

Minutes of the First ordinary monthly meeting of the 1971-72 Session, held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday 8th September 1971, at 8 pm.

The Chairman, Mr R. F. Huly, presided
 The attendance was good, there being twenty-eight members & eight visitors present.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs G. Allen, L. Posniak, J. Borsicelli, S. Fairall & Dr. P.A.T. Wild.

The minutes of the previous ordinary meeting were read & confirmed.

The Chairman referred to the paragraphs in the last circular to Members in which Members were encouraged to use the new Ron Atkins telescope. He reiterated that it was available at any time subject to there not being a clash of usage times, and urged Members to use the instrument more often.

Mr. The Chairman said that an occultation of Antares due to take place on Saturday 25th September should be spectacular and well-worth observing; he added that Mars and Jupiter were also very favourably placed for observations. The next meeting of the Centre would be addressed by Mr. J.H.E. Fitchin of the Trigonometrical Survey Office.

Mr. G. Harding, the Officer in Charge of the Royal Observatory, informed the Meeting that the Object lens of the Couder 6" refractor of the Royal Observatory had apparently been stolen and that the police were investigating its inexplicable disappearance.

He appealed to all Members to report any suspected unauthorized persons spotted in the Observatory grounds, as some of the Observatory installation had of necessity to remain unlocked and were vulnerable.

The Chairman, Mr. Huly, ~~said~~ ^{expressed} profound regret on behalf of the Centre that this instrument that had served the public of Cape Town and the Observatory for so many years should have been effectually blinded in this manner, and appealed to Members to assist in any attempts to trace the lens.

Mr. Huly then introduced Mr. K. Rochford, the speaker for the evening, ~~Mr. Rochford who was an~~ Mr. Rochford, who was Science Master at Westford High School, came from Australia and had recently joined the Astronomical Society as an ~~most~~ ^{most} enthusiastic new member.

Mr. Rochford delivered a most interesting lecture entitled 'Amateur Astronomy in Australia', in which he gave graphic description of methods in which Astronomical concepts could be conveyed to students. He expressed regret that the local ^{school} curricula no longer included the teaching of Astronomy or such; ~~but~~ ^{they were hampered} ~~but~~ ^{by} the level of organisation of S.A. Astronomy on a national basis, or a comparable association did not yet exist on a Federal basis in Australia.

In moving a motion of thanks

Pr. A.P. Fairall thanked Mr. Rochford for his talk and his advice; and the vote of thanks was heartily adopted. A lively discussion which arose from the many points raised by Mr. Rochford ranged over a wide field, but the main item of concern to Members was the teaching of Astronomy and how the Cape Centre could assist

It was noted that the Milaeton High School had recently obtained a telescope, and would probably appreciate some assistance in its full use.

~~Mr. J. C. Enters~~ Arising from a query by Mr Enters regarding Membership Cards, the Chairman appealed to all Centre Members who were not full Society Members to join the Society and derive the full benefit of doing so.

After adding his own thanks ^{to the Speaker} to ~~those~~ ^{the formal thanks} of the Meeting, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed, and tea was served.

W. J. [Signature]

13/10/71.