

CAPE CENTRE ASSA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 1998

1. Members

1.1 *Apologies* - C. Forder

1.2 *Present*

- P. Booth
- G. Bosch
- A. Gray
- A. Mahomed (Chairman)
- G. Quick
- R. Sessions
- B. Wagener

1.2 *Absent without apology* - M. la Grange.

A quorum being present, the meeting was convened.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 1998

These were taken as read and were proposed by A. Gray and seconded by B. Wagener.

3. Matters arising:

Nil.

4. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer being at the Cedarberg, no report was given.

5. Librarian's Report

It was noted that the library was not being used as much as was anticipated, and thus it was suggested that the library be more actively marketed to people. Abe looked at books and reported that the **Oxford Dictionary of Astronomy** was available at Rondebosch Book Warehouse for **R76.96**. Books were generally highly priced, probably due to the monetary exchange rate. However, G. Bosch saw at Exclusive Books, "**Observing with Binoculars**" at a reasonable price, and it was suggested to Abe that he purchase it. The treasurer would be consulted about funds if further books are to be purchased. R Sessions reported that Technical Books puts out a rather good catalogue.

6. Instruments

Torben Martens is renovating the Larmouth Telescope.

Martin La Grange is still working on the blue tube telescope whose primary mirror has been aluminized.

7. Public Astronomy

A number of attempts have been made, but nothing got off the ground due to weather or other reasons. A tentative date of venue was suggested for **Friday 03 April 1998** at **Constantia Village**. It all depends on how many telescopes are available. R. Sessions was to obtain permission and then report back to the Committee.

8. Field trips

As per list on notice board, Brian Skinner will coordinate the Eta aquarid meteor shower in May. Gordon Bosch is negotiating with the National Accelerator Centre for a society field trip. He said he wanted the Cedarberg Observatory to become a regular observing site for at least twice a year. He also suggested that the society make a Sutherland trip in September on Open Night. Richard Sessions suggested asking Sutherland for permission to use the site for two nights.

9. Wednesday nights

As per agenda.

10. Tea duties

As per agenda.

11. Beginners' Course

Going well.

12. Other business

- 12.1 ASSA Council has cancelled the symposium due to insufficient time to finalize arrangements. A letter has been sent from Brian Skinner to Gordon Bosch.
- 12.2 The ASSA AGM will be held on the **22nd July 1998** at the **SAAO**. The Cape Centre is to host the event. Thus, the informal meeting will be cancelled for that evening.
- 12.3 Abe said that the speaker giving the informal talks should shorten the talk to a maximum of half an hour on the nights when the beginners talks and sky talks are given.
- 12.4 Abe also said that Charles Allen should be acknowledged by perhaps making him an honorary member as per Section 10 of the Constitution. This was proposed by Andrew Gray and seconded by both Bernard Wagener and Pat Booth. Gordon Bosch is to design and make the certificate and Tony Jones will be consulted about the logo for said document. A date for the presentation was suggested as being **8 April 1998**.
- 12.5 The radio interview on FMR was discussed at length. Abe Mahomed and Gordon Bosch were both ~~strongly~~ opposed. Pat Booth ~~strongly~~ supported the venture. It was finally decided that **Gwynneth Quick** go ahead with the interview on **Thursday the 26th March** as has been arranged with FMR. *Quick*

13. Date and venue of next meeting

Tuesday the 26th May 1998 at 20:00.
SAAO.

W.E. Mahomed