

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory Cape Town on Tuesday 1975 November 25 at 8 pm.

Present Dr Wild in the chair Dr Cousins Dr Thackeray Messrs Bentley, Duveen, C Larmuth, G Larmuth, Molyneux, Orpen, Roberts, Russo, Simenhoff and Turk.

Apologies for absence noted as from Dr Feast Prof. Warner, Messrs Churms and Hurly.

Alternate Dr Wild welcomed Mr Simenhoff as alternate for Mr C J Poole, Transvaal Representative on Council in place of Dr van Dugteren. Moving home further from Cape Town and increasing demand by his professional duties had made it difficult for Dr van Dugteren to attend Council meetings.

Minutes of meeting held 1975 September 16 copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and adopted.

Matters
Arising

Insurance: Mr Turk spoke on insurance of the Society's telescopes. Initially the value of specified items was placed at R2 000. The effect of devaluation was calculated to raise this figure to R2 500. However with the McIntyre telescope on loan to the Natal Centre, and covered on that Centre's policy, it was reckoned that R2 300 would be a realistic figure, and Mr Gray of Durban had the matter in hand to arrange corresponding cover. The expected annual premium would be R23.50. Dr Wild thanked Mr Turk for his efforts in arranging this matter so satisfactorily.

Handbook: A report from Mr Hurly stated that this was well in hand. Every effort was being made to have it printed before the year end, but the outcome was still uncertain.

Advertising: Mr Duveen stated that he had approached Messrs Hamrad to consider advertising in MNASSA. In view of present conditions this firm would not give any thought to undertaking any advertising. In view of their attitude no attempt was made elsewhere and no further action was contemplated.

Mr. Lincoln: Nothing had been done to clarify the situation in which Mr. Lincoln had resigned, soon after paying his subscription for the ensuing year. Mr. Churms would be asked to make discreet enquiries of the Orange Free State Representative; mainly with a view to determining whether ill-health or any other adverse circumstance was the reason for withdrawing from membership. It was felt that the case of a member of so many years good standing now at the age of 90 should not be overlooked. The question of the refund of the current year's subscription paid could be viewed sympathetically by Council should circumstances warrant it.

Finance Mr Orpen presented the following financial statement. While this gave a healthy picture at the current time, some doubt was expressed as to whether such a condition would prevail at June 30 next, by which time the effects of devaluation would be felt, particularly in regard to the cost of importing "Sky & Telescope". It seemed that an increase of subscription next July would be inevitable. It was decided that

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members should be made aware of the situation by a paragraph in MNASSA. Mention was made of the fact that over fifty members had been suspended this month through non-payment of subscriptions. It was considered possible that Centres could help in some cases to get members to fulfil their obligations.

Financial Statement presented to Council Meeting held on 25th November 1975

Expenditure	R c.	Receipts	R c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope", July to October 1975	964 15	Credit Balance at 1.7.75.	88 67
Cost of production of MNASSA June to October 1975	683 88	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Expenditure on reproduction of MNASSA Back numbers	3 37	Arrears 22-36	
Addressing and despatch of publications, June to October 1975	58 11	Current 3200-51	
Postage on publications, June to October 1975	160 04	Advance <u>85-50</u>	3308 37
Stationery	222 68	Entrance Fees	72 50
Postage, other than above	26 20	Sale of MNASSA	150 75
Transferred to Plusplan A/c. July 1975	1000 00	Sale of MNASSA Back numbers	63 00
Bank charges	44 38	Sale of Handbooks	39 75
Credit Balance at 25.11.75.	671 48	Sale of back and extra copies of Sky & Telescope	4 00
		Donations	38 06
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	50 00
		Commission on cheques, air-mail postage paid and gains on exchange	19 19
	<u>R3834 29</u>		<u>R3834 29</u>

The amount in the Plusplan A/c with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, remains at R1950-00, and the amount of R1000-00 is still on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society at an interest rate of 10%.

The balance in the McIntyre Award A/c remains at R664-57.

The Donations comprise the following:-

Dr W S Finsen	4-00
J G Laity	1-50
J Vollmer	1-00
Dr. A W H Bleksley	4-00
Dr D S Evans	5-56 (U.S. \$10)
S Woodall	2-00
Dr J S Mattelaer	17-00
C L Rijdsijk	2-00

Planetarium
Johannesburg

The despatch of 10 copies of "Sky & Telescope" to the Planetarium was discontinued at the time of the change over in the method of despatch, and during the last few months there were barely sufficient to issue to members. Mr Geary, Director of the Planetarium, had asked for the despatch to be resumed and the

number doubled. The Secretary reported that he had advised Mr Geary that, due to considerable suspensions from membership, it would be possible to send 20 of the October issue. After that the number would be maintained if sufficient were available for members. Steps have already been taken to increase our quota from 500 to 520. Allowance had to be made for normal growth, and if possible for members who would subsequently be re-instated. This was agreed.

