

## Astronomical Society of Southern Africa - Natal Midlands Centre

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Rogan Roth's residence, Monday 19 April 2004 at 19H30

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

**Apologies:** Trevor Morley, Roger Clifford, Colin Kay, Frikkie de Bruyn

### 1. Matters arising

1 Nil

### 2. Planning

1 Thanks to FB for talk on I/S medium & to those who brought telescopes

2 Planned talks are:-

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

9 June AGM - guest speaker Dr V. Couling with new telescope ? JW

17 July Mid-winter star party ( Saturday )

11 August 2nd presentation on stars "The life of Stars" FB

8 September 'The interaction of light and matter' - Nigel Wakefield

13 October 3rd presentation on stars "The death of Stars & stellar remnants" FB

3 Astronomy Week & Day are this week (19-24 April) !! - bad to have missed it - RR proposed a get-together with Durban Centre in future years, rather than go it alone

### 3. Membership

1 Sympathy card sent to Arlene Mann & family

### 4. Correspondence

1 Invoice and photograph have been sent to Mr C. Turk for claim of banner expenses

2 JW still researching the Roberts refractor info JW

3 Arlene Mann has offered us a pile of S&T magazines - WM to follow up WM

4 We must respond to e-mail re Matroosberg observatory and refer them to ASSA ?/RR

5 Received for info a copy of FB's proposal to ASSA to motivate the creation of a new 'Astrophysics / Cosmology' Section of ASSA. It will be tabled at ASSA Council meeting on 8 June 2004, and thereafter published in MNASSA for general consensus.

### 5. Treasurer

1 Balance at end of March R 4774.54, which includes only 1 unsold Handbooks

2 RC supplied report on Budget v Expenditure for the year to date, and an estimate of Expenditure for the rest of the year.

3 Suggested we can spend approx R1200 on some capital item(s) now, which will leave approx R 1000 to start the new financial year

### 6. STARDUST

1 Nothing for lead article for May issue as yet - lots of promises !

### 7. Library

1 Check S&T magazines donated by M. Prozesky

2 Arlene Mann also has stack of S&T to give away - WM to fetch & CK to check CK

3 Spares to be offered to our own members and then to Gauteng Centre (Gill Stewart) WM/CK

## 8. P.R.O

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|--|----------|
| 1 Newspaper advertising still under control (except for Mirror still in 'March')                   | WM       |
| 2 FB to arrange for advertising at Nat Soc Library   | FB       |
| 3 STARDUST being sent to J.Masters for advertising at Museum                                       |          |
| 4 Advertising for Basic Astronomy course - at library, museum, supermarkets etc<br>- in newspapers | JW<br>WM |

## 9. Observatory & Instruments

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|--|-------|
| 1 More mowing done - matter of getting a petrol mower still under debate   |       |
| 2 Creaky wheel - work in progress - must be ready by mid May   | TM    |
| 3 JW and H.Tunmer to set up 12" - season now only starts in June   | JW    |
| 4 N.Wakefield to be contacted re Barlow lens for 12" - use some of the R 1200 available                                  | RR/CK |
| 5 The 'person' across the road has stopped using the very bright security lights, and the wattle trees have grown anyway |       |
| 6 Signs need inspection and renovation, Painting to be done  | JW/RC |
| 7 Proposed a work party & braai on 15 May - RR to clear with TM  |       |

## 10. Education

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|--|-------|
| 1 Kings School, Nottingham Rd (Clarens Botha) - cancelled due to bad weather<br>- revised date is 15 June (Tues) | RR/JW |
| 2 Underberg visit on Friday 26/3/04 very satisfactory  | RR    |
| 3 RR to talk to Rotary on 18 May - postponed at the last minute !  | RR    |
| 4 JW and WM visited the W.A.Lewis School on evening of 27 March (80 kids)  |       |
| 5 6 people have already registered for the Basic Astronomy course  |       |

## 11. General

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|---|--|
| 1 Revisit a proposal made some time ago for a Mike Christianson commemorative plaque at the observatory |  |
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**Next meeting on 17 May 2004 at John Watson's home at 19h30**