

# Astronomical Society of South Africa

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Royal Observatory, Observatory on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1945 at 8 P.M. Mr. A. N. J. Cousins presided. The attendance was good.

The President informed the meeting that apologies for absence had been received from Capt. Cameron-Swan, Messrs. Forbes, Hirst and Krumm, while Mr. Schonegevel's absence was due to lack of transport.

Letters received from Mr. Forbes and Capt. Cameron-Swan were read to the meeting by the Hon Secretary.

The Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1944 were read and confirmed.

The following, whose names had been considered and passed for election by the Cape Centre and Natal Centre committees, were unanimously elected to membership: Mr. B. Hodgson, 74 Kenwood Court, Clarendon Circle, Johannesburg; Mr C T Wilcock, P O Box 1386, Johannesburg; Dr H van Gent, Leiden Southern Station, Union Observatory, Johannesburg; Mr W S Finsen, Union Observatory, Johannesburg.

The Annual Report of the Council, read by the Hon. Secretary, was adopted by the meeting on the motion of Dr. Hey, Mr. Schirack seconding.

A letter received from Dr. H. L. Alden welcoming the Council's action in electing him an Honorary Member, was read to the meeting.

In the absence of Mr Krumm the Financial Statement was read by Mr B. Orben. It showed a balance in hand of £97, and on the motion of Mr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Hey, was adopted by the meeting.

The Observing Sections report was read by Mr Davies, and commented on by Dr. Hey and Dr. Jackson, who congratulated the auditors, especially the Variable Star Observers, <sup>Hearn</sup> de Kock and Cousins on their observing efforts. Dr. Hey said that Mr. de Kock's total of 3538 observations was the second largest number of for the world.

Members listened with enjoyment to a very interesting paper on "Visual Magnitudes" read by Mr. Cousins, who mentioned the works of Ptolemy and Hipparchus as the first catalogues to contain visual estimations of stellar magnitudes.

An apparatus for illustrating the relative apparent brightness of strips of glass coloured red and blue with illuminated by a bright light and also by a faint light, was demonstrated to the audience, whose sensitivity to the colours varied considerably. Mr. Cousins explained the meaning of the Light-Ratio, and said that a star twice as bright as a comparison star, differed by .75 of a magnitude from the ~~it~~ that star.

The numerous pitfalls which beset the path of the visual magnitude observer were enumerated, and the term 'Colour Index' was explained.

After some discussion on the paper, a vote of thanks to the speaker was passed with acclamation.

The following officers were declared elected for the session 1945-46. : President Dr R H Story

Vice-Presidents: Dr. Redman, Messrs Cousins and Hirst;

Hon. Librarian, Mr. James Davies.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. Menzies

Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Krumm

Hon. Auditor, Mr. Orfan.

Members of Council: Dr. Jackson, Dr. Van der Bos, Dr. Knox-Shaw, Messrs Houghton, Forbes, and de Kock.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.45 P.M., by the incoming President Dr. Story.

R.H. Story  
24.7.46.