

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 1977 AUGUST 10 AT 20h00

Present: The Chairman Mr C.H. Larmuth, the Honorary Secretary Mr G.H. Larmuth, twenty-four members and two visitors. Apologies for absence were received from Miss Parker, Dr Holroyd, Messrs Bondiotti, Bredenkamp, Grimwood and Molyneux.

The minutes of the meeting held on ~~1976 August 11~~ ^{1976 August 11} were read by the Secretary and signed by the Chairman as correct.

Mr T.W. Russo, the Secretary of the Society, reported on the Society's Annual General Meeting which he attended in Durban last month. He brought back with him the Natal Centre's greetings and said he had had a most enjoyable time.

The Chairman read the Report of the Committee on the activities of the Centre for the past year.

A copy of the audited Financial Statements of the Cape Centre Endowment Trust for the year ended 1976 December 31 was tabled by the Chairman.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr N. Saville, then presented his report on the finances of the Centre and tabled the audited accounts for the year ended 1977 June 30. These accounts show that the Centre commenced the year with R157,05 and ended with R180,89. Mr C.R.G. Turk pointed out that expenditure of approximately R45,00 had been approved by the Committee since the year-end for repairs to the Ron Atkins telescope dome.

Mr R.F. Hurly proposed the adoption of the Committee's report as well as the Treasurer's report and complimented the Chairman on the work he had done for the Centre during his term of office.

Mr Turk mentioned that the Committee was considering how it could make meetings more interesting and with this in view had in mind the purchase, with the assistance of the Cape Centre Endowment Trust, of a 16 mm sound projector. He appealed to members to advise the Committee should anyone hear of such a projector coming on the market. Mr Hurly pointed out that the Observatory had an excellent collection of slides which could be drawn on for talks.

The Chairman then dealt with the office bearers for the coming year. Nominations had been received for the following members who had signified their willingness to accept office and they were duly elected:-

Chairman	Mr J.S. Bondiotti
Vice-Chairman	Miss P. Booth
Honorary Treasurer	Mr N. Saville
Honorary Auditor	Mr G. Orpen
Council Represent- ative	Mr H.B. Molyneux
Committee	Mr K. Burke, Mr J. Churms, Dr J.F. Dean, Mr W.Grimwood, Dr L.H. Holroyd, Mr J. Parsons and Mr C.R.G. Turk.

It had not been possible to fill the post of Honorary Secretary and as no offers were received from those members present the Committee would sort the matter out.

Miss P. Booth, the Vice-Chairman, then took the Chair and introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr P.B. Byrne of Dublin who is on a one year visit to the University of Cape Town. Dr Byrne said that he had recently returned from a holiday in Dublin and had been asked by the Dublin Astronomical Society to convey their greetings to the Cape Centre. He then gave a most interesting talk on "X Ray Astronomy", a department of astronomy which had begun only about fifteen years ago. Professor A.D. Thackeray thanked Dr Byrne on behalf of the Centre and said that the great number of questions put to the speaker was a certain indication of the interest his talk had aroused.

The Chairman closed the meeting for tea at 21h40.

Signed as correct,

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Chairman.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE FOR THE YEAR 1976/77

MEETINGS

Ten general meetings were held during the year. Details of the meetings, speakers and their subjects were as follows:-

1976 August	Centre AGM and Chairman's address	Observing, beginner to advanced.
September	Dr P.W. Hill	Ultra violet and optical astronomy from a spacecraft.
October	Mr B.J. du Plooy	Solar Heating.
November	Dr A. Duncan	A Geologist's view of Mars.
1977 February	Mr P.R. Hurly	Observation of visual double stars using an area scanner.
March	Mr N. Saville	October 1976 eclipse from Australia.
April	Prof. A.D. Thackeray	An Astronomical visit to the Andies.
May	Dr T. Lloyd-Evans	Star clusters.
June	Mr David Block	Probing the night sky.
July	Centre Chairman's address	Amateur observing and time recording.

The average attendance was 29 members and guests. The total membership of the Centre was 68.

OBSERVING

One expedition was organised by the Centre but, as so often happens here, bad weather interrupted observations. However, several members reported personal observations to the Directors of the Society's observing sections and also to interested bodies overseas.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Certain Centre members continue to act as guides for visitors evenings at the South African Astronomical Observatory on the second Saturday of every month as well as the fourth Saturday of January, February and March. In addition to these evenings a number of special tours were accommodated by arrangement. Lectures at the Planetarium, schools and to other groups are given by members of the Centre. Regular articles in certain newspapers are also written by members.

CENTRE TELESCOPE

The Ron Atkins reflector has been re-aluminised and a 4 inch refractor mounted on it. A sub-committee has been appointed to assist certain members who have expressed a desire to undertake observations of variables.

CAPE CENTRE ENDOWMENT TRUST

The financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 1976 December 31 are available for inspection and it is pleasing to report that donations to date amount to R457,50. The Trust is now accumulating interest which, in future, should prove a blessing to the Centre.

THANKS

The Centre's thanks are recorded to the Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory for the continued use of the lecture room facilities rent free, as well as the site for the Ron Atkins telescope. We also thank our speakers for giving up their spare time to present the interesting and varied lectures we have heard during the year and to all members who have contributed in so many ways to help the Centre run smoothly. My personal thanks as Chairman are due to my Committee for helping to organise the lectures and last, but not least, to our Honorary Treasurer for continuing to look after our finances.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA - CAPE CENTREFinancial Statement for the 1976/1977 Session ended 1977 June 30.

			R	c
OPENING BALANCE as at 1st July, 1976			157	- 05
<u>Add Income:</u>				
Subscriptions:	71 @ R1-00	71-00 ✓		
	1 @ 0-25	<u>25</u> ✓	71	- 25
Interest on Savings Account at Cape Of Good Hope Savings Bank (Period 1/1/76 - 31/12/76)		<u>9-07</u>	9-07	
Key Deposits		<u>4-00</u> ✓	84	- 32
			241	- 37
<u>Less Expenditure:</u>				
Teas provided at meetings (cost of tea, milk, sugar, biscuits, washing of cups)			15-42	
Payment to UCT per ASSA for cost of Cape Centre Members-hip cards			20-00	
Stationery (Envelopes)			2-40	
Addressograph Plates			3-89	
Postage Stamps			17-00	
Telephone calls			<u>1-77</u> ✓	60 - 48 ✓
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AS AT 30th June, 1977		R	<u><u>180 - 89</u></u> ✓

Balance in Savings Account as at 19th July, 1977 = R 181-89.
(R1-00 more in Savings account than the financial statement; this was due to an overdeposit arising from the same receipt having been recorded twice.) ✓

Subscriptions received include five amounts of R 1-00 in respect of 1977/78 Session. (i.e. Subscriptions in advance) ✓

The balance of R180-89 is split as follows:

General funds R113-09 ✓
Telescope fund 67-80. ✓

N. Saville

N. Saville
Hon. Treasurer.

5th August 1977

*Bennett O'Neil
Hon. Auditor*