

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE OF THE  
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA HELD AT THE S.A.A.O. ON  
WEDNESDAY 1976 AUGUST 11 AT 20h00

Present: Chairman Mr C. Turk, Honorary Secretary Mr C. Larmuth, sixteen members and two visitors. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Parker, Mrs Middleton, Messrs Bredenkamp, Douglas, Grimwood, Hurly and Uttley.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 1975 August 13 were read by the Honorary Secretary and signed by the Chairman as correct.

Dr P.A.T. Wild then addressed the meeting and as President of the Society presented the Gill Medal to Professor A.D. Thackery.

Members had recently been asked to complete a questionnaire regarding the use of the Ron Atkins telescope. The Secretary had sent out 72 questionnaires and 28 had been returned: 17 members indicating a wish to use the telescope. They were asked by the Chairman to contact Mr Churms and himself who would organise a programme of variable star observing.

The Honorary Treasurer presented the Financial Statement of the Centre which was adopted on the proposal of Dr Wild who also proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer. The Treasurer drew the Chairman's attention to the fact that he would be overseas later in the year and Mr Molyneux would then be the only member authorised to operate on the Centre's account with the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that Mr C.H. Larmuth be authorised to operate on this account.

The Chairman presented the Report of the Committee for the past year, copies of which were handed to those present. The report was adopted and a copy is annexed to these minutes.

A copy of the audited Financial Statement of the Cape Centre Endowment Trust for the period ended 1975 December 31 was tabled.

The Chairman reported that the following nominations had been received for office bearers for the ensuing year and these were duly elected:-

Chairman	Mr C.H. Larmuth
Vice Chairman	Mr H.B. Molyneux
Honorary Secretary	Mr G.H. Larmuth
Honorary Treasurer	Mr N. Saville
Honorary Auditor	Mr G. Orpen
Centre Representative on Council	Mr J. Bondietti
Committee Members	Miss P. Booth, Messrs J. Churms, W.R. Douglas, W. Grimwood and C.R.G. Turk.

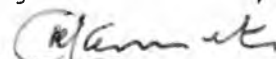
This concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting.

Mr C.R.G. Turk presented the Chairman's Address, his subject being how a beginner would start observing and how, with experience, move on to the more advanced and interesting business of variable stars.

The new Chairman, Mr C. Larmuth, thanked Mr Turk for his talk and also for the work he had done for the Centre as Chairman for the past two years.

The meeting closed at 21h05.

Signed as correct,

  
Chairman.

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

## REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE FOR THE YEAR 1975/76

### MEETINGS

Eight general meetings were held during the year plus a social function and in addition members attended the A G M of the Society. Details of the meetings, speakers and their subjects were as follows:

1975 August	Centre A G M and Chairman's address - Occultations	
September	Mr R.F. Hurly	Film
October	Professor G.G. Cillié	R G O Tri-Centenary
November	Dr. A.P. Fairall	Hubble Trouble
1976 February	Professor B. Warner	Short period binaries
March	Professor D. Lynden-Bell	Break up of the greater Magellanic Galaxy
April	Mr J. Churms	Demonstration of blink microscope
May	Mr A.M. Shipley	Tidal prediction
June	Social evening with Dr R.H. Stoy as guest of honour	
July	A G M of Society and President's address by Dr P.A.T. Wild.	

The average attendance was thirty-four members and guests, which is the same as for the previous year. Total paid-up membership was seventy-two.

### OBSERVING

No expeditions were organised by the Centre as there was nothing suitable and convenient to observe. However several members reported personal observations to the Directors of the Society's observing sections and also to interested bodies overseas.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Visitors evenings at SAAO are still conducted by Centre members on the second Saturday of every month plus the fourth Saturday of January, February and March. In addition, four further tours were undertaken by special arrangement. A total of five hundred and five visitors were recorded in the visitors book but it is estimated that over twice that number were actually entertained.

Centre members continue to write articles for newspapers and to lecture to the Planetarium, schools and other groups on request.

### CENTRE TELESCOPE

The Ron Atkins reflector has been re-assembled and a sub-committee has been appointed to prepare an observing programme for it.

### CAPE CENTRE ENDOWMENT TRUST

The accounts of the Trust are available for inspection and it is pleasing to note that donations to date amount to R410,50, an increase of sixty-one per cent over the past twelve months.

### GILL MEDAL

The Centre congratulates one of its members, Professor A.D. Thackeray on the award of the Gill Medal from the Society. This is only the ninth time the medal has been awarded in its twenty year history.

### THANKS

The Centre's thanks are recorded to the Director of SAAO for the use of various facilities throughout the year, to our speakers for entertaining and educating us, and to all members who contributed in many ways to help the Centre run smoothly. My personal thanks as Chairman are due to all the committee members especially my Vice-Chairman who twice had to stand in for me at short notice when I was unable to attend committee meetings.



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICACAPE CENTREFINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 1975/76 SESSION ENDED 30th JUNE, 1976

OPENING BALANCE as at 1st JULY, 1975

R c  
144 - 81RECEIPTS

Subscriptions (72 @ R1-00)	72-00	
Interest on Savings account at Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank	8-67	
Sundry donations - includes R16-00 members' donations towards party welcoming Dr. Stoy	17-00 <del>16-00</del>	
		97 - 67
		242 - 48

EXPENDITURE

Cost of tea, milk, sugar, biscuits, & washing <del>and</del> cups	11-09	
Postage stamps	21-90	
Stationery (Includes R15-00 for letterheads)	20-30	
Addressograph Plates	<del>1-17</del> <del>0-77</del>	
Keys for Telescope Dome	2-20	
Insurance - Cape Centre share on the Telescope	6-75	
Party to welcome Dr. Stoy during his June 1976 visit .....	32-28	
Less Sales of leftover wines	10-26	22-02
		85 - 43
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AS AT 30th June 1976	.....	R 157 - 05

- Notes: (1) Although the closing balance of R157-05 appears to be R1224 (12-24) higher than our closing balance at the end of the 1974/5 session (144-81), it does not include a debit of R20-00 which was incurred during the past session but paid only after July. We are therefore down on the previous year by R7-76, but the stock of membership cards should last for about five years and the R20-00 is therefore not a recurring annual cost).
- (2) The balance of ~~R155-05~~ <sup>157-05</sup> is apportioned between our ordinary fund which handles teas/postages etc & the telescope maintenance fund as follows: Ordinary R93-25; Telescope R63-80).

N. SAVILLE

Garrett Cooper Hon Auditor

Hon Treasurer