

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CAPE CENTRE HELD AT THE
S.A.A.O. ON THURSDAY 1975 MARCH 6 AT 20 HOURS

Present: Mr C. Turk in the Chair, the Honorary Secretary Mr C. Larmuth and committee members Messrs J. Bondiotti, J. Churms, R. de Kock, W. Grimwood, G. Larmuth, R.F. Hurly, B. Molyneux and N. Saville. Dr G.vanDugteren's apology for absence was noted.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 1974 November 21 were read by the Honorary Secretary and signed by the Chairman as correct.

Arising from these minutes the Chairman reported that gifts to a cost of R15,00 had been purchased for Mr and Mrs G.A. Harding. The committee agreed to this expenditure. The March meeting would be held on March 12 at the Cape Town Planetarium. A charge of R8,00 by the S.A.Museum to cover the cost of the janitor and teas was approved.

The Chairman also reported that Mr Cary had not been offered any of the telescope parts mentioned in the minutes of November 21 and was now resident in East London.

Mr Hurly had given lectures to Paul Roos School and the Diocesan College. Mr Bondiotti had lectured to the Theosophical Society, the Senior Society and various other societies. He mentioned that the Planetarium was helping to arouse the public's interest in astronomy.

The Honorary Treasurer reported that the sum of R145,59 plus interest of about R7,00 was on hand and that sixty-seven subscriptions for the 1974/75 year had been received.

Future meetings were then discussed. In April and May Dr M. Feast and Sir Richard Woolley would speak. It had not been decided which month suited which speaker. In June Professor Ellis of the U.C.T. might speak on Black Holes and in July Dr Wegner of the S.A.A.O. might speak on White Dwarfs. In August the Annual General Meeting would be held.

The Honorary Secretary reported on a meeting of the telescope subcommittee and Professor Warner of the U.C.T. The purpose of this meeting had been to establish to what extent the U.C.T. was prepared to assist the Centre financially to obtain a first-class telescope, in return for observing time with the telescope. It transpired that the U.C.T. would require a ten or twelve inch main mirror with a special reflective coating. The U.C.T. would bear the cost of the special coating, and their workshop would be able to improve the existing mounting if necessary.

Before further consideration could be given to this matter, it was decided that an estimate of the cost of the optics required should be obtained, and to this end the Honorary Secretary had written to American optical suppliers but to date had had no replies.

Mr J. Bondiotti said that as none of the present members have either the skill or the time to refigure the twelve inch mirror, a former member, Mr E. Aeppli now resident in Switzerland should be asked if he would undertake this work. It was agreed that the Honorary Secretary would write to Mr Aeppli.

Mr Churms suggested that every effort should be made to encourage enthusiasm among the members to use the presently mounted four inch refractor.

The Chairman pointed out that the present site was hampered by tall trees to the west of the dome, and that unless some of these were topped observers had a limited field. He suggested that after the meeting members inspect the dome and telescope to assess the position.

Mr Hurly reported that Society members in Rhodesia had been most appreciative of a recorded talk which had been sent to them. He suggested that future talks be recorded and copies be made of any slides used in the talk. Photographs could be taken of any diagrams on the blackboard. Messrs W. Grimwood, B. Molyneux and G. Larmuth undertook to try this idea with the approval of the lecturer.

The Chairman said that he had obtained copies of the AAVSO bulletin from Messrs Scovil and Ford and had noted with interest the financial statements published therein. It appeared that the organisation was largely financed by an endowment trust, and he felt that the Centre could benefit from this idea. Mr G. Larmuth said that he had some knowledge of trusts of this nature and proposed that the committee investigate the possibility of establishing an endowment trust. This was seconded by Mr W.Grimwood.

The appearance of a mouse prompted Mr N. Saville to request permission to purchase suitable plastic containers for the tea and sugar. This was granted.

The meeting closed at 21h32.

Signed as correct



Chairman

1975 July 15