

THE CAPE CENTRE OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF S.A.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, HELD IN THE
LECTURE HALL, S.A.A.O. ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2000**

PRESENT : Messrs. M A Gray, A McCONNELL, D Duprez, P De Villiers, A Mahomed, M Christianson (Ex-Officio) and Miss J Willmore.

- 1) **OPENING** : The Chairman, M A Gray welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 20h08.
- 2) **NOTICE** : On a Proposition, duly seconded, it was agreed that the six days' telephonic Notice of the Meeting be approved. (Rules state Seven days.) Approved unanimously.
- 3) **APOLOGIES** : Both Mr Ross Bauer and Max Maxwell- Hafen are on leave and Apologies Recorded. Mr B Wagner is recovering from sickness and his apologies were recorded. Miss G Quick has stated that she will not attend. Recorded as Absent without apology.
- 4) **SECRETARY** : In the absence of the Secretary, there being no volunteers, the Chairman acted as "Acting Secretary" for the evening.
- 5) **MINUTES** : As no copies of the Minutes of the December Committee Meeting were available, it was agreed *nem. con.* that these would be "put on hold" until they were available and would be attended to at the first opportunity.
- 6) **TREASURER** : The Treasurer reported that no major changes had taken place since the last Meeting. Certain outstanding subscriptions had been received. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had paid for and renewed the Post Box and that the lock had been changed. He is to be reimbursed for this. One key is kept by the Chairman and the other by the Vice-Chairman. The Chairman then referred to the forty or so deletions from the address list during the period July to October 1999 and questioned the large numbers involved. The Treasurer reported that at a previous Committee Meeting, it had been agreed that any member whose subscription was outstanding for three or more months be taken off the address list. The Chairman then read out the deletions list and asked for comments. As a result of recent payments it was decided to re-instate the following :

Miss E Blomkamp, Mz W Blomkamp, Mr & Mrs G Bosch, Mr H H Cleenwerck, Mnr R B Malherbe, Mr N Sessions, Mr C P Stevenson, Mr H A Thiele and Mr F Vergeest.

After discussion, the Chairman offered to create an address label list on his own PC and to try to keep this up-to date.
- 7) **CORRESPONDENCE** : There was no correspondence to be dealt with.
- 8) **APPLICATIONS** : None were to hand
- 9) **THINK TANK** : The Chairman circulated copies of all the suggestions (74) that had been made at the recent meeting and also by post, plus a summarised version of these ideas. He then requested that each member take this home, study it and come up with suggestions at the next Committee Meeting. It was agreed that the Think Tank meeting had been a great success with twenty members participating.

10) SECRETARIAL : Having received a written complaint from a senior or long standing member, about the behaviour and state of health of the Secretary, plus a number of verbal complaints, the Chairman had contacted all members available by telephone and had, as a result, sent Miss Quick a carefully worded letter, emphasising her deteriorating health and requesting that, in order to assist her to control her health more effectively, she should tender her resignation as Secretary and Centre Representative. She was requested to reply by return. Nothing was heard from her. On telephoning her on 13th January to advise her of the Committee Meeting on the 18th January, her verbal reaction was quite specific. Threatening to go to law, demanding an unconditional apology etc., etc. She point blank refuses to resign and refuses to part with the Secretary's brief case which is Centre property.

A lengthy discussion then took place, during which copies of Miss Quick's reply, the text of the written complaint, notes of the verbal complaints etc., were circulated as "Private and Confidential".

The Chairman then announced that the Committee would meet after the close of the informal meetings on Wednesday 26th January and Wednesday 2nd February 2000, basically to discuss progress on the Think Tank deliberations.

As a result of this, after further discussion, it was agreed to let the matter ride for the next two weeks and see what transpires.

- 11) GENERAL :
- a) Suggested that a further "Think Tank" be held as the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year or as decided.
 - b) Progress on the "hand-over" of the Newsletter was discussed. Both M Christianson and P De Villiers are collaborating with Tony Jones and others to ensure smooth transition.
 - c) P De Villiers stated that the mirror of the 6 inch Newtonian was in poor condition. He was advised to contact the SAAO to arrange for re-aluminising.
 - d) Miss Willmore requested that we arrange the social "Bring and Braai" as soon as possible as this will bring members together very quickly.
 - d) Dany Duprez advised that he wishes to resign as Treasurer at the August Annual General Meeting, owing to business and private pressures.

