

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the home of Mr & Mrs J. Lawrence

on 17 July 1991 at 7.00 pm

1. The meeting was attended by 14 members and 5 visitors, with 3 apologies.
2. The Chairperson, Mrs B. Lawrence, extended a warm welcome to everyone present.
3. Minutes of the 1990 Annual General Meeting held on 11 July 1990 had already been posted to members, and were taken as read (Prop: G. Prosser, Sec: R. Jarmain)
4. Matters Arising
 - i) 'Project Palomar' has progressed slowly this year, but the 12" mirror is partially polished.
 - ii) There has been a lot more occultation observing
5. Chairman's Report (Prop: R. Jarmain, Sec: A. Scafturis)
In presenting her report, Mrs Lawrence gave a brief, but comprehensive, review of the various activities of the Centre, and thanked all members for their efforts in making the year a successful one.
6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: R. Jarmain, Sec: T. Chance)
Mrs S. Dale presented the statement of Income and Expenditure for the previous year, which reflected a closing balance of R732-55, a gain of some R315 over the opening balance.
By way of explanation it was pointed out that:-
 - i) running costs had been carefully controlled
 - ii) various fund-raising efforts initiated by the committee were beginning to show results
 - iii) apparent 'profits' would provide the much needed 'capital' to purchase materials for the telescope building project.
7. Election of new Committee
The following members were nominated and elected:-
Dr G. Prosser, Mesdames B. Lawrence and H. Chance, Messrs T. Chance, R. Jarmain, A. Scafturis, R. Roth and J. Watson.
8. Other business
 - a) Telescope belonging to the late M. Lipschitz has been offered as a gift to the Centre - meeting agreed to gratefully accept the offer if instrument can be restored to good working order at reasonable cost.
 - b) Copies of monthly newsletter 'Stardust' to be sent to all local schools, and Natal Witness to be approached regarding weekly 'What's On' column.
 - c) Committee still looking at various options regarding an alternative venue for monthly meetings - schools, Scout halls and Botanic Gardens.
 - d) National Astronomical Symposium planned for April 1992 (in Capetown) and Izinkhanyezi also due in 1992, most probably in August.
 - e) Committee keen to extend the educational activities of the Centre both at adult and school level - have been approached by a principal of a local black primary school.

- f) Display at Natal Society Library on 13 July 1991 had again been most rewarding - thanks to those members who had participated.
 - g) Visits from D.Overbeek had been very encouraging to those members already involved in occultation and variable observing - lots of scope for more members to be involved.
 - h) Centre's 6" telescope badly in need of refurbishing - suggested shortening the focal length and remounting on a simple Dobsonian base to make it a more portable and easy-to-use instrument for beginners.
 - i) Hearty vote of thanks to the Lawrence's for the use of their home.
9. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm, after which everyone present enjoyed a curry supper together.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 17 JULY 1991

MEMBERS.

MR & MRS. R. T. CHANCE

R. W. Jamnain.

D. BOSCH.

G. Prosser.

A. SCAFFURIS

J. WATSON.

~~MR & MRS LAWRENCE~~

Rogan Roth.

Roy JOUBERT

Jan Baxter.

CHRIS & VERONICA COLLINGWOOD

MARK POVALL.

14 - MEMB

5 - VISITORS.

VISITORS.

B. Bosch.

H. Prosser

G. Watson.

J. POVALL

APOLOGIES.

R & S. DALE

Andries Kroukam

Chairman's Report

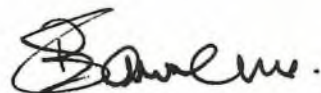
I have pleasure in presenting the following report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Astronomy Society for the years 1990/1991.

The year began in June with a most enjoyable AGM at the home of Jan Baxter at which the new committee was elected.

The society has spent a record number of viewing get-togethers in the past year, the first of which consisted of an occultation of Antares by a minor planet on 28 July. This was held at the home of Ron and Sheila Dale and was attended by 7 of our members. Our August meeting consisted of a viewing evening at the home of the Chris and Veronica Collingwood and we viewed Saturn, variable stars, globular clusters and double stars. We also explored the intricacies of setting circles. August also saw 4 of our members attending a very successful Izinkanvezi at the Cavern in the Drakensberg. The September meeting consisted of a talk about the moon, at which various members contributed. September also saw an extremely interesting visit to the home of Rev. Gerrit de Beer in Ladysmith where we had the opportunity to inspect his excellent backyard observatory and had the rare opportunity to do some daylight viewing. The October meeting took the form of video movies at home of the Lawrences. A film about Astronautics and a Cosmos film was shown. On the 6 October we set up our hobbies display at the city library. November brought us an excellent talk on the Hubble Space telescope by Arthur Arnold of the Durban Centre. It was also attended by members of the public. The Christmas party was held at the home of the Jarmains and took the form of a braai. The pouring rain did not manage to put a damper on the enjoyment of the evening. No meeting was held in January. The February meeting consisted of a number of short talks by some of the committee members, including such topics as the transit of Venus, Occultations, Maclears Beacon and gamma ray observing. March brought us an interesting talk on the Apollo moon missions by Tim Chance. April meeting took the form of a film, "Beyond the Milky Way" shown at ICFR and May consisted of a viewing evening at the home of the Collingwoods. June brought us a very honoured guest, Danie Overbeek of the Transvaal Centre, with whom we spent a very informative two viewing evenings. June also saw a few of our members going to a meeting of the Durban Centre.

Our newsletter had a bit of a facelift this year with Rusty Jarman taking on this task very capably. Rusty has also been sending updates of the society's activities to Maritzburg Views newspaper. We have also at last acquired an address stamp. Both library displays in the last year were very successful bringing us a number of new members. There have been a number of new additions to the library including a new astronomical dictionary.

I would like to thank the committee as well as members of the society for the effort they have put into making this last year a successful one.



B. LAWRENCE

30/6/91

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 30TH JUNE 1991

INCOME

Brought forward from 1990	Bank	367.98	
	Cash	49.81	<u>417.79</u>
Membership Subscriptions		830.00	
Sale of ASSA Handbooks		95.00	
Sale of Bumper Stickers		190.00	
Interest on Savings Account		11.43	
Teas Hubble Evening		22.45	
Returned by Chairperson		10.00	<u>1158.88</u>
			<u>1576.67</u>

EXPENDITURE

A. Annual Payments	- ASSA Subscription	75.00	
	- Publicity Ass.	30.00	
	- Post Box Rental	15.00	<u>120.00</u>
B. Notice Paper	- Printing, postage and stationary	305.51	<u>305.51</u>
C. Library	- Handbooks	100.00	
	- Dictionary	30.00	
	- Book (P. Moore)	30.75	
	- Transparencies	4.41	<u>165.16</u>
D. Refreshments	- Monthly meetings	45.42	
	- Xmas Party	19.54	
	- A.G.M.	11.29	<u>76.25</u>
E. Miscellaneous	- Sanel donation	10.00	
	- Receipt Book	12.66	
	- Rubber Stamp	23.50	
	- Sundry postage	4.37	
	Printing Subs notices	3.60	
	- Hasp library cupboard	9.52	
	- Adv. Natal Witness (Talk by Arthur Arnold)	44.75	
	- Hire of Auditorium	25.00	
	- Information brochures		
	Library hobbies day	10.00	
	- Parking as above	3.00	<u>146.40</u>
F. A.G.M.	- 90 and 91	30.80	<u>30.80</u>
		TOTAL	<u>844.12</u>
Carried forward to 1992	Bank	663.23	
	Cash	69.32	<u>732.55</u>
		TOTAL	<u>1576.67</u>

S. DALE

30/6/91.