

Astronomical Society of South Africa
Cape Centre

The Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Session will be held at Benson House 57a Long Street on Wednesday evening April 8 1931 at 8.15

Mr H. Horrocks in the chair there was a good attendance

Minutes of Annual Observational Meeting held at Murray's February 18 were read and confirmed

Minutes of Fifth Ordinary Meeting held March 4. were read and confirmed

The Chairman announced that at the next Ordinary Meeting Prof. Morrison would give a lecture

Mr A. W. Long exhibited a diagram prepared by Mr A. F. J. Forbes to illustrate a graphic method of finding the R.A. and Declination of a Comet. Mr Long gave a full ^{explanation} description of the diagram. The path of Comet Wilk 1930 D was used to illustrate the method. Three positions of the Comet at different dates obtained by the method were charted on the blackboard as were also the predicted positions. - they were in remarkable close agreement. Mr Long explained that ^{absolutely} accurate positions could not be expected from the method but the results were close enough to provide a search ephemeris.

A vote of thanks was accorded ~~to~~ Mr Forbes for sending the diagram and to Mr Long for his description

Mr F. E. Houghton read a paper on "Boundaries of Constellations". He described the older methods of grouping the stars into constellations, and of the

recent delimitation of these boundaries by the Commission of the International Astronomical Union; the boundaries being made to conform to parallels of R. A. and Declination.

Mr D. G. McIntyre read a paper entitled "When an inch is not an inch!" This was a discussion on the Standard Metre in its relation to the inch. There were fractional variations in the English, the Continental and American Standards. The differences apparently trifling become a matter of considerable importance in the construction of instruments of precision (such as were used by Astronomers) parts constructed by the different standards were not readily adjusted to each other.

Mr. A. W. Long exhibited through the Epidiascope a series of photographs of the eclipsed moon submitted by Mr Van Rude-van Oudshoorn President of the Capetown Photographic Society - photographed by him during the total eclipse of April 2. 1931.

These were secured with a long focus camera and a Tele-photo Lens. - The photographs exhibited much detail and were much admired - particularly that taken during the total phase. The Secretary was instructed to write to thank Mr. Van Oudshoorn for the opportunity afforded the members of the Society of viewing these photographs.

Mr Long also exhibited ^{through the Epidiascope} a number of illustrations of astronomical interest. ~~these were~~

The Secretary read a communication from Mr. C. O'B. Dutton - being a description of his observations of the minor planet Eros about the time of Opposition.

Capt Cameron Swan read a short paper on his observations of the Total Eclipse of the Moon on April 2. The Hon Secretary read a letter from

Mr A. Z. P. Forbes describing his observations.
 Reports ^{of the relief} were also received from Mr H. E. Houghton
 Lt Com. Raleigh and others but owing to the late-
 ness of the hour were not read.

The Chairman thanked all those who contributed
 to the programme, and the meeting terminated.

H. Horrocks

13 May 1931

Committee Meeting Held at Benson House Long St
 May 13. 1931 at 8. pm

Present Messrs. Horrocks Long Jean Mason
 MacIntyre. Pratt The Hon Secretary.

The following nominations were considered and passed
 for election:

C. P. Walgate A.R.C.A. A.R.I.B.A. M.I.A

Hilliards Chambers Church Square Capetown

Prop. D. J. Mac Intyre

see Mr. Long.

S. Carl Polgieter L.L.D., M.P.

Parliament House Capetown

Prop. B. F. Jean

Prop. D. J. Mac Intyre.

H. Horrocks

19 June 1931