

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of the Cape  
Centre of the ASSA held at the SAAO, Observatory,  
Cape Town on Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Apologies were received from Mr Utley, Mr Hurley,  
Mr Simonhoff, Miss Parker.

The minutes were taken as read.

Chairman Mr Molyneux read led a brief  
discussion which can be summarized as follows:-

1. For the February meeting an ordinary  
lecturer should be arranged in place of the traditional  
set of Observatory Staff demonstrations, just for 1976.

2. The Darling excursion was a washout.  
Nobody even left Cape Town.

3. A Celestron telescope (expensive!) is for  
sale at HAMRAD.

4. Kettles and other amenities have been  
purchased by the Chairman and Treasurer. No  
delay in tea making will occur from now on.

5. Next month Dr Fuhr will carry on  
from where Mr Hawarden, today's speaker, leaves  
off.

The Chairman then introduced Mr T. Hawarden  
(who) spoke on Telescope Mirror Making. He  
began with a summary of the properties of the  
conic sections and applied them to the design

of a Cassegrain to obtain an aberration-free image. He went on to discuss the Airy disc diameter in relation to the limiting performance of a mirror of any given diameter. Mr Hawarden then passed on a number of tips about grinding and polishing mirrors for amateurs, recommending 2 hours of grinding on each of the <sup>and</sup> grades of carborundum 120, 240, 320, 400, etc.; the use of short strokes to avoid a turned-down edge; and the need for a good bevel. He went on to discuss laps made of resin, HCF, road tar and Swedish pitch; the Foucault test as being highly sensitive under the right conditions; <sup>and</sup> use of masks and their difficulties. He dwelt for some time on the Dall null test, strongly recommending it. He then outlined how Schmidt correctors <sup>are</sup> made. Mr Hawarden concluded by offering two challenges to the ATM's of the Society: (1) To make four 8" mirrors from one 16" mirror. (2) To make a Buchroeder catadioptric instrument as detailed in March and June "Sky & Telescopes" of 1968.

33 members and visitors attended the meeting which adjourned at 9.30 pm for tea after Mr Lammuth had suitably thanked the excellent guest speaker.

*W. L. Lammuth*  
14.11.73.