

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1973 June 20 at 8 p.m. at the S.A. Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town.

Present Dr. Wild (in the chair) Dr. Cousins and Dr. Fairall. Messrs. Allan, Bentley, Bondiotti, Churms, Hurly, Simenhoff, Saville, Larmuth, Orpen, Overbeek and Russo.

Dr. Wild welcomed Mr. Overbeek, a member from the Transvaal who conveyed the greetings of the Transvaal Centre and who expressed pleasure at being able to attend in person.

Apologies received from Messrs. Grimwood, Harding, Molyneux and Papadopolous.

Minutes of previous meeting held 1973 May 1, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and adopted.

Matters arising

(1) The question of Astronomy forming part of a schools curriculum was again discussed. The possibility of influencing the Authorities to include Astronomy as part of the Std. VII syllabus was considered. It was stated that the Standard VI syllabus covered a certain degree of the subject, but contained many inaccuracies. A revised syllabus was imminent, but it could be an advantage to consider what was presented to scholars at the present time and put any defects before the Authorities. Drs. Cousins, Fairall, Wild and Mr. Churms to consider this. If the revised syllabus was already available, Mr. Bondiotti undertook to obtain one for perusal and possible criticism by the aforementioned. On a broader basis, he would make enquiries as to the system, if any, practiced in the UK and the USA; Dr. Fairall doing the same for Rhodesia. It was stressed that the SA Educational Authorities should not be approached until definite specific proposals could be put forward. A sub-committee consisting of Dr. Wild, Dr. Fairall and Mr. Churms was delegated to consider this aspect.

SA Mathematical Society

Mr. Overbeek had brought a letter from this Society inviting the A.S.S.A. to send representatives to a symposium to be held in Pretoria on 22nd and 23rd October next. It would appear that the Mathematical Society are thinking along parallel lines in regard to the previous Minute, but in relation to Universities rather than schools. It could be of an advantage to send an observer or observers to attend the proceedings, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to ask either Dr. Thackeray or Dr. Feast together with Mr. Wolterbeek to attend.

Finance

The following statement was read by Mr. Orpen and adopted

Financial Statement as at 20th June, 1973

<u>Expenditure</u>	R. e.	<u>Receipts</u>	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope for period July 1972-April 1973	1681-61	Credit Balance at 1/7/1972	320-64
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., March 1972-February 1973	1111-46	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
		Arrears	13-20
		Current	2298-00
		Advance	<u>156-80</u>
			2468-00
Cost of reprints of articles in M.N.A.S.S.A., payment for some of which was recovered during the previous financial year	<u>26-79</u>	Entrance Fees	185-00
		Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A.	630-96
		Sale of reprints of Articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	<u>15-00</u>
Carried Forward	2819-86	Carried forward	3619-60

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
Brought forward	2819-86	Brought forward	3619-60
Expenditure in connection with the reproduction of Back Nos. of M.N.A.S.S.A.	8-25	Sale of M.N.A.S.S.A. Back Nos.	100-25
Cost of production of Handbook for 1973	430-00	Sale of Handbooks	321-40
Postage on publications, July 1972 to May 1973	327-08	Sale of back & extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	73-60
Stationery & Equipment	180-31	Unallocated Receipt *	10-32
Postage, other than above	37-87	Donations	29-22
Cost of production of 1000 copies of Constitution	90-97	Advertisements in M.N.A.S.S.A.	2-00
Essay Competition Prizes	29-00	Interest on Building Society Shares	15-50
Advertisements of McIntyre Award Presentation Meeting	19-90	Interest on Fixed Deposit	75-00
Fire Insurance Premium	4-00	Withdrawn from Savings Bank A/c., January 1973	750-00
Slide-Rule Prize, Foundation for Education, Science and Technology	10-00	Withdrawn from Fixed Deposit, 25/3/1973	1000-00
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c., July and August 1972	700-00	Commission on Cheques, exchange gains and airmail postage paid	31-55
Bank Charges & Exchange Losses	58-03		
Credit Balance at 20/6/1973	1313-17		
	R 6028-44		R 6028-44

* This item represents a payment made by a prospective overseas member, the exact allocation of which is still uncertain.

