

Natal Midlands Centre (NMC) - Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Colin Kay's residence, Monday 16th February 2004 at 19H30

Present: John Watson (JW, Chair), Roger Clifford (RC), Rogan Roth (RR), Colin Kay (CK), Willie van der Merwe (WM), Trevor Morley (TM)

Apologies: Frikkie de Bruyn (FB)

0. Corrections to previous minutes 19th January 2004

Item 2.2 change March 08th 2004 to March 10th 2004

Item 9.2 change Turnner to Tunmer

Item 9.3 change "to left" to "to be left"

1. Matters Arising from previous minutes

1. See 4.1

New Matters Arising

2. NMC's bank account name has been changed (see 4.1). If the name of the Centre is to change to correspond to that of the bank account, then the Constitution is to be checked to see such change needs to be accepted by its members at an AGM. JW

2. Planning

3. JW thanked FdeB for his February talk.

4. Planned talks are:

March 08th 2004 Multimedia talk of S.E.T.I. JW

April 14th 2004 1st presentation: Interstellar medium FB

12th May 2004 Comets in 2004, Celestial objects, transit of Venus RR/guest speaker

9th June AGM

14th July Star Party (alternate date Saturday 17th July)

11th August 2004 2nd presentation: Interstellar medium FB

3. Membership

1. JW had sent Jorg vd Vegte, a Michaelhouse learner, a membership application form and correspondence re: cheque details.

2. Membership application of Jake Alletson received and accepted. He is to be welcomed as a new member in the next issue of Stardust.

3. Hilton College membership in limbo till a permanent Science teacher has been appointed.

4. Letter received from Anne Turton.

4. Correspondence

1. Banner saga almost all resolved.

- Invoice and photograph to be sent to Mr Turk. JW

- RC had changed the bank account name to 'KwaZulu Natal Midlands Centre of ASSA' (abbreviation: KZNMCC of ASSA). See 1.2.

2. JW has received a fax being proposals by ASSA to amend their Constitution with regard to the appointment and Council membership of various ASSA appointees and Centre representatives. The meeting agreed that ASSA should implement the necessary changes to their Constitution. JW

3. JW had received a request from Brian Fraser re: the 2" Robertson's refractor. This had supposedly been sent to NMC from Cape Town via the Durban Society. Andrew Gray and Chris Lake may have more information on the telescope and its acquisition. Danie Overbeek is apparently also very interested in the telescope. It is however not in very good condition and perhaps needs to be sent to someone for restoration and/or safekeeping. JW

4. RR had replied to email received from Tim Chance.

5. Mr van Blommestein had sent JW information of impact craters in SA which could be of interest to NMC members and perhaps used in Stardust. RR.

6. Usual correspondence received from other ASSA branches. Passed onto RR.

5. Treasurer

1. R5202.67 current bank account total. This includes handbook sales which were going well. The new handbook has been favourably received by NMC members. Only 8 copies of the handbook are unsold.

2. TM has not located the original NMC Lotto application. JW to check his records. JW

6. Stardust

1. There was sufficient material available for the next issue of Stardust. RR
 - Prof Gregor had submitted a 4 page article
 - List of NMC members and telephone list to be published.
2. Space article required..... TM
3. Alan Hill to be contacted for an article..... TM

7. Library

1. CK handed over Technical articles for binding..... TM
2. No library activity took place at the last meeting it being made available. Use of the library by members to be promoted through Stardust..... RR

8. PRO

1. Advertising of events on the Witness is no almost correct and is to be kept in check..... WvdM
2. The Mirror's Pinboard is now alright.
3. Howick's Village Talk also doing the alright.
4. The Museum and Society Library to be investigate re: monthly notice on their notice boards..... WvdM

9. Observatory & Instruments

1. Mowing 21st February depending availability of a generator. Creaky wheel and poster hanging apparatus ongoing. TM
2. Harry Tunmer get the 12" telescope ready for April. Telerad had been located by TM and given to JW to get to HT. JW
3. Quote for Orion lens being followed up..... RR,CK

10. Education

1. Winter Training Course to be run by JW with assistance where required.
2. Observatory winter viewing programme:
 - to be planned for late May to early August
 - observatory to be open every week
 - the observatory is to be manned on Friday evenings during the viewing programme regardless of the weather; if the weather is poor on the Friday evening then the viewing is to be carried over to the Saturday evening.
 - a viewing programme still being considered to incorporate the Training Course, props in the observatory, planets, folklore etc.
3. Scheduled viewing/presentations..... RR
 - Underberg (evening 4-5th February) was full moon but was rained out anyhow
 - Kings School (March)
 - Rotary had supplied no further detail of their meeting. WvdM to be contacted.

11. General

1. Questionnaire summary ongoing. JW

Meeting ended at 20H50

next meeting: Monday 15th March

venue: Frikkie de Bruyn's residence, 168 Cleland Rd (past Hayfields Pick 'n Pay), tel 033 – 396 3624