

# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council meeting held 18 February 1974 at 8 p.m. at the South African Astronomical Observatory Cape Town

Present Dr Wild in the Chair - Dr. Fairall, Dr. van Dugteren, Messrs Bentley, Bondietti, Churms, Grimwood, Hurly, G Larmuth, C Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen Russo, Simenhoff, Turk.

Apologies for absence: Dr. Cousins, Mr. Harding, Mr. Papadopolous.

Alternates Mr. C. Larmuth of "Woodways" Chalfont Rd., Newlands 7700 in place of Mr. G Allan to represent Mr. S.S. Booysen of 34 Lynn Avenue Glenashley 4001.

Dr G R van Dugteren of 42 Kildare Rd, Newlands 7700 in place of Mr. N Saville to act for the Transvaal Representative on Council to be appointed.

Minutes of Meeting held 6 November 1973 read and agreed after inclusion of Mr Simenhoff's name among "apologies for absence".

Matters arising Astronomy in the school curriculum. Mr Bondietti reported that no further progress had been made. Considerable discussion ensued. The new Physics syllabus for classes up to Standard 6 has in the relevant text book two comparatively minor chapters on astronomy.

Mr Turk suggested that the Society should compile a booklet on the subject consisting of about 30 pages. It was agreed that the matter should be dealt with in two phases. Firstly the improvement of the existing syllabus to standard 6 should be attempted. Secondly if this was successful and official attitudes were favourable the question of the introduction into the higher standards would be considered. In addition to the existing sub committee of Drs. Cousins, Fairall and Wild, advantage of Dr. Thackeray's move to Cape Town should be taken in order to co-opt him on the committee.. Dr Wild mentioned that a Physics Conference would be held locally in July. Agreed that the Secretary should write to Dr. McMurray of the Nuclear Institute Faure before that date to seek his views on the possibility of having the Society's aims ventilated at that meeting.

New members The following were elected as full members subject to the usual proviso of publication of names in MNASSA and no objections being received.

Mr G A Bauwens  
401 Du Barry  
Beach Road  
3 ANCHOR BAY

Mr P A S Evans  
11 Inverleith Drive  
Burnside  
BULAWAYO

Mr R Crabtree  
33 Erlswold Way  
Saxonwold  
JOHANNESBURG

Mr F Forbes  
26 High Ridge Road  
PINETOWN  
Natal

Mr F P du Plessis  
P O Box 180  
DE AAR

Mr J L Hewitson  
27 Tennant Road  
KENILWORTH

Mr A L Evans  
Mount Sheba Nature Rescr.  
P O Box 4  
PILGRAMS REST  
1290

Master P S Lessing  
Riviera  
PRETORIA

New members (contd)

Master N Olivier  
25 Rhyn Avenue  
Bayswater  
BLOEMFONTEIN

Mr H J Pretorius  
32 Gedenk Street  
BETHLEHEM 9700

Mr D G Reid  
5 Newlands Road  
CLAREMONT

Mr C L Rijdsdijk  
12 Windermere Lodge  
Mazoe Street  
SALISBURY

Mr W. Stevens  
3 Farell Street  
Mindalore  
KRUGERSDORP

Miss S E Powell  
P/Bag P.5271  
BULAWAYO

Mr G Lewis  
Michaels House  
SA C High School  
Newlands Avenue  
NEWLANDS

Dr L H Holroyd  
Valkenberg Hospital  
OBSERVATORY

Mr A G Croyden  
P O Box 1339  
SALISBURY

Mr M D Grant  
403c Fremantle Road  
Hillary  
DURBAN

Mr J P C Nel  
177 Sargeaunt Street  
GREYTOWN 3500

Mr B L Sedgwick  
P O Box 125  
BULAWAYO

Mr C S Pollard  
8 Haven Road,  
Greenside Ext 5  
JOHANNESBURG

Mr J H Rabie  
P O Box 115  
EAST LONDON 5200

Mrs L J Rens  
26 Deane Road  
DURBAN 4001

Mr. H C Ross  
C/o Dowson & Dobson  
P O Box 7764  
JOHANNESBURG

Mr A N S Wunsch  
38 Tynemouth Road  
PLUMSTEAD  
7800

Dr N W Nowotny  
24 Hill Street  
GRAHAMSTOWN 6140

Miss F R W Jackson  
163 Main Road  
Walmer  
PORT ELIZABETH

Mr J J Fletcher  
4 Aloe Road  
Echovale  
KING WILLIAMS TOWN

Mr S W P Burger  
190 Main Road  
The STRAND

Dr G M Immelman  
41 Wilcocks Road  
BLOEMFONTEIN

Mr J E Portmann  
P O Box 27  
ESCOURT 3310

Mr J H Visser  
3 Olifant Street  
Birchleigh  
KEMPTON PARK

Finance    The following statement was presented by the Hon. Treasurer and  
             accepted

