

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1985 April 15 at 20h00 at SAAO
Cape Town

1. Present

The President, Mr. J. Bondiotti, in the Chair, Dr. A. W. J. Cousins, Miss P. Booth, Messrs W. C. Bentley, J. Churms, R. Hurly, P. J. Janse van Rensburg, W. Neilson, F. N. G. Orpen (Hon. Treas), M. G. Soltynski, J. Spencer Jones, C. R. G. Turk and the Hon. Secretary H. E. Krumm.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Professor M. W. Feast, Professor Brian Warner, Dr. I. Glass and Dr. Peter Mack.

3. Welcome to Dr. A. W. J. Cousins

Dr. Cousins was accorded a hearty vote of welcome on his return to Council after his recent illness.

4. Minutes.

- (1) Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1985 February 11, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, proposed by Mr. C. Turk and seconded by Mr. J. Churms as being a true record of the proceedings, confirmed and signed.
- (2) Minutes of Special Council Meeting as recorded by Mr. W. C. Bentley in the absence of the Hon. Secretary held on 1985 March 11 at SAAO, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

(1) Council Meeting

(i) Appointment of Alternate for the Natal Centre

Hon. Secretary to write to Dr. T. H. H. Lloyd-Evans in this connection.

(ii) FINANCE

(a) Loan to cover expenses

It was proposed by Mr. R. Hurly and seconded by Mr. W. C. Bentley that, if necessary, a maximum of R900 be drawn on loan from one of the Society's fixed deposit investments with the United Building Society. Agreed.

(b) Grant-in-Aid-MNASSA and Handbook - Department of Education

Arising from his phone call to the Department of Education, Mr. R. Hurly reported that he had received a visit from an extremely helpful official of that Department. This person explained that an application for a grant-in-aid was more likely to succeed than one for a publication. He was, however, impressed that the Society was rendering a service and suggested that an application be submitted to his Department by not later than 19 April 1985. It was agreed that this should be done.

As time was obviously of the essence it was agreed to form a sub-committee consisting of Messrs R. Hurly, W. C. Bentley, J. Churms, and the Hon. Treas. Mr. F. N. G. Orpen. They were to convene immediately after the close of the meeting to draw up a suitable application for submission to the Department of Education for the subvention of MNASSA and the Handbook.

Mr. Hurly was thanked for his initiative and efforts in this matter.

(c) Appointment of Honorary Treasurer

Mr.F.N.G.Orpen said that he was prepared to carry on with his duties but explained that his state of health could compel him to resign at any time. Notice was taken of Mr.Orpen's remarks as was the need to appoint an understudy who would be in a position to assume the duties of Ho. Treasurer when the need arose.

(iii) Computing Section

Mr. M.Soltynski reported that letters sent the Centres had brought forth replies from the Cape and Natal Centres. As the matter was not urgent he proposed that it be left in abeyance until the next meeting of Council. Agreed.

(iv) Halley's Comet - Brochure

Due to the absence of Dr.Peter Mack it was decided not to take any action until the next Council meeting when, hopefully, he would be present.

(2) Special Council Meeting

The decisions taken at this meeting were noted.

Subsequent to this meeting Mr. C.Turk had drawn up a circular to be sent to all members of the Society with the next issue of MNASSA. A copy of the circular: "IMPORTANT NOTICE RE FINANCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT" is attached to the Chairman's copy of these Minutes.

Mr. Turk was thanked for having drawn up the NOTICE which was duly approved by Council.

6. Financial Statement

The Hon.Treasurer, Mr.F.N.G.Orpen, presented his financial statement, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Adopted with thanks to the Hon. Treas.

Matters arising

(1) Payments of Accountants

The President and Hon. Treasurer were authorized to use their discretion when determining the order in which accounts were to be paid.

(2) Cost of Envelopes

An account had been submitted by Messrs Budd and Thompson for the purchase of envelopes. The charge was considered excessive, in fact it was about double that of the previous order. Mr. C.Turk offered to take the matter up with Budd and Thompson. The Hon.Treasurer would obtain prices from other stationers for comparison purposes.

