

Natal Midlands Centre - Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
Committee meeting held at the home of Willem van der Merwe - 16/06/2003

Present: Frikkie de Bruyn (FB), Roger Clifford (RC), Trevor Morley (TM), Rogan Roth (RR), Willem van der Merwe (WM), John Watson (JW).

Apologies: Colin Kay (CK)

1. New committee for the year 2003/2004:

Chairman:	John Watson
Treasurer:	Roger Clifford
Secretary:	Trevor Morley
Education:	John Watson
Library:	Colin Kay
Observatory:	Roger Clifford
Grounds:	Trevor Morley
Stardust:	Rogan Roth (RR - produce/photocopy, TM - fold/address, RC - post)
PRO:	Willem van der Merwe
Research/Planning:	Frikkie de Bruyn
Instruments:	John Watson

2. Matters arising:

Spelling of Evan Dembskey's name to be corrected in previous minutes

3. Planning:

July 19 th	Star party (Philip Hawkins to convene)
August 13 th	Cosmic background radiation experiments (Dr Catherine Cress)
Sept 10 th	Spectral classifications (JW)
October 8 th	The Moon (RR and Philip Hawkins)
November 12 th	"Multiverses" (CK)
December 10 th	Radio astronomy (RR)

4. Correspondence:

- Newsletters to go to the Natal Society Library
- No acknowledgement from Cliff Turk re. banner correspondence
- Frikkie e-mailed Astronomy magazine re. reduced fee - in the meantime he will donate his copy to the NMC readership
- Letter of thanks sent to Sabrina for talk

5. Treasurer:

- Wrote to ASSA headquarters re. invoice - no subs need to be paid
- Rules have changed re. Sky&Telescope - anybody can buy it through ASSA
- R3478.72 subs have come in so far
- R2000.00 to be paid to RC - debt to him reduced to R8672.92

6. Stardust:

Nothing to report

7. Library:

Missing copies of S&T - CK has followed up?

8. PRO:

- Cost of banner R170 - JW to try and find original correspondence to ASSA
- Contact Mirror, Natal Witness, Village Talk - for publishing monthly meetings and viewing evenings

9. Observatory & Instruments:

- Inside tracks still to be rust-treated
- 'Wheel' (in track) still needs to be adjusted
- Many thanks expressed to TM for grounds management (and organising a lawnmower)
- Burning of grass after NTC spraying (Jeremy Dickson) - TM will talk to him
- Jeff Prosser to adjust PF12 optics - JW to contact him

10. Education:

- Basic astronomy course had to be cancelled - not enough interest - poor advertising?
- Talks delivered to:
 - Cub 'Tramp Camp' - RR (24 May - all cubs attending obtained their 'skies' badge)
 - Scottsville School - RR (17 June - solar system)
 - Ladsworth - JW (18 June)
- How to get more schools to come to the observatory? What can we send them as an incentive? We have sent things through the 'proper channels' before with no results.

11. General:

- Foresters meeting was a great success
- Frikkie has received a CD compilation of all the talks delivered at the ASSA symposium - anyone may use it if they so desire
- How can we attract more people/members to the monthly meetings/viewing evenings? Questionnaire to be compiled by Joan Houston.

There will be no committee meeting in July - the next committee meeting will be at the home of Colin Kay on Monday, August the 18th at 7:30pm.