

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Monday 1976 September 13.

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

Apologies for absence noted from Drs Feast, Warner and Wild, Messrs Bently, Booysen, Duveen and Vincent. *and Hurly.*

Alternates

The first business of the meeting was the appointment and re-appointment of alternates as follows:-

<u>Principal</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Mr S S Booysen	Mr C Larmuth
Mr F Bateman	Mr G Larmuth
Mr M Gray	Mr G Roberts
Mr J Muller	Mr J Churms
Mr C J Poole	Mr J Simenhoff
Mr R Smith	Mr C Turk
Mr G Hobson	Mr H Molyneux
Dr G Prosser	Mr V Duveen
Mr J Vincent	Dr A Cousins

Minutes of previous meeting held on 1976 June 14, and copies of which had been circulated were adopted.

Matters arising (a) Reserve Fund - Appointment of Trustees - Agreed that the following should be asked to act: Dr Wild, Mr M Overbeek and Mr M Gray. Mr Turk agreed to act as Secretary and to communicate with these gentlemen.

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Agreed also that the Society/the Trust an interest free loan of R30 for legal and other necessary expenses in setting up this Trust. Mr Bondietti raised the point once again of utilising part of the McIntyre Award Fund for the Trust. The Fund now held R832, and it was considered that it would not be likely that all of this would be used in the near future. Agreed that this question should be postponed until the next meeting, and in the meantime Alternates should contact their Principals for their views.

(b) Associate membership and possible Constitution inconsistencies. There was nothing further to report on this question.

Finance The financial statement was presented by Mr Orpen and adopted. A copy appears at the end of these Minutes.

New Members These were accepted subject to the usual proviso of publication of the names in MNASSA and no objection being received. A list of these members appear at the end of these Minutes.

Agreed that in anticipation of a possible devaluation of the Rand, the Treasurer should be authorized to pay such a sum as he considers desirable in advance to Sky & Telescope Corporation, subject to the approval of the Bank.

Any further
business

- (1) A questionnaire recently sent out to members by Dr Wild called for, inter alia, comments on the Society and its services to members. These were summarised and considered by Council. In certain cases the Secretary would take direct action, and in other cases, such as follows, it was suggested that the points raised could easily be dealt with by a paragraph or two in Centrepiece of MNASSA.
 - (a) Revised Nomination Forms for Membership
 - (b) Suggested that the Society order or supply astronomical books.
 - (c) More information in MNASSA of direct interest to amateurs, eg telescope making
 - (d) Publication of names and addresses of members
 - (e) Delay in receipt of 'Sky & Telescope'.

Reference (a) any change could require an amendment to the Constitution. As there were sufficient forms for current use in stock, it was agreed that the matter should be deferred to the next meeting, when the item (b) of 'Matters arising' again came before Council.

(b) It was not considered practicable for Council to act as a Book Agency. Facilities were readily available at Public Libraries and commercial Book Agencies.


(c) Referred for consideration by Editorial Board.

(d) This would be investigated. Mr. Molyneux to consider "Ways and means".

(e) Efforts to expedite deliveries had already been undertaken.

- (2) Mr Turk mentioned that the Astronomical Society at Rondebosch Boys High School, now resuscitated, needed speakers at their meetings. He had agreed to address its members on Tuesday September 14.
- (3) Mr Orpen mentioned the death of Mr Neil Down, a member of long standing. He had forwarded a letter of condolence to the widow.
- (4) Mr Roberts read an interesting letter received from Mr Gray. Good progress was being made with his work on the history of Astronomy in Natal. His offer of R200 towards the Society's Trust Fund was repeated and Council was gratified to hear this. It would be borne in mind when the Trust was legally constituted.
- (5) The next meeting was fixed for 1976 November 22 at 8 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 21h25.


T W Russo
Hon. Secretary


Chairman

New Members (contd.)

Mrs M. Joubert
13 Faure Marine Drive
GORDON'S BAY 7150

Mr Graham Parkhurst
10 Hilltop Lane
NEWLANDS 7700

Mr E.S. Proctor
P O Box 2922
SALISBURY Rhodesia

Mr M.J. Reid
5 Duncan Drive
WESTVILLE 3630

Associate member

Transferred from full member

Mr S. Shochat
101 Raynor
London Road
SEA POINT 8001

Mr P. Smit
102 Riverstone
Lr Nursery Road
ROSEBANK 7700

Dr J.M. Wallevand
P O Box 1992
RUSTENBURG 0300

Mr V.F. Webb
201 Hyde Park
College Rd
RONDEBOSCH 7700

Mr D.A. Wildman
Mountain View
Henshill Rd
HOUT BAY 7800

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Financial Statement for presentation to Council Meeting 13th Sept., 1976

<u>Expenditure</u>	R. c	<u>Receipts</u>	R. c
Subscription to "Sky & Telescope" July & Aug. 1976	545-54	Credit Balance at 1.7.76	360-43
Cost of production of MNASSA May & June 1976	256-12	<u>Subscriptions.</u>	
Expenditure on MNASSA Back nos.	3-73	Arrears 8-00	
Cost of Reprints of articles in MNASSA	19-10	Current 3008-00	
Addressing and despatch of publications	36-53	Advance 22-50	3038-50
Postage on publications	105-23	Entrance Fees	40-00
Stationery and equipment	4-63	Sale of MNASSA	162-90
Postage, other than above	8-70	Page charges for articles in MNASSA and sale of reprints	90-00
Repayment of loan (on security of Fixed deposit)	895-00	Sale of Handbooks	7-00
Interest on above Loan	18-65	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	16-40
Transferred to Plusplan A/c. July & Aug. 1976	1000-00	Advertisement in MNASSA	3-00
Bank charges and exchange losses	35-29	Donations	6-35
Credit balance at 13.9.76.	866-62	Interest on Fixed Deposit	50-00
		Commission on cheques, air-mail postage and exchange gains	20-56
	<u>R3795-14</u>		<u>R3795-14</u>

The Fixed Deposit of R1000-00 with the United Building Society has been renewed for a further period of two years at an interest rate of 10%, and the amount at present in the "Plusplan" A/c. with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht is R1500-00. The balance in the McIntyre Award A/c. is now R832-00, bond interest of R34-41 having been received this month. Of this R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%.

(Sgd). Garrett Orpen
Hon. Treasurer

New Members:

Mrs J. Brander
P O Box 2
MANABA BEACH
Natal 4276

Mr K.G. Burke
24 Upper Durban Rd
MOWBRAY 7700

Cape Town High School
Astronomical Society
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Mr A. Chester
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Monument Park
PRETORIA 0002

Dr C.A. Engelbrecht
Private Bag X256
PRETORIA 0001

Mr J.J. Erasmus
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