

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the home of C Kay on 13 January 2003

Present: F de Bruyn, C Kay, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, J Watson, R Clifford, T Morley

Apologies: R Roth

1. Meeting commenced at 19:35.
2. Matters Arising
No matters arising from previous minutes.
3. Planning
 - February – Variable stars presented by J Watson
 - March – Joan Housten? Frikkie to confirm with her.
 - Frikkie thanked Colin for his talk at the last public meeting.
4. Membership
 - Mrs Julie Young was accepted as a new member.
5. Correspondence

Received:

 - Durban, Cape & Pretoria newsletter, Canopus, MNASSA, African Skies & United Nations documentation, Grahamstown Scifest information
 - Annual Report of SAAO
 - Handbooks

To send:

 - Letter to Magda Streicher will be sent to acknowledge her donation of R200.
 - Letter to ASSA requesting the R500 as promised for our banner.
 - John to send the Girl guides our schedule for 2003.
6. Treasurer
 - December financial situation was stated at R5 244.17
 - Average monthly expenses was estimated to be R500 per month.
 - Colin has valued our library of books, tapes and bound S&T's at approximately R1 000.
 - The observatory building was valued at R60 000 by Roger.
 - John estimated the 12" reflector's value at between R30 000 & R40 000; the refractor, however, is difficult to value.
7. Stardust
 - Nothing to report, in the Editor's absence.
8. Library
 - Coling handed Trevor the July – Dec 2001 S & T's for binding.
 - Colin presented a list of all books and tapes outstanding & it was agreed to amongst the committee to phone the apparent offending parties in an attempt to retrieve them.
 - It is not known who holds a no. of the videos so a list will be published in Stardust.
 - Roger was thanked for his recent contribution of books to the library.
 - The never ending problem of circulating the current S & T was discussed and a distribution list will be put in place as soon as the January issue arrives.
9. P.R.O
 - Nothing to report in Rogan's absence

10. Observatory & Instruments

- John is going to store the *Dancer* at the University and will also be sending the reflector's mirror to Cape Town as discussed at our previous meeting.
- Trevor & Alan Hill will be assessing a number of wooden 'pews' that are at the university. These will be especially helpful with regard to the timber value.

11. Education

- Roger mentioned that the museum is hoping to get the planetarium back in July.
- Grahamstown Scifest will be taking place this year from 26 March to 1 April.
- John was approached by ARP&P to give a talk to them some time. As John is unavailable on Tuesday mornings when their meetings take place, Philip agreed to address them.

12. General

- Trevor reminded the committee of the stargazing evening planned for the SA Institute of Foresters to take place in June. A no. of the committee will take part in the presentation at the observatory site.
- Roger has erected a binocular mount at the observatory site!
- Frikkie was approached by the President of ASSA, who has requested that the society send in any material on observations we have made.
- Upon contact with Frikkie, Chris de Coning of ASSA is compiling a database of all centres. John to contact him with information.
- With regard to the new committee of 2003/2004, Philip suggested that we start getting the message out now for new committee members this year.
- John has decided that he will probably not be holding the Astronomy course this year.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:55. Next committee meeting will be held at the home of P Hawkins on 17 February 2003.