

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CAPE CENTRE HELD AT THE

S.A.A.O. ON WEDNESDAY 1976 MARCH 10 AT 20h00

Present: Vice-Chairman Mr G. Larmuth in the Chair, the Honorary Secretary Mr C. Larmuth and committee members Miss P. Booth, Messrs J. Churms, R. Hurly, B. Molyneux and N. Saville. Apologies for absence were received from the chairman Mr C. Turk and Messrs J. Bondietti and W. Grimwood.

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 1975 August 28 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as correct.

The auditing of the Cape Centre Endowment Trust by Mr H.B. Molyneux for the period ended 1975 December 31 was approved.

The Treasurer reported that the Centre had received a bequest of one hundred Rand from the estate of the late J.G. Flett. The late Mr Flett had been a member of the Centre for many years and had died in April or May 1975. His remembering the Centre was appreciated and Mr Molyneux proposed and Mr Hurly seconded that this sum should be handed to the Cape Centre Endowment Trust as a bequest to perpetuate the memory of Mr Flett.

The Chairman drew the attention of the committee to the fact that the Ron Atkins telescope was hardly ever used. Arising from this discussion Mr Molyneux proposed that a letter be written to the department of Astronomy at the University of Cape Town asking whether it would accept the dome and twelve inch telescope as a gift, subject to the approval of the directors of the South African Astronomical Observatory and members of the Centre in ordinary meeting. It is recorded that it was felt that by this action better use might be made of the facilities, as they would be readily available to students of the University and in the event of the change taking place, the committee were sure that Mr G.R. Atkins after whom the telescope had been named, would be pleased that greater use would be made of the telescope.

It was decided that the Society's four inch Unitron refractor which is presently attached to the twelve inch mounting, should be returned to the Society by the end of the current financial year. The Society has arranged all-risk insurance on its telescopes and Centres are being called upon to pay the premium on telescopes they have borrowed. It was felt that as no use was being made of this telescope the Centre should not pay for its insurance.

Possible speakers for Centre meetings were Dr Lloyd-Evens on the seventy-four inch telescope and its associated equipment and Dr A. Duncan on Mars.

Mr Hurly requested that the committee at its next meeting discuss visitors' nights at the South African Astronomical Observatory, as there has been a revival of interest by the public resulting in additional nights sometimes being required. The issue of tickets for admission on visitors' nights as a means of controlling numbers and giving the members of the Centre who stand duty an idea of numbers to be expected, was discussed.

Signed as correct


Chairman

5. 8. 76.