

Astronomical Society of South Africa

Minutes of resumed Council meeting, adjourned from 1954 ^{June} ~~July~~ 9 held at 5.30 P.M. on 1954 June 16.

Present: Dr Evans in the Chair, Drs. Stoy and Cousins, Prof. Menzies Messrs Bothams, Johnston, Orben, Christ and the Hon Secretary

The Minutes of adjourned meeting on June 9 were read for information.

The election of Mr N M Hoogenhout, 46 Lawley Ct, Waterkloof Pretoria as an Associate of the Transvaal Centre was confirmed.

The following nominations for membership had been received: Miss R J Downes, 43 Northwood Drive, Bayswood, Johannesburg, endorsed by Dr. Bleksley, sec. Mr. Wilson
Mr J H Cloete, P.O. Box 50, Marquard, O.F.S., endorsed by Mr. Schimper, seconded by Mr. Menzies.

Nominations for election of officers for the session 1954-55.

The following nominations had been received:

President: Dr. P. Kirchhoff, pro. H. C. Lagerweij, sec. E. B.

Richards: pro. Dr. Evans, sec. Dr. Stoy.

Vice-Presidents: (three to be elected)

Dr. D. S. Evans, pro. Mr Lagerweij, sec. Mr. Richards;
pro. Mr. Brickett, sec. Mr. Botham.

Mr. P. Seligman, pro. Mr Brickett, sec. Mr Botham

Dr. A. D. Thackeray, pro. Mr. Lagerweij, sec. Mr. Richards.

Mr. S. C. Venter, pro. Mr Brickett, sec. Mr. Botham; pro.
Mr. Lagerweij, sec. Mr Richards.

Dr A J Wesselink, pro. Dr. Thackeray, sec. Dr. Stoy.

Members of Council: (four to be elected)

Prof. G. G. Cillie, pro. Dr Evans, sec. Dr. Stoy

Mr W P Hint, pro. Dr Evans, sec. Mr Menzies

Prof. G. H. Menzies, pro. Dr. Cousins, sec. Dr. Evans.

Mr P. Smits, pro. Mr Brickett, sec. Mr Botham.

Dr R H Stoy, pro. Mr Brickett, sec. Mr Botham;

pro. Mr Lagerweij, sec. Mr Richards.

Dr A D Thackeray, pro. Mr Brickett, sec. Mr Botham

Dr W van der Bos, pro. Mr Lagerweij, sec. Mr Richards.

No nominations having been received for the offices of Honorary Secretary and Hon Treasurer, it was ruled that Council was competent to make nominations to fill the vacancies. The retiring Secretary, Mr A Menzies and the retiring Treasurer Mr. G. Orben were then nominated to these offices by Council.

The problem presented by the nomination of Dr Thackeray both as a Vice-President and as a member of Council was solved in the following manner. Council must accept both nominations since they are in due form. Members are to be instructed to vote as if the same name occurring in two places on the ballot paper were the names of two different persons. Only in this way is it possible to avoid difficulties of split votes and to give effect to the wishes of those making the nominations. If Dr. Thackeray were elected to both offices, he would be given the choice of accepting one of them, and the candidate next in order on the poll for the office thereby rendered vacant would be declared elected.

Dr. A W J Cousins and Mr R. Johnston were appointed scrutineers of the ballot.

Council decided that ballot papers must be returned in envelopes marked "Ballot Paper" authenticated by the signature of the member on the outside of the flap. Ballot papers must be ~~distributed~~^{sent as} to reach the Hon Secretary by 1954 July 15. Ballot papers would be distributed with the Notes which, it was hoped, would go out on or about June 21.

Prizes and Medals: Council had received suggestions for the establishment of prizes for juniors to encourage interest in astronomy, and a senior prize for the recognition of achievement, the latter intended to be replaced eventually by a medal. The sub-committee appointed to deal with the constitutional amendments, (Drs Evans and Stoy and Mr Hint) had also been asked to look into this matter. It was felt that the present time might be opportune for the establishment of a medal. Dr. Evans read a letter from Dr Kirchhoff who said that the cost of making the dies would be about

£45-£50. The sculptor's fee for the design would normally be of the order of 75 guineas, but Dr Kirchhoff had most generously offered to do the work and supervise the production for a nominal fee of 25 guineas. The cost of striking each medal would be about £1 and would be independent of the number produced at any one time. Dr Evans reported that, as a concrete subject for discussion he had suggested to Dr Kirchhoff that the name "The David Gill Medal" might be appropriate, the obverse to carry a portrait in bas-relief of Gill, the reverse an inscription such as "The David Gill Medal of the Astronomical Society of South Africa awarded to . . . for services to astronomy." It was thought that the cost of initiating a medal would be about £75 and that, since the striking of each medal was relatively inexpensive, the medal could be made of silver without undue expense.

The Council did not wish to commit its successors, and accordingly decided to minute the discussion, asking members of Council, when they received their copies of the Minutes to initiate discussion in the Centres ~~as~~ in order to sound opinion on the matter. If the proposal were agreed to, it would probably be necessary to raise either a subscription among the members or a private loan, since the cost could not be met out of income.

The meeting ended at 5.55 P.M.

Attest My Hand Secretary
David S. Evans

25th August 54.