New

Members:

The following were elected subject to the publication of names in MNASSA and no objection being received:

Mr A Bilsé
4 Nettleton Road
BEDFORDVIEW 2001

Mr C Cubitt
Zeekoefontein
LINDEQUESDRIFT 1907

Mrs E J Cornhill
37 Main Street
ALICE 5700

Mr R W Curtis
17 Lekkerbreek Street
PHALABORWA 1390

Mr J M Dalgarno
46 Moodie Street
UNKOMAAS 4170

Mr E Georgiadis
506 Brighton Court
31 Ockerse Str
HILLBROW 2001

Mr S E Hill
12 Cavendish Hts
Cavendish Rd
Bellevue
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Mr Paul H F Vroomen
Men's Residence
University of Witwatersrand
JOHANNESBURG 2001

Mr E McConkey
6 Manlen
306 Queen Mary Avenue
Glenmore
DURBAN 4001

Mr P A Naudé
P O Box 3184
SALISBURY
Rhodesia

Mr M Poll
465 Murchison Rd
Killarney
BULAWAYO
Rhodesia

Mr L V Sterrenberg
P O Box 4154
PRETORIA 0001

Mr D Strydom
25 Dordrecht Street
Crosby
JOHANNESBURG 2001

University of South Africa
P O Box 392
PRETORIA 0001

Mr A J van den Berg
P O Box 40
CARLETONVILLE 2500

Salisbury
Centre

Correspondence relating to the application of members in Salisbury through Mr Rijdsdijk to form a Centre was read. Council wholeheartedly approved and expressed its appreciation of the enterprise shown by Salisbury members. It was placed on record that the centre would be known as the Salisbury Centre of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. The Constitution would be that of the Society Constitution, the Centre Committee having power to frame its own rules and bye-laws, provided they did not conflict with the Constitution.

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Associate
Members

This item had been left over from the last meeting for further consideration and in order that Principals living away from Cape Town could present their views. Letters from Mr Overbeek and Mr Gray were read, and considerable discussion ensued. A previous suggestion of an annual levy on all Centres based on its membership in order to keep a proper record of the number of Associates, not paying subscriptions to the Society, was dropped. Mr Turk proposed that the classes of membership should be on the following basis so as to avoid the confusion resulting from the present wording in the Constitution:-

The Society shall consist of members in the following classes:-

Full Members shall have voting power in any proceedings of the Society and shall be eligible for election to any office in the Society. They shall receive free of charge, all publications issued or distributed by the Society.

Corresponding
Members shall have no voting power nor shall they be eligible to hold office in the Society. They shall receive free of charge all publications issued by the Society. During temporary (i.e. not over 1 year) residence in Southern Africa, they shall automatically become full members of the Society.

Local
Members shall have no voting power nor shall they be eligible to hold office in the Society. They shall be members of a Centre of the Society.

Honorary
Members may be elected by Council. They shall be persons who have rendered special service to Astronomy or to the Society and the number of such members shall not exceed fifteen at any one time. Entitlement to publications to be decided on in each case.

The class "Local Members" will embrace the present Associates. Election of such members would be the responsibility of the Centre concerned, and Nomination Forms would not be required by Council. A proposal to retain the existing practice of obtaining Council's formal approval for such members was put to the vote and defeated (1 for and 11 against).

With Council's agreement on the foregoing points, the sub-committee was asked to report back at the next Council meeting with recommendations for remedying any inconsistencies in the Constitution, and also embodying and clarifying the position of Associates, now to be termed Local Members, and simplifying the various relevant articles, as regards wording and placing in the Constitution.

A Local Member would be regarded as a member of the Society as long as he remained a member of good standing of his Centre.

A further thought for consideration was the substitution on the Nomination Form for the terms "Proposer and Seconder" by "Sponsors".

Pretoria
Centre

Dr Thackeray stated that the Pretoria Centre was being forced to vacate their observing site on the one time Radcliffe Observatory grounds, where the Army Authorities had taken over. Endeavours were being made to find another place. One suggestion had been the grounds of the Boys High School, but the relevant authorities

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found objections to this

CSIR and the Municipality were very sympathetic and it was hoped that a solution would be found. Council felt that it should give moral support to any representations being made, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to write to the Centre to find out whether it could be of any assistance in any way possible; at the same time expressing sympathy in the present impasse.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22h30.

T W Russo
Hon. SECRETARY

G. J. ...
CHAIRMAN