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MINUTES OF THE ASSA-CC MEETING - 26/01/99

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 13/10/98

These were taken as read and were approved and accepted.

3. Matters arising

Nil, except for items 9 (Darling instead of Darnall), and 10 (February and March instead of January and February).

4. Treasurer's Report

Chris Forder gave the Chairman the current status. See sheet. Michelle Kruger has not been to any meetings and according to the constitution, she then ceases to hold that office. Consequently, she ceases to be a member of the Committee. The CC recognises that a new treasurer need to be appointed since Michelle Kruger has met with unforeseen circumstances. Michelle will be sent a copy of these minutes and her attention shall be drawn to this matter. Andrew McConnell reported that Peter Schonau's wife had experience with accountancy, but it was resolved to rather approach the Centre for a candidate first, and then approach her.

5. Librarian's Report

It was agreed that the library and its use should be extended. It was reported that some new books had been donated. Andrew Gray reported that a Sale was going on at Exclusive Books, and that someone should go there and see whether there were any appropriate books.

6. Council Representative's Report

Pat Booth reported that the Council Meeting is to be held on the 09/02/99. It was also reported that the ASSA is having a symposium at the SA Museum on the 29th and the 30th of March. Brian Skinner said that there might be a function on the Monday night. Last time there was a barbeque at the SAAO. He suggested to host a tea by the CC to go with a tour of the premises. There should be about 80 people. He said that barbrques are too much work. The Council/Committee is to assess the costs of a tea so that they know what to charge the delegates. The final preparation is to be done at the next CC Committee meeting. The suggestion to host a tea was readily accepted by the Committee. Gordon suggested to have some savory snacks as well as the cakes and sweet things suggested by Brian. He (BS)

will work out the cost.

7. Instruments

The Ron Atkins Telescope needs to be serviced well and rather soon. It was reported that it is not working as well as it could do. The mirror is at fault. Brian said that Cliff Turk has it at the moment and he hoped that Cliff would do the repairs. Gordon reported that a non-member has a telescope that he would like to sell, and would it be OK if said person advertised it at the CC. The Committee said that it would be acceptable to put the notice on the board.

8. Public Astronomy

Mike suggested the 27/02/99 at the same venue in Sea Point as the last time. He reported that the last one in November was a success. Abe will do the advertising.

9. Field Trips and Observing Evenings

Gordon suggested the following dates:

20/02/99 Ostrich Farm
20/03/99 Ostrich Farm
17/04/99 Weekend away at the Cederberg
15/05/99 Ostrich Farm
10/07/99 Ostrich Farm

He reported that the Cederberg weekend was Bill Hollenbach's weekend. He also said that there will be no observing evening in June.

The Annular Solar Eclipse on the 16/02/99 was discussed and it was resolved to go to Rhodes' Memorial to observe it.

10. Wednesday Meetings

The Secretary had drawn up the list until the AGM (Qv). The Chairman reported that the March Formal will be given by Tom Lloyd Evans who will speak about "Star Atlases available to the Amateur". Andrew Gray verified that the April Formal will be given by Ken Peck whose topic will be "Miniaturisation of things used for GPS". Prospective speakers for the ensuing formals were Tony Fairall, David Laney, and someone from Sunsat once it had been launched. Gordon also suggested that we enquire about Astronomers visiting from other countries.

11. Tea Duties

See list drawn up by the Secretary.

12. Any Other Business

Beginner's handouts need to be given out to beginners. Concerning the Newsletter, the Chairman thanked Mike Christianson for taking on the responsibility. He is to assisted by Tony Jones and Max Maxwell-Hafen. Bernard enquired about Sutherland. Brian said that we were not impressed with what transpired there. He had not heard from John Caldwell until this week. He also said that the Committee should have a meeting with the Powers that Be before this year's Open Night and be involved with the organisation. Bernard remarked about the low cost of the Photographic Competition. Andrew Gray mentioned videos and said that the CC should start a tape library as an extension to the existing library. Gwynneth spoke about getting a monitor and a play-back machine, and suggested that the CC approach the Trust for financial assistance in this respect. Brian accoladed this idea and said that she should write to the CC Trust Secretary with an estimate of cost. Brian also said that visitors should be especially welcomed. Andrew Gray spoke about ID's for the Committee for the purpose of new people being able to see who is whom. Abe will see if he can get ID's made. Visitors should not be neglected, it was emphasised. The Beginner's Talks should be started up again, in conjunction with Tony's sky talks. But each only once a month. Brian said to let people look through the telescopes on the premises. The Beginners Talks are to start in the third week of February, and every third Wednesday of every month. The idea will be thrown open to the floor at the next Wednesday meeting to get some feedback. Gwynneth volunteered to be the co-ordinator.

13. Date and Time of the next Meeting

23/03/99 at the SAAO at 20h00.

N.J. Mahomed