

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF J.WATSON ON 18 MARCH 2002

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

Apologies : P.Hawkins, A.Hill, R.Clifford, T.Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - thanks to RC, RR and JW for contributions at January meeting (20 people attended)
 - excellent viewing of Jupiter et al (for once !!)
3. Planning
 - Wed 10/4/2002 - Dr Catherine Cress to be invited to speak (AH) - meet at University ?
 - Wed 8/5/2002 - Red Giants (JW)
 - Wed 12/6/2002 - AGM - invite Vincent Couling as guest speaker ?
 - Wed 10/7/2002 - Meteorite evening
 - FUTURE - 'Spring meteorite search (Tvl Centre) in Kalahari - 29 March to 7 April
 - Astronomy Week 15 - 21 April
 - Visit to Sutherland in 2003 - quite a lot of interest - dates ? - use private cars ?
 - December eclipse - accommodation prices high - RR to write/phone M/Streicher
 - ASSA National Symposium 29/11 - 1/12/2002 in Pretoria
4. Membership - JW to follow up on Hilton College Astro Society
5. Correspondence - S&T for April, Newsletters from other centres
 - Letters received from Natal Witness and anonymous 'moaning member'
6. Treasurer - Balance (at 18/03/2002) R 3563.89
 - application to LOTTO for funding of new buildings duly sent off
7. STARDUST (to be ready by 27/3/2002)
 - letter from 'moaning member' to be treated with the contempt it deserves !
8. Library - Nothing to report
9. P.R.O. - JW to draw up list of dates for open evenings at observatory (April - September) and advise press etc
 - Astronomy week - Library happy to allocate a small space for display of books, posters etc (PH)
 - RR to contact museum, JW to inform PMB Tourism
 - Open evening at Observatory on Sat 20/4/2002
 - Steve de Vos dithering over design of a Centre banner
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - TM doing a great job clearing plot with the squad of farm labourers
 - RR has supplied Guy Dewar with red LED lights
 - To be done : Extra lights, Sit-on cupboard, Door (fix hinge and tack nuts with welder / generator), Viewing platforms, Binocular mount
 - building filthy inside - PW not happy about battery vacuum cleaners - totally inadequate - should rather look for car vacuum cleaners, or use generator and full size (industrial) vacuum cleaner
 - Planetarium - some interesting e-mail contact regarding old Spitz planetarium which is currently at Boyden Observatory subsequent to closure of Bloem Education Centre - has been rewired etc
 - JW to speak to G.Guides about feasibility of new access road - already very overgrown
 - what about some fencing around the observatory ?
11. Education - Basic Astronomy Course - JW to prepare programme / materials required - team of members to present
 - refurbished slide projector globe has blown - R160 to replace - RR has got some old globes
 - JW to speak at Blackridge Womens WA on Wed 3/4/2002 and do a star evening for cubs on 5/4/2002
12. General - the proposed "Science Centre" at new casino is not going to happen !!

NEXT MEETING - **Monday 15 April 2002 at 7.30 pm at P.Wessels (6 Highland Rd, Sweetwaters)**