

PRECIS OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CAPE CENTRE

Our membership has grown by about 35% from 93 to 132 during the last twelve months, despite the unfortunate deaths of three of our long standing members namely Dr Alan Cousins, Mr Harold Krumm and Mr G Malherbe. We remember them in a moment's silence.

The increase in numbers attending caused some parking problems but these have now been solved with the kind assistance of Dr R Stobie, Director of the S.A.A.O. On a few occasions, the numbers present at meetings have reached "standing room only" levels which is most gratifying.

Apart from our normal Wednesday evening meetings each week, our formal meetings on the second Wednesday of each month have been addressed by some excellent Guest Speakers and we thank them for their time and effort to be with us. On average there were at least thirty six members and guests present at these meetings and on one occasion we counted well over fifty present.

Outside activities include several Dark Sky evenings, members assisting at the S.A.A.O. on Public Open Nights, trips to the Cedarberg Observatory and several evenings assisting at the world renowned Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens. Members were also heavily involved both in Zambia and Cape Town with the 21st June solar eclipse and some excellent photographs were taken by those who had travelled North to witness totality.

Our bi-annual Photographic Competition was well supported and we thank Dr Patricia Whitelock by gracing us with her presence in presenting the prizes to the winners of each section.

The members of the Committee have worked hard and diligently to keep all aspects of the Centre running smoothly and I thank each and every one of them for their invaluable support during the year.

We all offer our sincere thanks to the S.A.A.O. for the free use of the lecture hall - without which we would find ourselves in a somewhat parlous condition! Their generosity is very greatly appreciated.

As Chairman, I thank every one of you, the Members, for your enthusiasm and support during the year. Astronomy is a serious subject, but if we can enjoy it with a bit of fun thrown in as well, so much the better. May my successor in office enjoy his Chairmanship as much as I have done during the past two years that I have held that position.

It has been a privilege to serve you. Thank you.

Andrew Gray, Chairman -2000/ 2001

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
(CAPE CENTRE) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th JULY 2000 IN THE LECTURE HALL
S.A.A.O., OBSERVATORY, CAPE TOWN.**

- 1) **Opening** : The Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting open at 20h03 and welcomed all present, requesting that the Attendance Register be signed. As a mark of respect and in memory of the late Mr Charles Allen, the assembly rose and maintained a minute's silence.
- 2) **APOLOGIES** were recorded from the following Members : Mr T Lloyd-Evans, Mr P Van Blommenstein and Mr M Saltinsky
- 3) **The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th August 1999, having been circulated to all Members, it was proposed and seconded that these be confirmed and signed. Carried.
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING** : There were no Matters arising
- 5) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** : The Chairman then presented his Report for the period August 1999 to July 2000, a copy of which has been entered in the Minute Book.
- 6) **TREASURER'S REPORT** : Mr D Duprez presented his Report (copy attached to these Minutes) which indicated that Subscription income had increased but donations had decreased. Total income was R 3 465.96 (R 4 281.90). Expenses had dropped from R 4000.63 to R 2 442.44 for the year. Income over expenditure showed R 1023.50 as opposed to R 281.30 the previous year. The balance in the Bank Account was R 3 352.77. The Report was approved and the Chairman Proposed (duly seconded) that an amount of R 500.00 be donated to the Centre Trust. Approved.
- 7) **CENTRE TRUST** : Mr Cliff Turk advised that as at December 1999, the capital stood at R 7 228 which earns interest which can be disbursed. The Trust stood at R 13 061 but an amount of R 1 391.96 had had to be paid to the Receiver of Revenue as tax over some five years. He noted that no donations had been received from the Centre during the last two years. He then presented the Chairman with a cheque for R 600.00 being a grant-in-aid for the Centre for two years. He was warmly thanked for this.
- 8a) **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT** : Dr Abe Mahomed reported that there had been an increase in the use of the Library. Thanks to members' donations, the library had acquired more books. A new book had recently been purchased and funds were available for further purchases. However, there is now a lack of space and the incoming Committee will have to look into this, especially if more books are donated. Dr Mahomed was thanked for his report.
- 8b) **CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS** : Mr Paul De Villiers advised that all the Centre's instruments have now been traced. One mirror has been re-aluminised. The "Ron Atkins" telescope is in need of repair. Some components have already been purchased for this.
- 9) **HONORARY MEMBERS' AWARDS & SPECIAL AWARDS** : The Chairman then presented Mr Cliff Turk with a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the A.S.S.A. Council and a special book. (Applause), and he in turn presented Mr Gray with a certificate of Honorary Membership of A.S.S.A. as a result of his involvement in the Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Johannesburg and Cape Centres over the years. (Applause)..
- 10) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (GENERAL)** : The Chairman displayed the proposed new Centre Logo and thanked Miss Joanne Willmore for her hard work and artistic talents. Mr Graeme Rogers of the "Third Age" (Retired persons) advised that meetings take place in the SAAO lecture hall on Thursdays at 14h00 and suggested that some members may care to join these meetings. His telephone number is 712-7807.
- 11) **ELECTIONS** : The following were duly Proposed and Seconded as members of the incoming Committee :
CHAIRMAN ----- Mr M A Gray
VICE-CHAIRMAN --- Mr A McConnell
TREASURER ----- Mr A Jones
SECRETARY ----- Mr M Christianson
COMMITTEE ----- Messrs. Dr A Mahomed, P De Villiers, B Wagener, D Field, Miss J Willmore with a possibility of Mr R Bauer being co-opted