The amount at present held in the Savings Bank A/c. is R50-00

The amount in the McIntyre Award Account is now R332-62, savings bank interest of R10-04 having been added in March 1973 and a further R27-95 having been received from Syfret's Trust during June 1973.

The following members were elected subject to their names being published in M.N.A.S.S.A. and no objection being received within the stipulated time.

Mr. L.V. Brown,
C/o Kinondoni Farm
Pvt/Bag EMPANGENI-RAIL
Zululand

Mr. H.G. Holthuysen,
44 Ross Street,
BOTHASIG. C.P.

Mr. W.O. Meyer,
64 Galway Road,
Parkview,
JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. P.A. Hugill,
606 Dormax Gardens,
1st Avenue,
KENILWORTH. C.P.

Mr. P.G. Beecroft,
P O Box 65399,
Benmore,
SANDTON. Tvl.

Dr. J.F. Dean,
S.A. Astronomical Observatory,
P O Box 9,
OBSERVATORY. Cape.

Mr. S.B. Brodey,
Flat 1, Ridgecrest,
Berriedale Rd.,
DURBAN.

Mr. P.L. Louw,
20 Forest Road,
Oranjezicht,
CAPE TOWN.

Mr. R. Orchard,
26 Woodlands,
Highstead Road,
RONDEBOSCH.

Mr. L.P.B. Vadas,
12 Comrie Road,
CAMPS BAY. C.P.

Mr. R.S. Rose,
1 Ambleside,
46 Ferguson Road,
Glenwood,
DURBAN.

Mr. P.E.O. John,
P.O.Box 1775,
WELLINGTON,
New Zealand.

Dr. K.E. Thomas,
Helderberg College,
P.O.Box 22,
SOMERSET WEST.

Approved to accept Mr. P.E.O. John of New Zealand as a full member at the reduced subscription rate of R5-00 p.a. Mr. John had made his own arrangements to obtain "Sky and Telescope" direct through a New Zealand Agency at his own expense.

Miscellaneous

Agreed that in view of his departure from South Africa, Mr. D. Nather be invited to become a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Agreed that Mr. Turk should become "Curator of Instruments". It was stated that certain purchasers of telescopes from the Cape Town suppliers, Messrs. L. Katz and Zinns had been in need of assistance in setting up their instruments. It was felt that qualified members of the Society should render assistance in such and similar cases, and a panel to do so was envisaged. As a start it was suggested that Katz and Zinns should be given the phone numbers of Mr. Turk or the Hon. Secretary for possible use by amateurs in difficulties. *done*

Covering approval was given to Dr. Wild for instituting a competition to find a suitable title to the Amateur Notes now an inset in M.N.A.S.S.A., and to his offer of one year's free subscription as a prize. Agreed that the choice of title should be left to Drs. Cousins and Fairall and Mr. Larmuth.

Agreed that the University of Cape Town should receive copies of M.N.A.S.S.A. at a reduced rate of 50% for the exchange of astronomical publications with foreign institutions. The number envisaged was a half dozen or so, but it was felt that it was little enough recognition for the invaluable services rendered gratuitously to the Society by University Staff.

Only sufficient nominations had been received for the new Council for the session 1973/74, and the following were deemed to be elected:-

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| President | Mr. G. Harding |
| Vice Presidents | Mr. R. Papadopolous
Mr. K. Sterling
Dr. P. Wild |
| Members | Mr. S.S. Booyesen
Mr. R. Hurlly
Mr. D. Overbeek
Dr. A. Thackeray |
| Hon. Treasurer | Mr. G. Orpen |
| Hon. Secretary | Mr. T.W. Russo |

A draft report by Council for the session ending 30 June 1973 was presented by the Hon. Secretary and adopted.

The Meeting thereupon closed at 10,35 p.m.

