

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE OBSERVATORY ON 13 AUGUST 2001

Present : R. Roth, P. Hawkins, R. Clifford, R. Joubert, J. Watson, F. de Bruyn, P. Wessels

Apologies : A. Hill, T. Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted with addition that the matter of a small 'tool shed' attached to the observatory had been raised at the previous meeting
2. Matters arising - RR thanked PH for chairing the previous committee meeting, and for his contribution at the last Centre meeting on 8/8/2001
3. Planning
 - Fri 17/8/2001 - Observatory evening
 - Fri 7/9/2001 and 21/9/2001 - Observatory evenings
 - Wed 12/9/2001 - Gravity waves (FdB will present) - RC will also do a 'short' on van Gogh pictures
 - Wed 10/10/2001 - visit University - invite Dr **Cress** to speak (AH to follow up)
 - Wed 14/11/2001 - The Moon - use M. Streicher's Appollo landing journal ? - video ?
 - Leonid display during November (best in Australia !)_
 - Christmas Party - scheduled for 1/12/2001 - use the hall at Ukalinga - catering (braai ?) - liquor ?
4. Membership - NEW MEMBERS

Mr Brian Botha	<u>Prop</u> P. Wessels	<u>Sec</u> F. de Bruyn
Mr Colin Kay	" J. Watson	" P. Wessels
(All from the B.A. training course)	Ms Paula Hall	" R. Clifford
	Mr Guy Dewar	" F. de Bruyn
	Mrs Joan Houston	" R. Joubert
	Mrs Lindi Riby-Smith	" R. Roth

 - long letter received from Gail Culverwell who is now in Portugal
 - sympathy card sent to the Overbeek family - will not appoint another Honorary member just yet
5. Correspondence
 - S&T (Jul and Aug) - U.N. 'African Skies' (2 copies !) - Canopus
 - invitation from a Mr Nicholson to visit his farm at Hella-Heila for good viewing
 - phone call from Col Eddie Hoffmann - previous owner of Dancer 5" circa 1936 in Kroonstad
 - Mr Malcolm Anderson (Richmond) has a Meade 2080 8" reflector for sale
 - JW to follow up on Insurance quotation (when BA training course finished !)
6. Treasurer - Balance (at 31/7/2001) R 2542.77 [Approx R 333 collected at open Observatory evenings]
 - Basic Astro course profit of R 772 still to come, together with approx R 230 subs received in August
7. STARDUST (ready by 29/8/2001) - RR not happy about some of F. Crooks claims of Novae influence on Earth, and would like F. deB to research same
8. Library
 - keys required for TM and PH (retrieve keys from C. Lake)
 - prepared documentation on M1 to M71 gathered by F. deB for Centre meeting can be bound for library
 - TM to be asked to continue G. Culverwell's system of advertising the library at Centre meetings and bringing a selection of books and tapes across to the Hall
9. P.R.O.
 - advertising at supermarkets to go ahead - can only be a small card for permanent display
 - Chris Morwood (UNP) has been appointed as consultant to Science Centre at new Casino
 - attach advice on Internet sites worth visiting to our own Web-site - hints on how to download info and pictures will generate interest in our Society
 - article and photograph in Natal Witness has attracted a lot of phone calls to JW
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - 2 glass blanks donated by J. Loughlin have gone to Michael Brand and Colin Kay - need help to get started
 - G. Wessels has removed the broken paving slab rubble - 1 more platform to be replaced
 - RC not keen to attach a storage room to observatory - what about a "sit-on" cupboard at the S end ? - would prefer to try and construct the proper utility building as planned, with workshop, kitchen & toilets - FUNDS ?
 - PW has found 1 more caravan light - general feeling is to aim for a mains connection from GG Hall - COST !
 - Braai still has to be built (C. Lake was supposed to do it ?) - revised road approach acceptable if GG happy
 - Work party on Sunday 16/9/2001

11. Education - Basic Astronomy course went well - thanks to JW for all his hard work, and to all the other members who contributed
 - star evening at Laddsworth school on 22/8/2001 at 6.00 pm
12. General - RR looking for old slide projectors to cannibalise for use in his 'home-made' planetarium
 - there is apparently somebody touring around SA with a portable StarDome - who and where ?
 - F.deB would like to borrow ~~an~~ Geiger counter from UNP to demonstrate cosmic rays at the next Centre meeting

NEXT MEETING - Monday 17 September 2001 at 7.30 pm at home of R.Joubert