7. New Members

The following were elected to the Society in terms of Art.5(1) of the Constitution:-

Mrs.D.G.BRADFORD	5 Seaton Road, SOUTHFIELD 7800
Mrs.G.M.BORCHARDS	53 Third Avenue, CLAREMONT,Cape 7700
Mr.M.C.BRINK	8 Drakensberg Street, ST.HELENA, WELKOM 9459
Mr.T.B.BURGESS	82 Honiball Street, BENONI 1500
Dr.J.F.du TOIT	P.O.Box 151, ZWERUST 2865
Mnr.J.F.ELS	Unira 6, Tamarastraat, Tamarapark, VERMOERBURG 0104
Mr.P.I.HARRISON	35 Ashburton Avenue, Chadcombe, HARARE, ZIMBABWE
Mrs.W.HODSON	47 Brentwood Road, MATSHEUMHLOPE, BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE
Mr.P.H.JOHNSON	P.O.Box 163, KRAAIFONTEIN 7570
Mr.G.JOUBERT	802 Henley Manor, Beach Road, MOUILLE POINT 8001
Mr.J.T.McCLOY	19 Ravedis Court, Brownlow Road, Tamboerskloof, CAPE TOWN 8001

/New Members

New Members (continued)

Mr. A. R. C. NORWOOD	"Whispering Pines", Linden Lane, SOMERSET WEST 7130
Mrs. E. C. OLSEN	9 Sandown Mansions, Belmont Road, RONDEBOSCH 7700
Mr. T. G. SCHAEFER	241 Bootes Street, Waterkloof Ridge, PRETORIA 0181
Prof. Dr. G. A. TAMMANN	St. Alban-Ring 172, CH-4052 BASEL, SWITZERLAND

8. Correspondence

(i) Letter from Mr. James Barker dated 15 March 1985

Mr. Barker suggested that members of the various Centres who were not members of the Society be required to pay an annual subscription (levy) to the Society in view of the benefits and privileges they derive from being connected with ASSA. The rate to be determined by Council and paid through the Centres to the Society.

The meeting was not enamoured with the idea but suggested that copies of Mr. Barker's letter be sent to the Centres for their comments.

(ii) "Affiliate Membership": Proposal from Pretoria Centre communicated to Council by Mr. J. Wolterbeek on 11 March 1985

They proposed that an additional category of membership be introduced into the Society, namely that of "Affiliate Membership. Affiliate members would pay a smaller fee for which they would receive MNASSA and the Handbook and would still have active and passive voting rights.

While thanking Pretoria for their proposal, the meeting felt that this grade of membership was met by the present category of local membership of Centres. There was no reason why they may not subscribe to MNASSA and the Handbook should they wish to do so. Having members of the Society who did not receive SKY AND TELESCOPE might raise problems with the Publishers.

(iii) Letter from Mr. José Campos dated 17 March 1985

The meeting noted with interest the contents of his letter. The Hon. Sec. was requested to congratulate Mr. Campos on the success of his efforts to get Mr. Patrick Moore to visit Durban and on the arrangements for a most successful public lecture. He was also congratulated on the invitation he had received to stage an exhibition and deliver a lecture in OFFORTO which had been arranged by a Portuguese Foundation; to set up a Monitor Network to observe visually P/Halley in his area and to act as a primary contact and a co-ordinator of the IHW.

(iv) Member of National Committee of IAU representing ASSA : Communication from CSIR dated 19 February 1985

Council informed that membership of present representative terminates at end of 1985. Agreed to confirm the nomination of our present representative, Mr. D. Overbeek, for 1986.

(v) Formation of a Solar Section : Letter from Mr. R. G. B. Anderson of Johannesburg

In an undated letter Mr. Anderson proposed the formation of a Solar Section of the Society. Agreed to inform him that Council would be delighted if he were to proceed with his plans for the formation of such a Section, with himself as Director. He would be asked to write an article for MNASSA and submit a report for 1985.

9. Comet Halley

It was decided to respectfully request the Centres of the Society to keep Council informed of their plans to observe and publicise the forthcoming apparition of Comet Halley. During the ensuing discussion Mr. J. Bondiotti informed the meeting that the planetarium at the S.A. Museum would probably come into operation in February 1986.

