MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CAPE CENTRE OF THE A.S.S.A. held at 8.15pm. on WEDNESDAY 18th of MAY MCMLXXVIII

After the meeting had been opened by the chairman, Mr Mike Kramer, Appologies for absence were received from Mrs Kramer and Mr Sessions. The meeting was attended by 16 members and 2 visitors. The Speaker for the evening was Mr Hartmut Winkle ~~who~~ from the U.C.T., who spoke on Sunspots. At the beginning of each cycle, Sunspots appear at 40° N & S of the equator and gradually form closer and closer to the equator. Near the end of the Solar Cycle the spots are seen at about 5° N & S of the equator. It is thought that Sunspots are areas of less dense cooler gas and thus appear as dark patches on the surface of the Sun. They can ~~live~~ last from a week up to a month depending on their sizes and when one explodes, it triggers off the formation of other sunspots nearby. Sunspots occur in pairs, one of which is a south pole and the other a North pole. It is interesting to note that at the beginning of each new cycle, polarities are swopped around. Magnetic lines go from ~~the south pole~~ north pole to ~~the north~~ south pole, and because the rate of ~~the~~ rotation of the sun is faster at the equator than at the poles, the lines are wound up. As well as the 11 year Solar Cycles, there is also evidence for 90 and 1000 year cycles at which the ~~minus~~ minima and maxima are more intense. The intensities of the cycles of the last few thousand years have been measured by ~~Carbon 14 dating~~ taking Carbon 14 readings in tree rings and Sedimentary rocks. The Solar Cycle affects Radio Telecommunications as well as the weather, and the Speaker even suggested that it affected the behaviour of people on earth.

The meeting adjourned at 8.45 pm for tea and biscuits.

Signed as correct: _____

(Chairman)