

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa - Natal Midlands Centre

Minutes of Committee meeting held at Frikkie de Bruyn's residence. Monday 14 June 2004 at 19H30

Present: John Watson (Chair), Rogan Roth, Roger Clifford, Trevor Morley, Johan Hefer, Frikkie de Bruyn

Apologies: Willem van der Merwe

1. JW welcomed the new committee and thanked FdeB for his hospitality

2. Election of Office Bearers

John Watson	- Chairman, Education
Johan Hefer	- Secretary
Roger Clifford	- Treasurer, Observatory buildings
Rogan Roth	- Newsletter, Education, Instruments
Frikkie de Bruyn	- Planning, Council Rep
Trevor Morley	- Library, Observatory grounds
Willem v d Merwe	- PRO

3. Planning

1 Agreed that, except in emergency, Committee could meet every second month

2 Planned talks/meetings are:-

24 July Mid-winter star party (Saturday) - change of date - will take the form of a lunch-time braai followed by an 'open' SCOPEX afternoon to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Centre - viewing in the evening

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

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

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

10 November JW to give a talk - subject to be finalised later

3 Basic Astronomy course starts on 24 June

4. Dave Sykes (friend of WM) prepared to give 15 min talk on 'Genesis & the Universe'
Invite him to the August meeting WM

5 RR will investigate getting involved with the evening walks in Botanical Gardens RR

6 Steve de Vos wants to do an 'IMAX' presentation - can it be used on 24 June ? JW

4. Membership

Nothing to report

5. Correspondence

1 JW still researching the Roberts refractor info JW

2 Follow up on Arlene Mann (S&T) and Matroosberg observatory WM/RI

2 Newsletters etc

3 Letter from F de Bruyn re

a) ASSA Astrophysics / Cosmology section - matter was due to be considered by ASSA Council on 8 June 2004 - any further contact to be made through our alternate Council Rep (P.van Blommestein) - JW to advise him of the fact that FdeB is now our Council Rep JW

b) his own personal research and contact with professionals - well done !

6. Treasurer

- 1 Balance as per AGM report at 6 June 2004 - R 3465,31
- 2 Meritorious Service award for Harry Tunmer - approved book token for R 150
- 3 Must follow up on Lotto funding JW
- 4 WM has found and bought a 'slinky' for Rogan
- 5 Subs are coming in - some cheques not being filled in correctly with new account name
- 6 Query regarding electronic deposits - RC not happy about this at all

7. STARDUST

Nothing to report

8. Library

- 1 Videos returned by J.Houston
- 2 S&T magazines from M.Prozesky (TM to check) and Arlene Mann (see 4.2 above) TM
Spares to be offered to our own members and then to Gauteng Centre (Gill Stewart)
- 3 Are there any S&T volumes still being bound ?
- 4 Generous donation of books from R.Clifford to be processed
- 5 TM to contact Colin Kay for hand-over of keys and any documentation TM

9. P.R.O

- 1 JW to contact WvdM re adverts for public viewing evenings and arrangements for the 'SCOPEX' open afternoon on 24 June (see Planning above) JW

10. Observatory & Instruments

- 1 More mowing needed - what are pros and cons of burning off the rest of the plot ? TM
- 2 Tracks de-rusted by RC and JW on 12 June
- 3 Still in need of wooden strips to put on walls for hanging up charts etc TM
- 4 RR would like the camera (barn-door) stand to be set up permanently

11. Education

- 1 Kings School, Nottingham Rd (Clarens Botha) - revised date is 15 June (Tues) RR/JW
- 2 Basic Astronomy Course (24 June) now full (27 people) with a small waiting list
While JW in hospital - RR/TM on 6 July
- RC/Harry Tunmer on 8 July
Also - Nigel Wakefield on 13 July
- Joan Houston on 15 and 20 July
- Bianca Lawrence ? JW

12. General

- 1 RR to approach L.Christianson for a photo of Mike - picture & commentary rather than a plaque

Next meeting on 16 August 2004 at 19h30 at home of Frikkie de Bruyn