

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the home of L Hearmon on 14 April 2003

Present: C Kay, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, J Watson, R Clifford, R Roth, T Morley

Apologies: F de Bruyn

1. Meeting commenced at 19:36.
2. Matters Arising
 - No matters arising.
3. Planning
 - May – ‘Supermassive black holes & the galactic centre’ by Sabrina, an MSc student of Dr Cress.
 - June – Joan Houston to speak at the AGM.
 - August – ‘The recent cosmic microwave background results’ by Dr Catherine Cress.
4. Membership
 - No new members, although visitors at the last public meeting showed interest.
5. Correspondence

Received:

 - Letter from ASSA requesting further info on our banner; dimensions etc. Apparently they wanted ASSA logo – John to follow up.
 - Letter from ASSA regarding handbook information – committee agreed that no changes need to be made to the NMC write up in the handbooks.
 - Newsletters: Canopus, Durban, PE, Cape, Pretoria
6. Treasurer
 - January financial situation was stated at R4 322.69
 - S & T fees will be due soon.
7. Stardust
 - Astronomy course will be advertised; 26 June – 22 July
 - It was agreed to cut down on the number of Stardusts printed to only 90.
 - Stardusts will also no longer be sent to publicity house, education dept & geography dept at the University.
8. Library
 - R4 was made at the last meeting on the hire of a video.
 - Most of the missing books have been returned.
9. P.R.O
 - Rogan has received no reply from Peter at the Museum.
 - Colin has spoken to the librarian at the Hilton Library and they are prepared to allow us to put up a stand. Colin will be available to go there one morning with info & posters.
 - Rogan suggested putting up displays somewhere for the viewing season, as well as advertising the viewing evenings in the Witness.

10. Observatory & Instruments

- Lights are up and working – Rogan has been @ the observatory and sorted them out!
- Trevor has done the mowing @ the site, he has also sourced a mower which he will have serviced.
- Trevor has also taken the benches to the observatory.
- As an addition to the planetarium Rogan brought up the idea of making a Sky Projector. The article he found calls for the use of a 16mm fish eye lens – which the society will have to be on the lookout for.
- Roger has been at the observatory sorting out the rust problem and painting – a work party still needs to be arranged to carry out further repairs.
- John has cleaned up the 12" mirror which has turned out nicely.
- Rogan to ask his boss at the University about the possibility of him looking at and fixing the Dancer's star diagonal.

11. Education

- John & Rogan went to Cowan House to do a presentation; they were given a R100 donation toward the society.
- No other dates are confirmed but John has had some enquiries.
- Rogan will be going to Grosvenor Girls school to do a viewing evening on Friday 25 April, with a talk on the Saturday morning. John will possibly also attend.
- A meeting was arranged for 22 April for those in the committee helping with the course to get together and discuss the procedures. John has contacted Joan Houston and she is also willing to help.
- Colin has bought and donated a flip chart to the society. He was thanked for his generous contribution.

12. General

- Trevor will be selling wools rolls at the Foresters evening on 9 June – profits to go to NMC.
- Philip will be organising the MidWinter Star Party to be held on 9 July from 4pm onwards. It will be a bring and braai with the society supplying some wine. Trevor will organise the braai's and charcoal.
- It was decided that a separate invitation should be sent to the Durban centre.

The meeting was declared closed at 9:10. Next committee meeting will be held at the home of J Watson (16 Manor Close) on 19 May 2003.