10. Next Council Meeting : 17 June 1985

11. Closing: Chairman adjourned meeting at 22h30, there being no further business.

Date.....

Chairman.....

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION AT COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 15th APRIL 1985.

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	<u>R. c.</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	<u>R. c.</u>
Balance brought forward 1/7/1984:	3215-73	Subscription to "Sky & Telescope", including freight charges, July 1984 to February 1985	3068-42
<u>Subscriptions.</u>		Cost of production of MNASSA, October 1983 to December 1984.	3649-71
Arrears	25-00	Cost of production of Handbook for 1985	2005-10
Current	11173-10	Addressing and despatch of publications	369-35
Advance		Postage on publications	1450-37
and "Levy"	<u>636-00</u>	Stationery	124-34
Entrance Fees	235-00	Postage, other than above	65-72
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.	1066-81	General Sales Tax on "Sky & Telescope"	689-40
Sales of Handbooks (1984)	220-80	Fire Insurance Premium	50-50
Sales of Handbooks (1985)	1051-60	Long Service Award, Mr. Churns	43-95
Sales of back nos. of "Sky & Telescope"	1-10	Engraving Gill Medal	2-50
Donations	72-00	Variable Star Charts	19-00
Interest on Fixed Deposits	142-50	Bank charges	159-88
Interest on Building Society Shares (Forbes Bequest)	30-33	Credit Balance at 15/4/1985.	2086-72
Airmail postage paid by M.N.A.S.S.A. subscribers	15-50		
Commission er paid by MNASSA subscribers, and exchange gains	891-56		
Interest on Current Bank Account	8-43		
	<hr/> <u>R.18785-46</u> <hr/>		<hr/> <u>R.18785-46</u> <hr/>

(An account for R1428-90 for envelopes supplied is being held back pending further enquiries)

The balance of R2086-72 shown consists of R1636-72 in the Current Account and R450 in the "Blusplan" savings A/c.

R1000 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R3177-07, of which R3000 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

Garrett O'neil
HON. TREASURER

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE FINANCE and CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT.

Council is very concerned with the financial position of the Society in spite of the increase in subscriptions to R45-00 per annum as advised in MNASSA 1985 Vol 44 Nos 1 & 2, which will only take full effect from 1985 July 1.

The following steps have therefore been taken and members are requested to respond to these at once:

1. The expected deficit of approx R3000-00 by June 30 to be covered by a levy of R10-00 on all members.
2. Members are asked to state in advance (i.e. now) if they will not be renewing their membership after June 30, so that Sky & Telescope orders may be reduced immediately.
3. Members are requested to pay their 1985/86 subscriptions promptly when the notices are sent out in June 85 and to include a voluntary donation to the Society or its Trust Fund at the same time. Members who are prepared to pay in advance now will be assisting even more as the Society can earn interest on the advance payments.
4. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT - proposed by Council: That the Constitution of the ASSA be amended as follows: In lines 1 & 2 of the 5th paragraph of Article 6, delete "three calendar months" and substitute the words "one calendar month".
The sentence will now read: Any member who fails to pay his annual subscription within one calendar month of the due date shall cease to receive publications until the subscription is paid, when all publications so withheld shall, if available, be sent to him.

This will enable Council to reduce Sky & Telescope orders two months earlier when subscriptions are not paid promptly.

A postal ballot form for this amendment appears below. All ballot papers must be returned to the Society by 15 May 1985

By Order of The Council.

1985 April 15.

To: The Treasurer, ASSA,
PO Box 9,
OBSERVATORY
7935

From: Name _____
Address _____

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------|
| 1. I enclose my levy for 1984/85 | ,.. | R c
10 - 00 |
| 2. I enclose my 1985/86 subscriptions (R45-00)... | | |
| | plus a voluntary donation to the Society of: | |
| | plus a voluntary donation to the Trust of: | |

TOTAL ENCLOSED: R _____

3. *I will/willnot renew my membership for 1985/86.
4. Constitution Amendment (Article 6 para 5, lines 1 & 2)
Please record my vote * FOR / AGAINST the amendment.

*Delete as necessary

Date.

Signature.