

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the home of Ms.J.Baxter on

11 July 1990

1. The meeting was attended by 12 members and 2 visitors, with 6 apologies.
2. The Chairman, Dr.G.Prosser, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and a vote of thanks to Ms Jan Baxter for the use of her home for the meeting.
3. Minutes of the 1989 Annual General Meeting held on 12 July 1989 had already been posted to members, and were accepted after being read (Proposed R.Dale Seconded A.Turton). Matters arising were:-

- a) Request for details of planetary and other viewing in the monthly newsletter 'Stardust' (A.Turton)
- b) Single copies of 'Sky & Telescope' being borrowed from the Centre library and not returned (S.Dale)
- c) Bound copies of 'Sky & Telescope' donated to the Centre are currently housed at the home of Mr & Mrs J.Lawrence due to lack of space in the Centre library cupboard (B.Lawrence)

4. Chairman's Report

In presenting his report, Dr Prosser made reference to:-

- a) the various activities of the Centre, both at regular monthly meetings and other 'extra-mural' events
- b) the revival of 'project Palomar' as a result of the generous donation of a 12" blank by G.Gopaul together with various fund-raising ventures
- c) the new and professional look of the monthly newsletter 'Stardust' under the editorship of R.Jarman
- d) the need for Centre members to become more involved in systematic observation of occultations and variable stars

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr J.Watson presented the statement of Income and Expenditure for the previous year which reflected a closing balance of R 417,79 , a gain of some R 33 over the opening balance. After discussion, it was agreed that:-

- a) annual subscriptions for members of the Centre should remain unchanged for the coming year
- b) the Centre should continue its membership of the Pietermaritzburg Publicity Association (Proposed S.Dale Seconded V.Collingwood)

6. Election of new Committee

The following members were nominated and elected

Dr.G.Prosser, Mesdames B.Lawrence, S.Dale, J.Baxter, V.Collingwood  
Messrs R.Jarmain, J.Watson, A.Scafturis

7. Other business

- a) Compliments to R.Jarmain on presentation and content of monthly newsletter 'Stardust' ( A.Turton)
- b) Telescope workshop, 'planetarium' simulation, Moon forum suggested as ideas for monthly meetings ( J.Dye)
- c) Izinkhanyezi '90 to be held at The Cavern ( near Mont aux Sources) over the weekend 16 - 19/8/90 - only 4 members of the Centre will be attending as it is rather exepnsive ( B.Lawrence)
- d) Enquiry as to availibility of telescopes for loan - the Centre has a 6"reflector available to members ( R.Manning)
- e) There is still a need to find a more suitable venue for the monthly meetings of the Centre ( J.Watson)
- f) 'Project Palomar' to continue with work on the new telescope at the home of Dr G.Prosser - next session on 21/7/90 to complete fine-grinding and start on pitchlap ( G.Prosser)
- g) Centre will be 'on show' to the public at the Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg on 6/10/90 ( J.Watson)

8. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm, after which everyone present enjoyed desserts and coffee together.



CENTRE REPORT  
NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE  
1989-1990

In compiling the report for our centre, I am aware of the privilege afforded me in having the opportunity not only to look back at the past year, but also to look forward to the hopes, aspirations and new direction in the coming year.

The last year has shown a modest increase in the membership of a centre characterised by the enthusiasm of its members and their readiness to be involved in the centre's activities.

The year got off to a good start with a well attended AGM hosted by Ron and Sheila Dale. The meeting was followed by dessert and coffee, then into the garden to spend the rest of the evening observing. Regular monthly meetings were well attended, with topics ranging from "Angles (not angels) in the sky" and "The certainties of the Universe" (John Watson), to variable stars and the supernovae (Chris Lake), the use of meteor trails in communications (Rod Radford) and the measurement of stellar distance (Rusty Jarmaine.) In all, five meetings were devoted in whole or in part to observing under the capable guidance of Sheila Dale. This activity has always been popular. The hospitality of Margaret and Chris Lake ensured the traditional success of the Christmas party.

We met with the Natal Centre on three occasions, the most memorable of which was spending an evening in the company of Patrick Moore.

As the scouts were holding their national jamboree in Pietermaritzburg this year, we were asked to provide an activity centre on astronomy. Its success was ensured by the able organisation and hard work of Chris Lake, and the gratifying number of volunteers from the Centre to stand duty over that week - this on one evening in the face of a sudden Midmar storm that almost carried tent, equipment, display and scouts into the dam.

"Project Palomar" has been resurrected with the generous donation of a 12" blank and tool by Gregory Gopal. Fine grinding has been completed, and celebrating the casting of the pitch lap is scheduled for next week.

Our newsletter "Stardust" has a new (and professional) look under the editorship of Rusty (who is also the printer and main contributor.) Rusty was also responsible for the elegant bumper stickers, which, while declaring our fondness for our hobby, will, we hope, swell the telescope-making fund.

On the negative side, "serious" observation has almost come to a halt. We have both members with expertise as well as the instruments to make a very real contribution to astronomical observation. A few members have made tentative approaches to minor planet occultation timings (often characterised by alarm clock failure!) It is hoped that these beginnings will burgeon into a plethora of reports.

The last year has shown a society that is enthusiastic and involved. In the new year we can look forward to the completion of the telescope, and observing with a purpose as well as for the pleasure we all have in our hobby.

In conclusion, I would like to thank both our members and my committee for making the past year such a success.

**Chairman:** Geoff Prosser

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NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

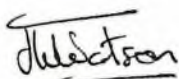
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 30 JUNE 1990

INCOME

Brought forward from 1989	Bank	355.33	
	Cash	29.49	<u>384.82</u>
Membership subscriptions		625.00	
Donations - Private		42.00	
- Boy Scouts Assoc		150.00	
Sale of ASSA Handbooks		66.00	
Sale of bumper stickers		102.00	
Xmas party		200.00	
Interest on Savings Account (First National)		8.65	<u>1193.65</u>
	TOTAL		<u><u>1578.47</u></u>

EXPENDITURE

A. Annual payments - ASSA subscription		70.00	
- Publicity Association		30.00	
- Post Box rental		15.00	<u>115.00</u>
B. Notice Paper - Printing and postage		150.00	
- Stationery		34.44	<u>184.44</u>
C. Library - Purchase of ASSA Handbooks			<u>100.00</u>
D. Refreshments - Monthly meetings		58.99	
- Xmas party		214.02	<u>273.01</u>
E. Purchase of Bumper stickers ( 500 )			<u>327.70</u>
F. Scout Jamboree expenses			<u>105.34</u>
G. Miscellaneous - Printing and stationery		50.79	
- Insurance (Video tapes)		4.40	<u>55.19</u>
	Sub total		<u>1160.68</u>
Carried forward to 1991	Bank	367.98	
	Cash	49.81	<u>417.79</u>
	TOTAL		<u><u>1578.47</u></u>



J.W. Watson  
Secr/Treasurer  
11 July 1990