Noted with thanks that Mesdames Val McConnell and Lorraine Christianson will offer their assistance in arranging teas for the future formal meetings.

Mr C Turk was re-elected as Honorary Auditor and Mr P de Villiers as a the Editor of the Newsletter, the "*Cape Observer*".
- 12) **INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME** : The Chairman, having been re-elected as such once again welcomed all present.
- 13) **ADDRESS TO CENTRE** : The Chairman then presented his Address which was titled "*Nostradamus and other Prophets of Doom*" and started by reading the "Stars Foretell" from the morning and evening papers, each of which was diametrically opposed to the other. He stated that the numerous predictions of major disasters resulting from planetary alignments etc., had never taken place but felt that in the distant past, any disasters were essentially man made. A major calamity is supposedly due on 23rd December 2012 as a result of the "end" of the Mayan Calendar but felt that this is highly unlikely. If such a disaster doe take place, 2012 will be a most interesting year.
- 14) **CLOSURE** : With sincere thanks to all present for their attendance, there being nothing further to discuss, the Chairman declared the Annual General Meeting closed at 21h10 and requested that the Committee meet for a few moments immediately after the closure..

Dated 11-7-01.....

Signed .....
Chairman

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CAPE CENTRE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the above Centre will take place at 20h00 (8 p.m.) on WEDNESDAY 11TH DAY OF JULY 2001 at the Lecture Hall of the South African Astronomical Observatory, Observatory, Cape Town.

THE AGENDA :

- ✓ 1. To declare the Meeting open at 20h00 and record the name of those attending
- ✓ 2. To record Apologies
- ✓ 3. To approve, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2000, a copy of which appears on the reverse of this Notice.
- ✓ 4. To discuss any Matters arising therefrom
- ✓ 5. To receive the Chairman's Report (Andrew Gray)
- ✓ 6. To receive the Treasurer's Report (Tony Jones)
- ✓ 7. To receive the Report of the Centre Trust (Cliff Turk)
- ✓ 8. To receive reports from the Librarian and the Curator of Instruments (A. Mahomed & P. de Villiers) ✓ *D. Field - DARK SKIES* ✓ *FRI*
- ✓ 9. Honorary Members' Awards and Special Award
- ✓ 10. Revision of the 2002/2003 subscriptions from R20-00 to R30-00 p.a.
- ✓ 11. Any other business
12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS :
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. Honorary Secretary
 - d. Honorary Treasurer
 - e. Committee Members (Minimum 3, maximum 7) NB : A member of the Centre is eligible for election to the Committee after having been a fully paid up member for at least one year.
 - ✓ f. Honorary Auditor
 - ✓ g. Centre Representative to serve on A.S.S.A. Council
 - ✓ h. Editor of the "Cape Observer" Newsletter
13. Welcome from incoming Chairman
14. Retiring Chairman's Address to the Centre (Andrew Gray)
15. To close the Annual General Meeting

M J Christianson

Secretary

Tel/Fax : (021-) 531 1100

19th June 2001

PLEASE BRING THIS NOTICE WITH YOU TO THE A.G.M. !!!

Thank you.

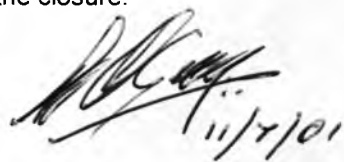
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2. APOLOGIES were recorded from the following Members : Mr T Lloyd-Evans, Mr P Van Blommenstein and Mr M Saltinsky.
3. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th August 1999, having been circulated to all Members, it was proposed and seconded that these be confirmed and signed. Carried out.

4. MATTERS ARISING : There were no Matters arising.
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11/12/01