

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory  
Cape Town on Monday 1976 February 23 at 8 pm

Present Dr Wild in the chair Prof Warner Drs Cousins, Feast  
and Thackeray Messrs Bentley, Duveen, Hurly, G Larmath,  
C Larmath, Molyneux, Orpen, Russo and Turk

Apologies for absence noted from Messrs Churms, Roberts and Simenhoff

Minutes of previous meeting held 1975 November 25 were taken as  
read and signed.

Matters  
Arising

(a) Insurance on telescopes. Mr Turk reported that cover  
had been arranged to June 1976, the end of the Society year  
at a cost of R15.15. The pro rata share due for refund from  
the Pietermaritzburg Centre was R3.30. The Richfield Tele-  
scope was on loan to the Comet and Meteor Section, and the  
insurance was a Society's liability. The 4" Laurence Refrac-  
tor valued at R1 600, and whose insurance of R16 p.a. formed  
the greater part of the R23.50 p.a. insurance premium for all  
the equipment was at present in the "Atkins Dope" in the Cape  
Centre. It was not being put to any use and the Cape Centre  
therefore considered that a refund of a high continuing annual  
"pro rata" premium was not justified in the circumstances.  
The possibility of the University of Cape Town using the  
telescope was mentioned, and the matter was left in abeyance  
until June, the payment for the current term only being R10.31.  
Mr Turk was thanked for his part in finalising the matter of  
insurance.

(b) Mr Lincoln. A letter received from Mr Muller of Bloem-  
fontein was read. The reason for Mr Lincoln's resignation  
was stated as hardly financial, but rather psychological and  
poor health. Mr Muller proposed that 1) a communication from  
the Society, advising him that he would retain full membership  
on account of past services and advancing years, without further  
payment, would give him a "moral boost"; 2) that this privi-  
lege should extend to all members over 75 years of age who had  
made some contribution to the Society. 1) was agreed, 2) was  
left for consideration by the sub-committee, who were viewing  
the various Articles in the Constitution.

(c) Mr Turk gave a brief resumé on what was being done about  
the Constitution. He discussed the present Nomination Form  
and suggested that it be replaced by an Application Form,  
with provision for sponsors. Finality had not yet been reached,  
a further report would be made.

Finance Mr Orpen presented the following financial statement:-

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
	R c.		R c.
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope, July 1975 to February 1976	2086-76	Credit Balance at 1.7.75.	88-67
Cost of production of MNASSA, June 1975 to October 1975	685-64	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Expenditure on re-production of MNASSA back nos.	3-37	Arrears 22-36	
Cost of production of Handbook for 1976	880-02	Current 3379-82	
Addressing and despatch of publications, June to December 1975	83-64	Advance <u>99-50</u>	3501-68
Postage on publications, June to December 1975	231-65	Entrance fees	127-50
Stationery	256-27	Sale of MNASSA	316-56
Postage, other than above	35-91	Sale of Back Numbers of MNASSA	63-00
Insurance of Telescopes	15-15	Sale of Handbooks	140-45
Transferred to Plusplan A/c., July 1975	1000-00	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	21-60
Bank Charges	69-95	Donations	40-06
Credit Balance at 23.2.1976	105-13	Interest on Fixed Deposit	100-00
		Interest on Building Soc. Shares (Forbes Bequest)	9-50
		Withdrawn from Plusplan A/c February 1976	1000-00
		Commission on cheques, air-mail postage paid and gains on exchange	44-47
	<u>R5453-49</u>		<u>R 5453-49</u>

The balance in the Plusplan A/c with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch is now R950-00, 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. is now R698-59, bond interest of R34-02 having been added during December 1975

Escalating costs were eating into the Society's reserve funds. Cost of Sky & Telescope and MNASSA to the end of the Society's year would be round about the R2000 mark, plus the cost of despatch offset by odd receipts. The above statement shows reserves of only about R2000; the question of increasing receipts becomes a matter of urgency. Agreed that MNASSA should now cost individual subscribers R6 per annum. Those who had already paid for 1976 would only pay increased rate in 1977. Agreed that Council should consider increasing subscription from R8 p.a. to R10 p.a., which would bring in about an additional R1000 p.a.; noting that increases invariably resulted in some resignations. This would, on the present basis, barely balance expenditure if at all. There was a further proposal that the subscription should rise

to R2 p.a., of which R2 would be earmarked for an emergency fund; for use meeting unexpected costs. These proposals would be considered again at the next Council Meeting, thereby giving all members of Council opportunity to consider the situation carefully and to instruct Alternates, where necessary with their viewpoints.