12) NEXT MEETING : This will be held at the same venue after the close of the Informal Meeting on Wednesday 26th January 2000.

13) CLOSURE : The Chairman offered his sincere thanks to all present for their contributions to the evening and declared the meeting closed at 21h22.

Dated 2000

Signed
Chairman

NOTES RE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GWYNNETH QUICK

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2000 AT 09H10.

On being advised by me that there is a Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 18th at 20h00 at the Observatory, her reaction was as follows :

- 1) She has referred the matter of my letter to her Attorneys
- 2) She has sent the "Hate" fax that was sent to her some time ago to forensic experts
- 3) She refuses to resign as Centre Secretary or Council Representatives
- 4) She maintains that her health has nothing to do with the Centre
- 5) Her Attorneys have advised her that we (I?) Have acted totally against the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa by discriminating against her
- 6) She will not attend the Committee Meeting
- 7) She demands an unconditional letter of apology from the Centre
- 8) All or any further correspondence from the Centre concerning this matter will immediately be handed to her Attorneys
- 9) If anyone should be blamed for the situation, it is Andrew McConnell who has "taken her for a ride and 'stuffed' up her life".
- 10) The whole matter is totally against the Rules of the Centre and A.S.S.A.
- 11) We are taking away her sole reason for living
- 12) She will not be present at any meeting without her Attorney being present.

Where do we go from here ??

An "Assistant Secretary" must now be appointed by the Committee to attend to the day to day affairs of the Centre, otherwise everything will just grind to a halt.....

ADDITIONAL NOTES RE SECRETARIAL PROBLEM :

The text of the written complaint is as follows :

“One of my prime concerns is that of Gwynneth Quick. She is without doubt mentally unstable and one of the prime reasons for the low attendance at functions, because people are fed up with her behaviour. It is for this reason that I believe she should not be on the committee nor should she be allowed to represent the Cape Centre on the Council. If she will not resign after being asked to do so, then the Committee should have no other choice than to vote her out, if only on medical reasons, for it would appear that she has every ailment known to man. I do not wish to be unkind towards Gwynneth, but she is a major problem within the Centre and the cause of the dwindling attendance of the more senior members.”

ILLNESSES MENTIONED BY MISS G QUICK :

- 1) Full-Blown AIDS (At Christmas time) (To Chairman) (To his wife “Slight”)
- 2) Heart attack requiring hospitalising for a short time (New Year) (To Val McConnell)
- 3) Deep depression, for which she is taking drugs (To anyone who will listen)
- 4) Leukemia (To many members of the Centre)
- 5) Bone marrow disease requiring transplants (To several people)
- 6) Low blood pressure and blood disorders (To several people)
- 7) Anaemia (To many members of the Centre)
- 8) Breast cancer (turned out to be a small “lumpectomy)
- 9) Possibly others which cannot be remembered

VERBAL COMPLAINTS FROM THE FOLLOWING :

- 1) Heather Sessions - harassment of husband
- 2) Delene Bosch - harassment of husband
- 3) Tony Jones - general harassment
- 4) Dudley Field - slight harassment
- 5) Mike & Lorraine Christianson (visited him in ICU posing as a “qualified Doctor)
- 6) Val McConnell - alienation of husband’s affections (Caused temporary separation)
- 7) Cliff Turk - uneasy about her behaviour at Centre meetings
- 8) Richard Sessions - uneasy about her behaviour at Centre meetings
- 9) Chairman - disturbed about the effect this is all having on the Centre.

GENERAL ATTITUDE :

“If anyone doesn’t like what I’m doing, that is tough luck. If they stay away as a result, it is their loss, not mine. I’m a ‘go-getter’ and I get what I want”

SERIOUS PRIVATE MISDEMEANOURS :

- 1) Posing as a qualified Doctor when visiting Mike Christianson while in ICU
- 2) Informing people that she is a qualified Pilot
- 3) Informing Val (?) That she “lied about her health” when filling in the medical forms for the Pilot’s license.

The above appears to support the feeling that we have a case of mental disturbance here.

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