

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held at the S A Astronomical Observatory, Cape Town on Monday 1976 November 22 at 20h00.

Present

Dr Wild in the chair, Professor Warner, Dr Feast,^{Devine} Messrs Bentley, Bondietti, Churms, Hurly, G. Larmuth, C. Larmuth, Orpen, Overbeek, Russo, Simenhoff and Turk. As Mr. Russo was unable to be present for the first hour of the meeting, Mr. G. Larmuth undertook to record the proceedings.

Apologies

for absence noted from Messrs Roberts and Vincent.

Minutes

of previous meeting held on 1976 September 13, copies of which had been circulated, were adopted and signed after Mr. Hurly's name had been added to the apologies for absence.

Matters
arising

- (a) Mr. Hurly drew attention to the fact that Mr. J. J. Muller, an elected member of Council, was also the Bloemfontein Centre representative on Council. As the Centre is entitled to appoint a different person as representative, the Secretary was asked to write and enquire if it wished to do so.
- (b) Mr. C. Larmuth said that references to the proposed Endowment Trust in previous minutes had described the Trust as a reserve fund, which was incorrect. It was agreed that the correct name, namely Endowment Trust, should be used in future.

Mr Turk reported that he had sent copies of the Cape Centre Endowment Trust deed to the three proposed trustees, who had accepted the appointment with the exception of Mr Overbeek who would shortly be going to the United States for about three years and so would be unable to act. It was agreed to ask Mr J.C. Bennett to act as a trustee and Mr. Turk said he would write to him. Mr. Turk said he had also spoken to the attorney who had prepared the Cape Centre's trust deed and he was prepared to do the same for Council free of charge. There would however be some costs such as revenue stamps and registration fee.

Regarding using a portion of the income from the McIntyre Award as a donation to the proposed Trust it was pointed out that there was a possibility of making one or more awards in the near future. As no clear decision was arrived at it was decided to defer the matter for discussion in about one year's time, but at the next meeting Council should consider making awards of an International nature as provided for in the Constitution.

- (c) Associate Membership and the Constitution. Mr. Turk reported some progress to date. The revised nomination form would also receive attention. Mr. Hurly asked if the listing of new members in MNASSA could be under the heading of "New Members" as the present arrangement was pointless. This was agreed.

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- (a) Published list of Members. It was agreed to take no further action until the cost of a print-out of the mailing list of members had been obtained from Afric Addressing as this might prove much cheaper than the quote of R130.00 for 600 copies which Mr Molyneux had been given. It was felt that as finances were critical it might only be necessary to send lists to each Centre and to those members who were prepared to pay for them.

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 and are listed at the end of these minutes.

Sky & Telescope The Chairman reported that a double quantity of Sky & Telescope June 1976 issue had been received. The additional copies would not have to be paid for, as the publishers did not require them. It was agreed that the surplus should be disposed of to Planetariums and Centres.

It was also decided to reduce the order for future copies by 20 copies per month and also to suggest to the publishers that they revert to sending the Society's copies by surface mail direct from the United States to speed up delivery.

Director-ship of Star Section Mr Overbeek informed the Council that early next year he would be going to the United States of America for about three years and therefore have to resign as Director of the variable star section. There followed some discussion on a successor and it was agreed that Mr Overbeek should personally ask Mr Hers if he would take over. To reduce the work involved and with a view to getting returns posted in good time it was suggested that observers should send the returns of their observations direct to Mr H M Bateson of the R.A.S. of New Zealand Variable Star Section for observations south of -30° and to the A.A.V.S.O. in all other cases.

General Forbes Essay Competition. It was agreed that the subject for the 1977 Essay should be "Exploration of the Solar System".

Annual General Meeting This would be held on the 4th Wednesday in July 1977, ie the 28th. A letter from Mr Gray of the Natal Centre was read, inviting Council to hold the Annual General Meeting in Durban under its auspices, and inviting Council members to attend. This was gratefully received and details would be discussed at a later date.

Ron Atkins Telescope A proposal by Dr Cousins that the electronic equipment should be installed on the Ron Atkins telescope was noted but as the telescope is the property of the Cape Centre the matter would be referred to that Centre for consideration. Mr Overbeek said that the Transvaal Centre was working on constructing electronic equipment and would be glad to supply copies of their circuit diagrams if requested.

Mr J C Bennett was included among those receiving awards from the A.A.V.S.O. for nova discoveries, and in October flew to the U.S.A. for the presentation. The Hon. Secretary was directed to write a letter of congratulation to Mr. Bennett.

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Member on
Military
Service

The parent of a member, Mr A.O.Bilser, had asked if his subscription could be suspended whilst he is on military service on the Border. Mr Overbeek undertook to speak to the parent whom he knew, as the request was not understood, there apparently being no financial difficulty.

Dr P A T Wild

Professor Warner proposed that Council record its congratulations to Dr Wild on his appointment as Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Cape Town. This was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 22h30.

T.W. Russo
HON. SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN

Financial Statement for Presentation to Council Meeting, 22nd November 1976

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
	R. c		R. c
Subscription to Sky & Telescope, July to October 1976	1133-15	Credit Balance at 1.7.1976.	360-43
Cost of production of MNASSA, May to October 1976	759-56	<u>Subscriptions</u>	
Expenditure on MNASSA Back nos.	5-68	Arrears 8-00	
Cost of Reprints of Articles in MNASSA	54-14	Current 4729-50	
Addressing and despatch of publications	60-05	Advance 35-00	4772-50
Postage on publications, June to October 1976	165-85	Entrance Fees	70-00
Stationery & equipment	18-66	Sale of MNASSA	236-88
Postage, other than above	25-98	Page charges for articles in MNASSA	137-50
Repayment of loan (made on security of Fixed Deposit)	895-00	Sale of Back numbers of MNASSA	86-20
Interest on above loan	18-65	Sale of Handbooks	21-60
Transferred to Plusplan A/c. July, August & September '76	1500-00	Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	75-10
Bank charges and exchange losses	63-41	Advertisements in MNASSA	6-00
Credit Balance at 22.11.76.	1155-76	Donations	6-35
		Interest on Fixed Deposit	50-00
		Interest on Building Soc. Shares (Forbes Bequest)	9-50
		Commission on cheques, air-mail postage and exchange gains	23-83
	<u>R 5855-89</u>		<u>R5855-89</u>

An amount of R1000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society for two years at an interest rate of 10%, and the amount in the "Plusplan" A/c. with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch is R2000-00 at date. The balance in the McIntyre Award A/c remains at R832-00, of which R450-00 is on Fixed Deposit at an interest rate of 10%.

Garrett Orpen
HON. TREASURER

New Members

Full Members

Mr. J. Barsby
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Johannesburg 2000

Mr. P. Dawkins
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Phalaborwa 1390

Master K. Falconer
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Eastleigh
Edenvale 1610

Mr. B. Flören
366 Berea Street
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Pretoria 0002

Mr. S. Gunn
19 Thomas-Jackson St,
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Krugersdorp 1740

Mr. C.P. Haestier
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Vredehoek Estate
Cape Town 8001

Mrs V.R. Honiball
P O Box 31
Bergville Natal 3350

Mr. A.M. Jack
C/o P.R.U. Dept of Geology
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7700

Mr. A.L. Mynett
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475 Prince Alfred St.
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Mr. R. Wade
239 End Street
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Mr. I.M. Widan
38 Rhine Road
Sea Point
Cape Town 8001

L. Russo
Ha Sa

W.G. Benda
Chairman