

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cape Centre
held at SAAD on Wed 11th of March 1981
at 8 pm

Present were the Chairman Miss Pat Booth
²³
~~23~~ Members and 3 Visitors

Apologies for absence were received from Mr
Utley and doctor Feast.

Professor B. Warner gave a talk on "Polar"
There are many such "Polar" in the sky.
The prototype is A.M. Herculis.

They are close binary stars in which
one component is a normal star and
the other a white dwarf or neutron
star i.e. having very great density and
consequently a very strong magnetic
field at the surface - about a million
gauss as compared with earth which is
about $\frac{1}{10}$ gauss. One ~~can~~ ^{can} determine
magnetic fields of white dwarfs by
doppler shift methods but if an
extensive hydrogen atmosphere is
present, the H absorption lines become
rather broad and one cannot measure
the doppler shifts accurately. In recent
times we have been examining X Ray
sources from above the atmosphere.

In the case of the above mentioned
model of a close binary we know
that if a very ~~large~~ ^{strong} magnetic field
is present, X-rays will be given
off. Hence, our ~~own~~ ^{own} detection of
X rays from them we can deduce
that there is a very strong

magnetic field and Doppler shift measurements are thus not necessary.

Prooth 8/4/81.

chairman

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Cape Center
held at S.A.A.O. on Wed 8th of April 1981 at
8 pm

Present were 25 Members and 4 visitors

The names of 3 new members were mentioned.

They are H. Duncan, A. Piper, R. Sessions.
Apologies for absence were recorded for Saville,
Husby, Bentley and Utley.

A film evening was announced - to be held at
the U.S. Information Service on Wed 22/4/81

Dr Slog visiting from Edinburgh said a
few words.

The Talk by Dr Alastair Walker was on
the subject "Uranus" to commemorate its
discovery by Herschel 200 years ago.

Herschel, a musician, moved from Germany
to England. He searched the sky for
close optical pairs to determine parallax.
He saw Uranus and its non-stellar appearance
and thought it to be a comet. It had
been observed 22 times previously including
6 by Flamsteed. Herschel acquired a
48" telescope and saw it was a planet.
He called it Georgian but Bode's name
Uranus was accepted. Then its moons
were discovered. Then nothing new was learned
about it until in 1977 it was