

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE OF THE ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA HELD AT THE S.A.A.O.
ON WEDNESDAY 1976 APRIL 14 AT 20h00

Present: Chairman Mr C. Turk, Honorary Secretary Mr C. Larmuth, twenty-two members and three visitors.

The meeting commenced with parties being shown the blink comparator by Mr Churms. The Chairman formally opened the meeting at 21h00, and apologised that although Mr R. Hurly had brought three films, through a misunderstanding there was no projector. Apologies for absence were received from Drs Thomas and Wild and Messrs Bondietti, Neale, Simenhoff and Uttley.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1976 March 18 were read by the Secretary and signed by the Chairman as correct.

The Chairman referred to the brief discussion at the previous meeting concerning the future of the Ron Atkins telescope and said that the University of Cape Town had replied to our letter to the effect that they did not want to avail themselves of the telescope.

The Lawrence four inch refractor had been returned to the Society and the twelve inch had been reassembled, but prior to this the mirror had been tested by a competent person who considered that it could be corrected by polishing alone. Dr Holroyd asked what this entailed and the Chairman explained the process. Mr W.R. Douglas who had recently moved to Cape Town from the Transvaal, expressed the opinion that the Centre should not lightly consider disposing of the telescope, even if little use was presently being made of it, as this situation could change.

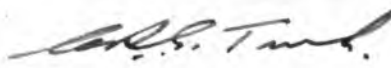
Miss Parker said that she was sure that members would find it of interest to follow up a lecture with an evening's viewing of the subject of the lecture, as many members do not have their own telescopes.

The Chairman explained that members would have to be prepared to do certain work in connection with the telescope if use was to be made of it. For instance, a work party would have to be organised to paint the dome, and when this was done someone would have to sweep out the dome at regular intervals. If an observing program was drawn up, members would be required to volunteer as observers on a regular basis.

Mr Churms drew the attention of members to the fact that Professor Thackeray required volunteers to time the setting of the sun over the sea.

Mr R. Hurly thanked Mr Churms for showing members the blink comparator. This concluded the business for the evening, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 21h35 for tea.

Signed as correct



Chairman