

## Astronomical Society of Southern Africa - Natal Midlands Centre

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Frikkie de Bruyn's residence, Monday 15 March 2004 at 19H30

**Present:** John Watson (Chair), Rogan Roth, Frikkie de Bruyn, Willem van der Merwe

**Apologies:** Trevor Morley, Roger Clifford, Colin Kay,

### 0. Corrections to previous minutes 16 February 2004

Item 4.1. Bank account name is KWAZULU NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of S.A.

Item 4.3 The Roberts refractor

'Danie Overbeek was apparently ...' (now deceased)

### 1. Matters arising

1 We shall not be changing the name of the Centre, even tho' the Bank account has changed

### 2. Planning

1 Thanks to JW for talk on SETI, and special thanks to be conveyed to Anne Turton and Peter Mata for providing the CD ROM with his power-point presentation on ET

2 Planned talks are

14 April 1st presentation on inter-stellar medium

FB

12 May Comets in 2004, Celestial objects, transit of Venus

RR/guest speaker

9 June AGM

14 July Mid-winter star party (alternate date 17 July)

11 August 2nd presentation on inter-stellar medium

FB

3 Nigel Wakefield (new member - see 3.1) prepared to give talks - FB to contact him

FB

### 3. Membership

1 New members Nigel Wakefield Prop J.Watson Sec F.de Bruyn  
Ron Baragwanath " H.Tunmer " T.Morley

2 Sad to receive news of the death of Denys Mann on 8/3/04 - sympathy card to be sent

JW

3 Application form to be sent to Johan Hefer

TM

4 STARDUST being sent to Hilton College Library until further notice

5 Mrs Lorraine Christianson to be appointed an Honorary Member

JW

6 S de Vos and J vd Vegte to be suspended

7 JW was able to spend a couple of hours with Anne Turton during her recent visit

### 4. Correspondence

1 Newsletters etc received from other Centres - first one from Garden Route

2 JW has sent letter to P van Blommestein approving ASSA constitution changes

3 Invoice and photograph to be sent to Mr Turk for claim of banner expenses

JW

4 JW still researching the Roberts refractor info

JW

5 e-mails i) Gill Stewart (Gauteng Centre) - any spare old S&T and Astronomy mags?  
- invitation to SCOPEX on 24 April

ii) E.de Vos (Holland) - proposed new observatory on Matroosberg - do we support the idea? - UNDECIDED

iii) F de Bruyn (NMC) - wants to motivate formation of Cosmology section of ASSA - do we agree? - Unanimous YES!

## 5. Treasurer

- 1 Balance at end of Feb R 5078.94 which includes unsold Handbooks
- 2 RC supplied draft of proposed Invoice to be sent out in May with no increase in subs  
- committee agreed to keep subs the same, and will send out Invoices with the  
June newsletter

RC

## 6. STARDUST

- 1 RR had nothing to report

## 7. Library

- 1 M.Prozesky has kindly donated a box of old S&T and Astronomy mags - CK to check these to see if any are needed to complete our sets - offer for sale after this, either to members or Gauteng Centre

CK

## 8. P.R.O

- 1 Newspaper advertising still under control
- 2 FB to arrange for advertising at Nat Soc Library
- 3 JW to send STARDUST to J.Masters for advertising at Museum

FB

(P.Croeser not effective ?)

JW

## 9. Observatory & Instruments

- 1 At last meeting - 7 volunteers to help with grounds maintenance  
- 11 volunteers to help with winter viewing program
- 2 Some mowing done - JW felt it important to consider acquiring a petrol mower so that  
volunteers can get on with it without the need for a generator
- 3 Creaky wheel - work in progress
- 4 JW and H.Tunmer to set up 12" - season now only starts in June
- 5 N.Wakefield to be contacted re Barlow lens - he has recently arrived from U.K. having  
had his own business making / supplying telescopes etc
- 6 JW still to follow up on asking the person across the road to shade his security lights

TM

RR/JW

JW

RR/CK

JW

## 10. Education

- 1 Kings School, Nottingham Rd (Clarens Botha) - set for evening of Tues 23/3/04
- 2 Revisit Underberg on Friday 26/3/04
- 3 RR willing to talk to Rotary - date and time to be confirmed

RR/JW

RR

RR

## 11. General

- 1 FB is busy preparing a paper for next ASSA symposium later this year.  
Title is "Quantisation of some of the energy at the quantum level"

Next meeting on 19 April 2004 at Rogan Roth's home at 19h30