

CAPE CENTRE ASSA

MINUTES FROM 21/07/98

1. Members

All Committee members being present, the Chairperson convened the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 1998

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

3. Matters arising

Item 12.3 was discussed and it was clarified that M. Kruger would assume the office of treasurer should she be elected to the Committee.

4. Treasurer's Report

There was a R1 400.00 profit. However, part of this profit would have to finance the photographic competition which could cost around R600.00. C Forder assured the Committee that the account books would be in order before the AGM next month. He reported that the Centre was R662.00 less in the previous financial year, and that donations have been good during the current financial year – hence the boost to the profits.

5. Librarian's Report

Nil of note.

6. Instruments

Status quo as before. M la Grange reported that he will not complete restoration to the Robilliard telescope due to his scholastic commitments. Anyone who was keen to take over this task would be welcome.

7. Public Astronomy

It was decided that Kenilworth Centre was not a good venue due to security reasons. Martin suggested the Paul Roos High School grounds at Stellenbosch. They have a 12½ inch Newtonian telescope there of their own. He said he would get back to the Committee with more details. Much discussion ensued. Martin said he would arrange the venture. Andrew suggested rather to let the school arrange the venture and Bernard concurred with this. It was more sensible that the Centre only support the venture. Abe said that schools in the Cape Town Peninsula area be supported as well. Andrew said that if the Stellenbosch venture was successful, there would be a "ripple effect" and schools in Cape Town would get to hear about it. The best place for public/sidewalk astronomy is the Waterfront. Spier Wine Estate sounded good. It was emphasized that it was better to go someplace where people were not anticipating this astronomy. Richard reported that a Mr Theunissen from the Southern Peninsula Parks and Gardens has given the Centre blanket authority to have public astronomy anywhere so long as the person involved is informed.

8. Field trips and observing evenings

15th and 22nd August. Delene will get a cell phone for people to phone to at the observation site. The quarry venue is being re-assessed. Gordon reported that there was a new manager there. Tony had investigated the West Coast Show Ranch up the N7. He reported that it appeared a suitable site and that he would establish contact with the owners of the place. It was suggested that August's observing evenings be held there. Tony and Gordon will go and investigate the place one night soon.

9. Wednesday's Meetings

As per agenda.

10. Tea duties

As per agenda.

11. Beginners Talks

To be decided and reported to Tony.

12. Astrophotography Competition

David Malin is arriving on the 4th or 5th of September. It was re-iterated that he does not have to give a talk *per se* on the evening of the 9th of September, but merely a comment. He will be at Sutherland until the 6th of September. The general consensus is that the whole affair was rather rushed. Richard has contacted some sponsors. Kodak wanted a fax sent to them. He has also contacted Agfa. Martin had said he would do the cheese and wine and had worked out a complete budget for an estimated 50 people. His total was R410.00. Chris reported that this was too highly priced and that the previous cheese and wine cost only R183.00. Martin was given a figure of R250.00 to work with. The gift for David Malin was discussed, and it was suggested to get Joe to copy an historical picture of Omega Centauri which Cliff has and not to frame it since David Malin has to do a lot of travelling. Joe is covering the competition and must be re-imbursed. It was emphasized that D.M. must do the judging before the 9th so that the prizes could be bought/arranged and the certificates printed for the evening of the 9th. Case Rijdsdijk will be cornered on the night of the ASSA AGM and Cliff Turk shall be approached to talk to Case together with Richard. Entry forms will be in the next newsletter. Abe must contact the people on the list that he drew up and which was mentioned in the minutes of the special meeting held on 23 June 1998. Tony will emphasize in the newsletter that all appropriate photographs are welcome, and that the maximum number can be 6 per person. The Committee reserves the right to change the rules and entry specifications. If there are not enough entries by 9th September, then as a last resort, the event would have to be postponed to November. Every Wednesday, the Committee will have spontaneous meetings concerning the competition. We have to move fast!

13. Any other business

The forthcoming Cape Centre AGM was discussed. The agenda would be more or less the same as before. Nominations for office are as follows:

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| Chairperson | - | Abe Mahomed |
| Vice | - | Andrew Gray |
| Secretary | - | Gwynnèth Quick |
| Treasurer | - | Michelle Kruger |

Nominations for other portfolios on the Committee are:

Brian Skinner
Mike Christianson
Andrew McConnell
Gordon Bosch
Pat Booth
Bernard Wagener
Martin la Grange

The Sutherland trip will be discussed once Brian is on the Committee.
He is negotiating with John Caldwell.

14. Date and venue of next meeting

The next Tuesday after the AGM.

A. J. Henderson