

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF R.JOUBERT ON 13 MAY 2002

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

Apologies : P.Wessels, T.Morley

1. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - RR and PH attended Durban Centre's 80th Anniversary (8/5/2002) - a good evening (snacks & viewing)
 - small turnout at last Centre meeting (8/5/2002) - thanks to RC and JW for holding the fort
 - tragic death of Bob Stobie (Director of SAAO) - JW to write letter of sympathy from NMC
 - very small turnout at Work Party on 12/5/2002 - how to motivate members to come ??
3. Planning Observatory evenings on Fridays 17/5/2002, 7/6/2002 and 21/6/2002
 - Wed 12/6/2002 - AGM - Telescope evening - screening of video 'Eye on the Sky' (European VLT)
 - Sat 13/7/2002 - Mid-Winter party (in lieu of Xmas party) - Durban Centre keen to be invited
 - Wed 14/8/2002 - Talk on Space Travel (A.Hill)
 - FUTURE - ASSA National Symposium 29/11 - 1/12/2002 in Pretoria
 - Visit to Sutherland in 2003 - details from RC to be published in STARDUST
4. Membership - Suspects: Calvin ? and Hilton College boys
5. Correspondence - letter of thanks to Dr C.Cress (together with spare copies of UN reports etc)
 - letter to UN asking for only one copy of the seminar reports etc
 - MNASSA, Newsletters from other Centres and more UN reports etc
 - Letters from LOTTO (application registered - on site inspection possible),
Pmb Tourism (want pamphlets etc to give to visitors)
and McMuddles, Currys Post (invitation to go and stay and do some viewing)
6. Treasurer - Balance (at 13/05/2002) R 3095,67
 - approved R200 expenditure for new slide projector lamp
7. STARDUST (to be ready by 29/5/2002)
 - RR has articles from FdeB and Gail Culverwell
 - include AGM Agenda and proposal to increase subscriptions
8. Library - Another bookcase required
 - JW prepared to donate his private collection of S&T for auction / sale
9. P.R.O. - Astronomy week - display at Museum (very quiet) and Library (a non-event !) - must aim to use the observatory better next year
 - Museum have offered us a 6 month display - RC to set up
 - Newspapers getting the message at last - monthly star-chart to the 'Mirror' would be good
 - S de Vqs has done a nice design for a banner using Centre logo - find someone to print / embroider it !
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - nuts on security gate tack-welded at work party
 - RR has given Guy Dewar more red LED lights so he can complete the job
 - 12" still needs to be collimated / aligned better
 - To be done : Extra lights, Sit-on cupboard, Door (fix hinges if possible), Viewing platforms, Binocular mount
 - RC revamping signs
11. Education - Basic Astronomy Course - JW plans changed, and will be able to run the course - 13 bookings so far
 - RR, RC, PH, J.Houston, B.Lawrence & H.Tunmer all prepared to help
12. General - New blood required on committee - RJ not available any more, JW would like a change of position, PW and TM unlikely to continue

NEXT MEETING - **Monday 17 June 2002** at **7.30 pm** (venue to be announced at AGM)