Omitted from above. Mr Overbeek asked that Mr. Hers could now be regarded as co-ordinator of Grazing Occultations in his stead. Mr. Hers was willing and Mr. Overbeek would be cooperating. This was agreed.

Gardner 4/9/73

T.W. Russo
Hon. Secretary

Sellen Good

12. 7. 1973

Dear Mr. Russo,

As I told you over the telephone, I fully concur with Mr. Harvey as to his recommendation about the ¹⁹⁷³ "Senior" & Junior Farkas Essay prizes. I am also prepared to sign his "Remarks" should that be required. I would perhaps have added that I'm disappointed at the large number of spelling and other "typographical" errors. After all, could one supposed to re-read their final copies carefully. Further I would like to stress that some candidates are then information for dated sources.

Yours truly,

Sellen

Jobes Essay Competition, 1973

Senior Section

I recommend

- (a) that no 1st. prize be awarded
- (b) 'A Discourse on Radio Astronomy' by Christian Thoburn
for 2nd prize. (R6) *Westerford*
- (c) 'Die Sterre in ons Heemelruim' by Maryna Gihamee
for 3rd. prize (R4) *La Rochelle*
- (d) 'The Sun' by Sharon Kling for a consolation
prize of R2.50. *La Rochelle*

Junior Section — "Project 'Apollo'"

I recommend that

- (a) Dominic Thoburn be awarded 1st. prize (R6) *Westerford*
- (b) no 2nd prize be awarded
- (c) Grant Lewis be awarded 3rd prize (R3) *SACS*

G. Harvey

Remarks

Senior Section

C. Thorburn's essay on Radio Astronomy is good. He has evidently done a considerable amount of reading. I might have recommended it for 1st. prize but for the fact that he has tried to do two different things, and consequently too much. The first part of the essay is a review of the history of Radio Astronomy and its development, and a description of some modern techniques. His proper course would have been to continue and conclude with an account of observational work performed during the past decade. Instead, he takes another road and describes how to build a 'home-made' radio telescope, which really falls under option (iii) of the choice of topics. Dr. Dean (who has worked in Radio Astronomy) has read this essay and has confirmed the accuracy of some points that were outwith my knowledge. His opinion is that the project described is not a school-level one. While the writer had of necessity to draw heavily from books, I feel that there are hints, not of copying, but of only slight paraphrasing.

Of the essays in English, the next in order of merit is, ^{that of} S. Kling, though a long way behind. Dr. Warren has read the essay in Afrikaans, as well as the other two cited, and his opinion is that it is better than S. Kling's, though not as good as C. Thorburn's.

G. Harvey

Remarks

Junior Section

Technically, D. Thorburn should be disqualified, as his essay is approximately twice as long as the 1000 word limit. I recommend that he be not disqualified, and I very much hope he will not be, as his essay is very good — the most enjoyable of all, senior and junior, in my opinion. G. Lewis's style is bright and pleasant, but he is flippant to a fault and the material is somewhat uninteresting. Even taking his age into account, and the fact that he kept to the 1000 word limit, I cannot recommend his essay for 2nd prize, but it is worth 3rd.

General Remarks

I would like to suggest, in view of the very small number of entries, particularly in the Junior Section, that when the results are announced in MNASSA no mention be made of the number of entries. The reason, I believe, is obvious.

It is regrettable that the response was so poor. Conclusions about the general standard of essays are not worth much because of the small samples. The submissions for the Senior Section ~~are~~ ^{are} disappointing; those for the Junior Section tolerably good, but not particularly encouraging. Where do some of these scholars get their 'facts'. ~~Self~~ only their reading could be better guided.

G. Harvey

1973 Forbes Essay Competition

Westerford High School

C. Shooburn 16 years Sen.

D. Shooburn 14 years Jun.

St. College Junior School

J. Lewis 15 years Jun.

Waldorf School

R. Stenhot-Sundhage 15 yrs Sen.

La Rochelle

S. Kling 17 years Sen.

(Afrikaans) M. Jilissone 17 years Sen.

S. Giesel 16 years Sen.

2 Junior

6 English

5 Senior

1 Afrikaans