Handbook An error resulted in the re-printing of 6 pages of the Handbook. Mr Hurly paid the sum involved vis R24 - and asked that the total cost of Handbooks be increased by this sum, with a contra entry of a donation of R24. It was regretted that reference to the Salisbury Centre was not made. The Handbook was printed just before Christmas and matters were rushed to get the job completed before the Printers' recess. Council thanked Mr Hurly for what was achieved over a difficult period. Centre Representatives on Council should note that details of office bearers should be notified as soon as possible after the Centre Annual General Meeting for incorporation in the Handbook. Any suggestions as to the composition of the Handbook would be welcomed.

Summary  
Volume of  
MNASSA This was about halfway towards completion. Dr. Wild reported that the R250 already allocated for expenses was exhausted, and asked for a further R250 to be made available. This was agreed.

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

Mr M.W. Bredenkamp  
Helderberg College  
Box 22  
SOMERSET WEST 7130

Dr Bruce Bunton  
Swallows Osteopathic Clinic  
Box 74  
GLEN HARMONY  
O F S 9435

Mr W.G. Button  
49 Tier St  
Greenhills  
RANDFONTEIN 1760

Mr A.F. de Wind  
294 Eva Avenue  
Queenswood  
PRETORIA 0002

Mr B.M. Divilly  
Holiday Inn  
MELLVILLE 7530

Mr P.J. Eschberger  
227 Lucc Str  
Sinoville,  
PRETORIA 0002

Mnr J.H.J.S. Fourie  
Posbus 1366  
WALVIS BAY 9190

Mr D. Hildebrandt  
1112 Sanlam Park  
16 Beach Road  
AMANZIMPOTI 4125

Dr A.R.W. Hughes  
18 Neville Road  
WESTVILLE 3630

Master R. Lindsay  
"Maryvale"  
Box 290  
STELLENBOSCH 7600

Mr N. MacDonald  
23 Gilmour Ave,  
Hoggerty Hill  
B/Dale  
SALISBURY

Mr R.D. Pearson  
21 Conway Court,  
Victoria Road  
BANTRY BAY 8001

Mr K.H. Pichler  
25 Meyer Str  
PLUMSTEAD 7800

Dr. A.L.T. Powell  
A.E.B.,  
Private Bag 256  
PRETORIA 0001

The S A Exploration Society  
Box 979  
CAPE TOWN 8000

Mr J.R. Starkey  
86 Jean Avenue  
Doringkloof  
VERWOERDBURG 0140

New  
Members

Master P. van der Lugt  
Box 6  
MISGUN 6441

Mr H.B. van Wyk  
5 Kendon Crt  
31 Terrace Rd  
Eastleigh  
EDENVALE 1610

Mr F.A. Velleman  
2 Contron Crt  
57 Mons Rd  
Bellevue East  
JOHANNESBURG 2198

Master A. Viljoen  
8 Greenways  
RONDEBOSCH 7700

Mr R. Wallace  
3 Balintore Rd  
RONDEBOSCH 7700

Mr J.W. Watson  
Hilton College  
P O HILTON 3245

Mr B.R. Mee  
26 Cecil Rhodes Drive  
Highlands  
Salisbury, Rhodesia

In the case of Dr. Powell, the payment of entrance fee was waived. He had resigned, when he returned to the U.K. after a tour of duty in S.A. He had now returned permanently.

Dr. Stoy

had been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Cape Town. The Secretary was directed to convey Council's congratulations to him. It was noted that he would be in Cape Town for the investiture in June 1976, when arrangements would be made for members to meet him.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Hurly suggested that the Society should contact the Defence Department with a view to instructing army personnel in direction finding by astronomical means, when in difficulty in adverse surroundings. While recognizing that the Authorities would have adequate means of ascertaining positions in bush and unknown country, it was thought that a knowledge of the sky could possibly be of assistance to the odd person(s) stranded in difficulties. The Hon. Secretary was directed to write to the Department of Defence.

Mr. Turk raised the question of the resumption of the Essay Competition. This was left over for the next meeting.

The question of advertising was also raised, but no decision taken. Mr Duveen agreed to contact overseas firms advertising in the BAA Journal with a view to their using MNASSA for the same purpose. Council wished to place on record the sterling work done by Mr. Gray in Durban particularly in connection with his researches into the history of Astronomy in Natal.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22h00.

T.W. Russo  
HON. SECRETARY

*Brian Warner*  
CHAIRMAN

3-5-1976