - programme on 'Messier and his Catalogue' - include Bennett and Dunlop (PH and JW)
 - Wed 12/9/2001 - Gravity waves (FdB will present)
 - Wed 10/10/2001 - visit University - invite Dr Cress to speak (AH to follow up)
 - Christmas Party - scheduled for 1/12/2001 - use the hall at Ukalinga ?
4. Membership - enquiry from Dr Jason Londt (Natal Museum)
5. Correspondence - ASSA Council Minutes - web site now up and running - Banner for NMC (S de Vos to design)
 - Symposium in Harare cancelled
 - Cape Centre photo competition completed
 - Info from P.Cramb re travel/booking plans for 2002 Solar Eclipse
 - JW to follow up on Insurance quotation (when BA training course finished !)
6. Treasurer - no report - subs are coming in well
7. STARDUST (ready by 25/7/2001)
8. Library - keys required for TM and PH (retrieve keys from C.Lake) - TM has been tidying up
9. P.R.O. - article by I.Schroeder in 'The Mirror' - Stephen Coan (Nat Witness) will visit Observatory on a Friday
 - advertising for FC video not effective ? - FdB has designed a permanent advert for shopping centres
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - Work Party - 3 of the 4 platforms replaced with new slabs (J.Wessels will remove old rubble)
 - roof trimmed - some wattles cut
 - Dancer declination lock repaired by AH - PW has some old caravan lights - AH to investigate some red LED's - generator or cable to GG mains ? - water from 'forest pipeline' ? (which is not GG mains)
 - donation of 2 glass blanks by J.Loughlin - PF 12" needs collimating
 - revised entrance and road access proposed by JW - parking behind Observatory - signs need to change
11. Education - Observatory evenings to be considered educational as well - roster of members 'on duty' to be prepared
 - Isipingo Rotary leadership at Umgeni Valley on 18/7/2001 - BA course finishes on 24/7/2001 - Merchiston school on 25/7/2001 - Laddsworth school on 22/8/2001
 - request from Indian High School teachers for a training course
12. General - Dr Cress to liaise with us regarding the building and use of a CCD camera !!
 - RR working hard on design/construction of a Planetarium (PH still thinks it should be at the Museum ?)

NEXT MEETING - **Monday 13 August 2001 at 7.30 pm** at home of R.Roth