

ASSA CAPE CENTRE

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 18 AUGUST 1998

The Chairman welcomed those present to the first Committee Meeting of the new financial year. He especially welcomed the new members

1. Members

- 1.1 *Present*
 - A Mahomed (Chairman)
 - G Bosch
 - M Christianson
 - A McConnell
 - G Quick
 - B Skinner
 - B Wagener

- 1.2 *Apologies*
 - P Booth
 - A Gray
 - M Kruger

2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21th July 1998

These were read by the Secretary and proposed by B Wagener and seconded by G Bosch. There were no matters arising.

3. Portfolios of Committee Members

G Bosch suggested that we need to have a kind of director of observing to take care of the practical side of observing. This person would instruct people how to determine magnitudes, etc. and demonstrate technique. There was a proposal that others (someone like Tony Jones) help with field trips and special observations. So the portfolios settled on are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Field trips and observing evenings: | : | G Bosch and A McConnell |
| Public Astronomy | : | M Christianson and B Skinner |
| Curator of Instruments | : | B Skinner |
| Librarians | : | C Allen and A Mahomed |
| Public Relations Officers | : | A Mahomed and G Quick |
| Observation Reports | : | B Wagener and P Booth |
| Special Observations | : | B Skinner and A Jones (<i>ad hoc</i>) |

4. Treasurer's Report

Nil of note.

5. Librarian's Report

This was covered by the Chairman in his AGM report.

6. Instruments

M la Grange has to bring back any equipment he has at home. R Sessions has to bring the Ron Atkins telescope back so that it may be used on field trips and observing evenings.

7. Public Astronomy

The 28th of November was suggested as being a prospective date for this. B Skinner suggested to use the area in Sea Point outside/opposite the SABC studios.

8. Field trips and observing evenings

There will be nothing formal in September. It was suggested by G Bosch that in October, the Centre proceed to a farm in Darling where one of the members lives. This will be further investigated. G Bosch had proposed a Cederberg trip in October but due to the Sutherland trip in November, he thought that two "long distance" trips would be a bit too much. Re the Sutherland trip, B Skinner rejected the original proposal and has since got an updated, more amenable proposal. He is still liaising with the authorities and negotiating with them. He will present a complete report once he has more information. It was agreed upon that all interested Cape Centre people be involved. The Leonids should be observed on the Sutherland trip and the Geminids be observed on a dark sky evening in December up the N7. The visits to Faure and the Met Office will be dealt with next year.

9. Wednesday evenings

Roster as per agenda.

B Skinner suggested that the informal meetings be much less formal with a lot of invited discussion. G Bosch said rather to give the host a free choice. A Mahomed agreed with the idea of much more participation from the audience.

10. Tea duties

As per agenda except that B Skinner is to replace G Bosch.

11. Beginners' talks

G Bosch suggested a more intensive attack, something like a workshop. Something more than ten minutes. The course will be given a break and then re-run. A suggestion was that A Jones take the last Wednesday of the month and do a thorough sky talk.

12. Astrophotography competition

The Convenor (*in absentia*) suggested phoning those people on the list to ascertain who are definitely submitting photographs. The 29th of August was decided upon to mount the photographs and set up the hall. R Sessions is to check that all the necessary equipment is available for the afternoon's work. B Skinner will do the spreadsheets for the competition. G Bosch will prepare the certificates, and assisted by A McConnell, he will cater for the cheese and wine. R Sessions should organise the gift vouchers from Noyes. An animated discussion ensued re the MC for the evening. It was unclear whether David Malin would be arriving with a companion. It was finally agreed upon that the following people would assist with the running of the evenings event:

A Mahomed	:	Host
C Rijdsijk	:	Introduce David Malin
A Gray	:	MC and list reader
G Quick	:	Shuffle prizes and certificates
R Sessions	:	Vote of thanks

13. Any other business

B Skinner said that we should welcome any new members and visitors who we see. We should do it as a Committee. We should make people feel welcome and stimulate their interest. Their level of expertise should be found out. Maybe we should wear identity tags/badges or something. The suggestion was also made to publicise the Centre on open nights at the Observatory. G Bosch said to get a Beginners' Pack distributed to all new, interested people. Re C Turk's suggestion that the Trust can donate funds to people who need it for special projects, G Bosch mentioned the Total solar eclipse in 2001 and said that the Trust could help with the funding thereof. The optimal place for viewing will be the Kruger Park. Everyone was most zealous.

14. Date and time of next meeting

13th of October at 20:00 at the Observatory.

A. J. Mahomed