

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF P.HAWKINS ON 18 FEBRUARY 2002

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

Apologies : P. Wessels, T.Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - thanks to FdeB, PH and JW for contributions at January meeting (25 people attended)
 - only 4 people turned out for the work-party on 17/2/2002 !!
3. Planning
 - Wed 13/3/2002 - The planet JUPITER - Mythology (RC), Discussion etc (JW), Viewing (RR)
 - Wed 10/4/2002 - Dr Catherine Cress to be invited to speak (AH) - meet at University ?
 - FUTURE - Astronomy Week 15 - 21 April
 - Meteorite evening - July suggested
 - Visit to Sutherland in 2003 - hire of minibus very expensive (R15000) - borrow one ?
 - December eclipse - accommodation prices high - RR to write/phone M/Streicher
 - 'Spring' meteorite search (Tvl Centre) in Kalahari - 29 March to 7 April
 - ASSA National Symposium 29/11 - 1/12/2002 in Pretoria
4. Membership
 - New Member Rob Stuart-Hill Prop J.Watson Sec P.Hawkins
 - Hilton College Astro Soc are going to join en-masse (approx 20 students)
 - "suspect" members - Mr T.Mngomezulu (UNISA Astro student) and Mrs H.Brown
 - Gail Culverweli temporarily back from Portugal, but going to UK when visas received
5. Correspondence
 - MNASSA, S&T for March, Newsletters from other centres
 - Ray Field phoned with info re new comet visible in morning sky
 - Mike Christianson phoned re proposal to increase ASSA bursary funds - JW gave verbal OK
 - reports etc from UN Programme on Space Applications - still getting 2 copies !
6. Treasurer
 - Balance (at 31/01/2002) R 3502.43
 - only 3 Handbooks left, but will not order any more just yet
 - Girl Guides rates have increased (R30 minimum charge per evening, R5 per person per day)
 - application to LOTTO for funding of new buildings - RR,RC and JW to attend to this
7. STARDUST (to be ready by 27/2/2002)
 - RR has plenty of material - poem received from Rusty Jarman (J.Bay)
8. Library
 - list of missing books and magazines submitted by TM
 - RC to record TV programmes entitled 'Red Space' (story of Russian space race)
9. P.R.O.
 - Astronomy week - RR to contact museum, PH to contact library re displays, JW to inform PMB Tourism
 - Open evening at Observatory on Sat 20/4/2002
 - No news from Steve de Vos re design of a Centre banner
 - Darren Hill happy to assist in enhancing / maintaining the Centre home-page on the Internet
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - mowing done - TM has offered to bring farm workers to clear site (R10 each per day) - agreed to go ahead
 - RR to supply Guy Dewar with red LED lights
 - To be done : Extra lights, Sit-on cupboard, Door, Viewing platforms, Planetarium, Binocular mount
 - building filthy inside - JW to investigate price of 'dust buster' (battery vacuum cleaner)
 - JW to speak to G.Guides about feasibility of new access road - already very overgrown
11. Education - Basic Astronomy Course - members to be asked to get involved with lectures and viewing
 - JW to prepare programme and materials required
 - refurbished slide projector globe has blown - R160 to replace - RR has got some old globes
 - JW spoke at Rotary lunch on 15/1/2002 and at Hilton College on 7/2/2002
 - JW invited to speak at Blackridge Womens WA on Wed 3/4/2002
12. General
 - Jack Curran (Underberg) selling a telescope - JW to follow up

NEXT MEETING - Monday 18 March 2002 at 7.30 pm at home of J. Watson