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Financial Statement to 18th February 1974

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	R. c.	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope for period July to December 1973	911-96	Credit Balance 1.7.1973	794-41
Cost of production of MNASSA, July to December 1973	504-95	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Cost of Reprints of articles in MNASSA	16-00	Arrears 2-50	
Postage on Publications July 1973 to January 1974	238-34	Current 3178-50	
Stationery & Equipment	15-72	Advance 194-50	3375-50
Postage other than above	18-93	Entrance Fees	145-00
Essay Competition prizes	21-50	Sale of MNASSA	191-66
Transferred to Savings Bank A/c. July and August 1973	1000-00	Sale of Reprints of articles in MNASSA	35-00
Placed on Fixed Deposit 1st August 1973	1000-00	Sale of MNASSA back Nos.	20-00
Bank charges and Exchange losses	51-94	Payment for article in MNASSA	16-00
Credit balance, 18.2.1974	1018-78	Sale of Handbooks	78-10
		Sale of back & extra nos. of Sky & Telescope"	56-50
		Sale of other books	0-54
		Donations	19-50
		Advertisements in MNASSA	4-00
		Interest on Building Society shares	7-75
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	32-50
		Commission on cheques and airmail postage received	21-66
	<u>R4798-12</u>		<u>R 4798-12</u>

The amount of Fixed Deposit and the amount in the Savings Bank account remain at R1000-00 and R1050-00 respectively.

The balance in the McIntyre Award account is now R384-48, interest of R26-15 having been received during December 1973.

Agreed that where foreign subscriptions for MNASSA were not paid in Rands, subscribers would be asked to bear the additional Bank charges incurred.

Miscellaneous

- (a) Agreed that Messrs Katz & Zinns, Cape Town stockists of telescopes, should be given a Handbook and some of the roneoed circulars at present given to prospective members. These may prove of use when dealing with purchasers of telescopes.
- (b) Dr. Hewitt had intimated that he would resign as from end of June 1974. In view of his interest in and support of the Society over a period of years, and as Deputy President of the CSIR it was agreed that MNASSA should be sent to him "gratis", after that date.
- (c) Mr Turk congratulated Dr. Fairall on the excellent Handbook produced.

- (d) Mr Molyneux reported that volumes of Sky and Telescope, and MNASSA were being bound. Some issues were missing as well as some copies of the B.A.A. Mr de Kock and Professor Skewes had donated magazines to the Society's library. The Hon. Secretary was directed to send letters of thanks.
  - (e) The question of putting locks on the bookcases in the lecture room was raised. ✕
  - (f) Many Rhodesians had been joining the Society recently. The lack of speakers and astronomical projects was proving a disadvantage. The possibility of taping lectures at Cape Centre meeting and of importing suitable tapes for use at gatherings where speakers were not available was discussed.
  - (g) Council was gratified to receive a "Unitron 4" Refractor from the estate of the late Mr. Rex Laurence who died in Somerset West last November. Agreed that this instrument should be known as the "Laurence telescope", that a suitably engraved plaque be put on it and that Mrs Laurence be thanked for the gift.
  - (h) A request had been received from the AAVSO for members to partake in searching for novae. The Society's Novae Search Section was dormant and it was obvious that an enthusiastic Director would be required to organise local members. It was suggested that this should be put to members through MNASSA.
  - (i) A letter dated 1.2.1974 received from Mr. Holcroft of the "Almanac for Southern Africa of Box 17104 Groenkloof was considered. The writer wished to consider embodying Astronomical data from the Handbook in a new publication to appear in 1974.
- Council ruled that it could not approve in view of the fact that the bulk of the contents was derived from the Ephemeris published by British Almanac Office.
- (j) Dr Wild reported that slow progress was being made with the typing of extracts from the first 16 volumes of MNASSA. The amount of time given to the production of the Notes was increasing and the whole question would have to be looked at afresh in the not so distant future. Advertising was proving a limited source of revenue and Dr Wild was empowered to branch out in this aspect. B.U.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

T W Russo  
HON. SECRETARY

*Clare*  
14/5/74