

## ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory Cape Town on Tuesday 1975 May 20 at 8 p.m.

Present In the chair Mr Hurly for the earlier part of the meeting, then Dr. Wild. Also in attendance Dr. Cousins, Messrs Bondietti, Duvéen, Churms, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Roberts Russo, Turk and Dr. Thackeray.

Apologies for absence noted from Dr. Fairall, Messrs. Bentley, Papadopolous and Simenhoff.

Minutes These were taken as read and agreed with the following amendments and additions:-

- (a) Krumm telescope - two eyepieces have been found which fit the instrument but which did not necessarily belong to it.
- (b) Apologies noted from Drs. Fairall, Thackeray and Wild, who did not receive their copies of the Notice of the meeting issued.

Matters arising Insurance on Society's telescopes. A letter from Mr. Gray of Durban was read. In this he reminded Council that he had been able to obtain a flat rate of 1% from Lloyds of London for specified items belonging to the Natal Centre. He also mentioned that there were representatives in Cape Town in the name of Hogg Robinson and Rennie. Mr Turk spoke on the estimated value of the Society's telescopes, mainly limiting it to object glasses only. A total sum of R2 000 was mentioned and Mr. Turk and Mr. Molyneux were empowered to act. A breakdown of an agreed policy, into details of individual equipment was to be made. It was agreed that Centres having equipment on loan should send a certificate to this effect as well as to its condition to Mr. Turk each Society year-end for the Auditors. The possibility of borrowers paying part of the premium on a pro rata basis according to the value of equipment held was also discussed.

Despatch of Publications Council formally approved the action taken by Mr. Larmuth in arranging for the "Afric Mail Advertising" to take over the despatch of Sky & Telescope and MNASSA to Society members. Mr. Larmuth was thanked for all he had done. Addressograph plates had been checked and handed over to A.M.A. Mr. Hurly had delivered 517 copies of Sky & Telescope (April issue), MNASSA for the same month and 20 000 envelopes.

The order of the Agenda had been changed in view of the necessity for Mr. Hurly to vacate the chair to attend another meeting elsewhere in the same capacity.

Next Council Meeting fixed for June 18.

Annual General Meeting Provisionally fixed for 4th Wednesday in July in Johannesburg, the date and venue to be agreed with the Transvaal Centre.

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Finance The statement presented by Mr Orpen, as given hereunder, was adopted on the motion of Mr G. Larmuth, seconded by Mr Turk.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
	R. c.		R. c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope", July 1974 to April 1975	1807-27	Credit balance at 1.7.74.	354-64
Cost of production of MNASSA, June 1974 to February 1975	1326-88	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Cost of Reprints of Articles in MNASSA	79-87	Arrears	16-00
Expenditure on reproduction of back nos. of MNASSA	45-72	Current	3371-00
Cost of production of Handbook for 1975	684-38	Advance	207-50
Postage on publications, July 1974 to April 1975	340-34		3594-50
Stationery and equipment	77-70	Entrance fees	132-50
Postage, other than above	47-20	Sale of MNASSA	835-15
Essay Competition prizes	14-00	Sale of reprints of articles in MNASSA	130-00
Variable star charts	40-00	Sale of reproduced back numbers of MNASSA	157-00
Transferred to "Plusplan" Savings A/c., August and September 1974	1500-00	Sale of Handbooks	117-35
Bank charges	110-87	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	32-10
Credit Balance at 20.5.75.	470-19	Sale of La Caille booklet	-50
		Donations	34-94
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	82-50
		Interest on Building Socy Shares (Forbes bequest)	18-25
		Withdrawn from "Plusplan" Savings A/c., February and April 1975	1000-00
		Commission on cheques and airmail postage paid	54-99
	<u>R 6544-42</u>		<u>R6544-42</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 A/c. with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, is now R1156-91, including interest added in March 1975.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account remains at R569-75, of which R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%

(sgd.) Garrett Orpen  
HON. TREASURER

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## New Members

The following were elected subject to the usual proviso of names being published in MNASSA and no objection being received.

Mr J.H. Brundel  
Drommedaris  
Privaatsak 16  
Aucklandpark  
JOHANNESBURG 2000

Mr G.C. Elder  
4 Hurlingham Close  
Mount Pleasant  
SALISBURY  
Rhodesia

Mr J.C. Mouton  
5 Glencoe Road  
Oranjezicht  
CAPE TOWN 8001

Mr S.W. Orchard  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering  
Witwatersrand University  
Jan Smuts Avenue  
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Mr C.A. Posemann  
P W D  
Private Bag X65  
PRETORIA 0001

Mr P.A. Robertson  
6 Culemborg  
Elizabeth Ave  
Sandringham  
JOHANNESBURG 2000

Mr N.P. Scully  
2nd Bn The Rhodesia Regiment  
P O Box 698  
BULAWAYO  
Rhodesia

Miss E.R. Thomas  
C/o P O Box 105  
CAPE TOWN 8000

## Associated Membership

Mr. Turk spoke on this item. Several anomalies were apparent to the sub-committee going into this question, and he asked for wider terms of reference, so that recommendations to cover all apparent anomalies in the Constitution on aspects in addition to those of membership could be put to Council at its next meeting.

## Financial Assistance for MNASSA

This was in relation to the back issues being reproduced in a condensed form. Increases in costs were continuing at an alarming rate, and examples of paper costs and typing costs were given. In an effort to speed up the project, it was agreed that R250 should be placed in a special account from which Dr. Wild could draw monies to defray costs. It appeared to be necessary to go back to the Government Department to ascertain the exact requirements necessary for an ad hoc grant to be approved. In any case assistance would be confined to the project of back issues only; continuing financial support for current MNASSA expenses could be fraught with difficulties.

## Any further business

- (a) Agreed that publications to Dr. E.M. Lindsay (a full member) of Armagh Observatory, now deceased, should be transferred to Dr Opik of the same address.
- (b) Mr. Orpen to have the status of Mr. P. Moore's membership clarified. He had been credited with two years subscription, and it was now possible that he would welcome being nominated as Corresponding Member.

Any further  
business contd.

- (c) Mr. Molyneux spoke about the deterioration of some of the library books due to the presence of fish moths. Agreed that Mr. Churms should raise the matter with the Secretary of the SAAO, with a view to fumigation, costs to the Society not to exceed R30.
- (d) Mr. Overbeek raised the matter of the non-receipt of MNASSA publications by the Variable Star Section of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand since volume 30, nos 11 and 12. Agreed that they should be put on the "free" list of MNASSA recipients and back issues forwarded at no cost.
- (e) S A Institute of Physics. The Society had been invited to attend the Annual Conference in Durban to be held 7-11 July. In addition an invitation had been received to name a Representative to attend a meeting of the Council of the Institute over lunch on 10th July at the University of Natal. Dr. Wild offered to represent the Society at this function. Any matters which Council would care to raise could be brought up at the next meeting in June.

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

T.W. Russo  
HON. SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN