

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Tuesday 1974 November 19 at 8 p.m.

Present Mr Harding (in the chair) Messrs Bentley, Churms, Grimwood, Hurly, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Roberts, Russo, Simenhoff and Turk. Mrs. Cousins, Thackeray, Van Dugteren and Wild.

Apologies received from Dr. Fairall and Mr. Bondiotti.

Minutes of the previous meeting held 1974 September 3 read and confirmed.

Matters arising The 1975 Conference of the Institute of Physics. The Secretary had not had a reply from the Natal University to his letter, asking for further details. Dr. Wild however reported personal contact, and said that the subject matters of the conference would be of a very technical nature, with limited appeal to Society members. He suggested that Council leave the publicising of the Conference and any relevant matters to him and Prof. Warner. This was agreed to.

Future of MNASSA and Distribution of Publications were on the Agenda as separate items.

Finance The Financial Statement, presented by Mr. Orpen was adopted on the motion of Mr. Molyneux, seconded by Mr. Simenhoff.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	R	c	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	R	c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" July to October 1974.	691	56	Credit Balance at 1.7.1974	354	64
Cost of production of MNASSA June to August 1974	574	68	<u>Subscriptions</u>		
			Arrears	8	00
			Current	2978	00
			Advance	<u>113</u>	<u>00</u>
Cost of reprints of articles in MNASSA	26	95	Entrance Fees	45	00
Expenditure on production of Back Nos. of MNASSA	7	14	Sale of MNASSA	284	70
Postage on publications, July to October 1974	145	93	Sale of reproduced Back numbers of MNASSA	72	00
Stationery and equipment	44	41	Sale of Handbooks	39	60
Postage, other than above	16	83	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	32	10
Essay Competition Prizes	14	00	Donations	18	00
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., August and September 1974	1500	00	Interest on Fixed Deposit	32	50
Bank charges	43	00	Interest on Building Society shares	8	75
Credit Balance at 19.11.74.	938	04	Commission on cheques and airmail postage paid	16	25
	<u>R4002-54</u>			<u>R4002-54</u>	

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of $9\frac{1}{2}\%$. The amount in the "Plusplan" Savings Account with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, is R2061-17.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R481-95, interest of R30-33 having been received during September 1974: of this R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%.

(sgd.) Garrett Orpen
Hon. Treasurer

New Members

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

Student Member:

Mr.A. Neves
102 Rygersdal
44 Campground Rd
Rondebosch 7700

Full Members :

Mr R. Dale
17 Yalta Road
Pietermaritzburg 3201

Mr.B. Peckham
P O Box 1541
Pietermaritzburg 3200

Mr. R.K. Field
303 Wakesleigh Road
Bellair
Durban 4001

Mr.M. Jackson
5 Sarmcol Flats
32 Fraser Street
Howick 3290

Mr.A.B. Connelly
P O Box 98
Lusaka
Zambia

Copperbelt Astronomical
Society
P O Box 1925
Kitwe
Zambia

Mr.J. Soellaart
Cydna Laboratories
3 Atholl-Oaklands Road
Abbotsford
Johannesburg 2001

Mr M.E. Clarke
P O Box 5044
Vaal Reefs 2621

Mr R.E. Halsey
143 Saddle Ridge
Darnall 4480

Mr R. Lake
9 Page Avenue
Eastleigh
Edenvale 1610

Mr J.M. Rowe
7 Gloucester Road
Mowbray 7700

Mrs M.E. Rippey
27 Urania Street
Observatory
Johannesburg 2001

Society equipment

Mr. Turk, Society's Curator of Instruments, had circulated Centres to to ascertain instruments held and also to ascertain whether any centres wished to avail themselves of any of the Society's telescopes. Mr. Turk's report and recommendations were considered by Council and the following decisions taken

- 1) Unitron 6x50 R.F.T. to be offered to the Comet and Meteor Section.
- 2) The allocation of the two 4" Refractors to be deferred for the time being.
- 3) The 3" (MacIntyre) Refractor to go to the Natal Centre
- 4) The 3" (Roberts) Refractor not to be loaned at present. This is a clumsy heavy instrument, requiring a certain amount of attention, and its future could be assessed at the next Council meeting.
- 5) All equipment to be insured against "all risks", borrowers to refund the premium "pro rata" for the period of a loan.

Mr. Harding, Mr. Churms and Mr. Russo would estimate the value, possibly of the optics only.

Council expressed its appreciation of the amount of time and effort given by Mr. Turk to the matter.

MNASSA

This item was deferred. Dr Wild wished to consider and collate reports and recommendations when received from all centres. Replies were still being awaited from Bloemfontein and the Transvaal. Mr. Hurly would be visiting Bloemfontein and would hasten their report. Mr. Hurly would convey greetings from Council.

Forbes Essay Competition

In view of the falling away of interest in this competition, it was decided not to hold one in 1975. In the meantime members could consider the possibility of widening the scope of the competition; of getting a degree of support and co-operation from the Press.

Gill Medal

The last award was made in 1970. Council members were asked to consider whether suitable nominees for an award were known to them, particularly those members living out of Cape Town.

Appendix I of the Constitution states:-

"In each year before the end of the first week in April, members of the Council shall send to the Secretary a note of a name or names of suitable persons to receive the Medal, together with a description of the service to astronomy which it is proposed to recognise and a note of any further particular reasons in favour of any particular candidate".

Mr J.C. Entress

The Hon. Treasurer reported that Mr. Entress was in default with his current subscription. He was seriously ill and Council therefore waived payment of his overdue subscription. He has been a member of good standing for many years.

Dr. Stoy and Dr. Evans

These two former members of Council would be attending a symposium at the University of Cape Town in 1975 on January 21/23. It was suggested to Mr. Turk, as Chairman of the Cape Centre, that it would be fitting if a Cape Centre meeting or function could be arranged in January for them to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

T W Russo
HON. SECRETARY

