

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the Royal Observatory, Cape on Monday May 18, 1970 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Bentley (in the Chair), Messrs. Allen, Atkins, Bondiotti, Corben, Grimwood, Hurly, Lagerwey, Molyneux, Orpen, Russo, Simenhoff, Weinberg and Dr. Cousins.

Apologies for absence: received from Prof. Jarrett, Mr. Churms and Mr. Harding.

Minutes of meeting held February 16, which had been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Matters arising:

(a) Mr. Russo on behalf of the sub-committee consisting of himself and Mr. Churms reported on the various proposals for amending Article XII of the Constitution. These were looked at very closely; in some respects conflicting views had been expressed. Very briefly the Cape Centre recommended the A.G.M. to be held at the Society's Headquarters in Cape Town, but a change in venue could be subject to a vote. Bloemfontein Centre proposed that the A.G.M. should alternate between Cape Town and Johannesburg. The Pretoria Centre recommended the A.G.M. to be held at alternative centres. The Transvaal Centre recommended Cape Town, but with far-reaching changes in the voting procedure.

It was quite clear that a change in the present unwieldy system of an A.G.M. in four parts was common cause, and that in general one A.G.M. only was advocated, although there were divergent views on its venue.

After giving very careful thought to the whole matter, the sub-committee recommended that Article XII should be amended to read as follows:

"The Annual General Meeting shall be held at a Centre chosen by the Council. The date of the meeting shall be the fourth Wednesday in July or such other day as the Council, after consultation with the Committee of the Centre at which the Annual General Meeting is to be held, shall direct.

All members, honorary members and corresponding members (if resident in South Africa) shall be advised of the date and venue of the meeting at least one calendar month before the date of the meeting. They shall have the right to vote whether members of a Centre or not. Associate members are not eligible to vote.

Any member entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting may appoint in writing a proxy to speak and vote in his stead. Such proxy must be a member or the wife or husband of a member.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive the report of the Council, the Treasurer's audited Financial Statement to the previous 30th day of June and the reports of the Observing Sections, and to transact any other business."

(b) Mr Molyneux and Mr. Churms (thro' the Hon. Sec.) gave the meeting some idea of the costs of reproducing extracts of Vols 1-15 of MNASSA. Costs appear to be high and the returns by way of re-sale uncertain. After discussion the Editorial Board with the assistance of Mr. Molyneux was asked to budget for costs and sales on the present estimates and orders held, and produce a more tangible figure for consideration by Council.

(c) It was agreed to purchase 400 copies (at 30c each) of the commemorative booklet to be issued by the Royal Observatory on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary, for issue to members and possible re-sale to interested parties.

New Members The following were elected subject to the usual proviso of publication in the Notes and no objection being received:

Members

Mr. R. R. Addington, 12 Lovers Walk, Rondebosch, Cape.
 Mr. W. C. Becker, Clifton Park High School, East London, C.P.
 Mr. R. G. Cressey, 64 Oakleigh Drive, Durban, Natal
 Dr. G. L. Dehlen, 44 Trent Street, Murrayfield, Pretoria, Tvl.
 Mr. J. Rhodes, P. O. Box 392, Bloemfontein, O.F.S.
 Mr. B. Trobec, 8 Rabie Street, Baysville Ext., East London, C.P.
 Mr. H. S. van den Berg, 34 Payne Road, Durban, Natal.

Student Members

Mr. David Coppinger, c/o Barlow Oshkosh (Pty) Ltd., P. O. Box 10, Huguenot
 Mr. J. A. M. Crowson, 3 Cardiff Street, Newlands, Cape.
 Master G. Ovenden, 17 Rover Road, Rondebosch, Cape.
 Mr. R. Sessions, 142 Milner Road South, Rondebosch, Cape.
 Master F. Thackeray, P. O. Box 373, Radcliffe, Observatory, Pretoria, Tvl.

Finance Mr. Orpen presented the following financial statement, which was adopted by the meeting:

Financial Statement as on 1970 May 18.

| Expenditure | R | c | Receipts | R | c |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------------------------------------------|------|---------|
| Purchase of "Sky and Telescope" for period July 1969 to March 1970 | 803 | 95 | Credit Balance at 1/7/69 | 50 | 73 |
| Cost of production of MNASSA, May 1969 to February 1970, including reprints (R66.65) and of Handbook, 1970 | 714 | 05 | <u>Subscriptions</u> | | |
| Cost of reproduction of missing issues, Vol.16 of MNASSA | 13 | 50 | Arrears | 39 | 00 |
| Postage on publications including reprints R6.84) June 1969 to February 1970 | 99 | 68 | Current | 1667 | 50 |
| Stationery and Equipment | 49 | 21 | Advance | 44 | 00 |
| Postage other than above | 13 | 78 | Entrance Fees | | 77 50 |
| Essay Competition Prizes | 29 | 00 | Sale of MNASSA including reprints (R55.00) | | 260 80 |
| Bank Charges | 38 | 32 | Sale of Handbooks | | 23 85 |
| Credit Balance at 18/5/1970 | 443 | 50 | Donations | | 12 40 |
| | | | Sale of back numbers of "Sky and Telescope" | | 2 40 |
| | | | Advertisements in MNASSA | | 8 00 |
| | | | Interest on Building Society Shares | | 14 00 |
| | | | Commission on cheques etc. | | 4 81 |
| | | | | | |
| | R | 2204 99 | | R | 2204 99 |

As an amount of R500.00 was transferred to the Savings Bank Account during September 1969 and the same amount withdrawn during March 1970 this has not been shown above. The amount now held in the Savings Bank Account is R1155.87, interest amounting to R31.34 having accrued during March 1970. The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R349.12, interest on Mortgage amounting to R36.41 having accrued during February 1970.

Garrett Orpen,
 Hon. Treasurer.

Gill Medal This was discussed and a name was agreed upon for confidential circulation to all members of Council for decision in accordance with the procedure laid down in an Appendix to the Constitution.

Forbes Essay Competition The Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of 11 essays to date, but more were expected before the closing date of May 31. Dr. Fairall, Messrs Meadows and Lagerwey were mentioned as possible adjudicators.

Epidiascope Approval was given to incur costs for overhauling.

Occultation Section The Hon. Secretary mentioned that Mr. Morrisby of Salisbury, Rhodesia was willing to act as Director of an Occultation Section, according to a communication received from Mr. Overbeek of Johannesburg. This was approved.

Royal Astronomical Society The Secretary was asked to write a letter of congratulation on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary, to be celebrated by special functions on June 26th. Mr. Grimwood undertook to convey this communication personally as he would shortly be proceeding on leave in the U.K

Student Members Mr. Hurly expressed some concern at the fact that this category of members did not receive publications of the Society, whereby their interest in astronomy could be fostered. It was pointed out that they were the responsibility of Centres, through which they joined, and they could attend the lectures organised and have access to the Library of their particular Centre. There was a general feeling however that more encouragement should be given to enthusiastic beginners, and members were asked to give some thought to this matter. It was also suggested that Centre committees might have some ideas of improving the position.

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

T. W. Russo,
Hon. Secretary.

J. Hurly
1970 June 29