

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1985 September 16 at 20h00 at SAAO  
Cape Town

1. Present

Mr.C.R.G.Turk, Vice-President, in the Chair, Professor M.W.Feast, Professor Brian Warner, Dr.I.S.Glass, Dr.Peter Mack, Miss P.Booth, Messrs W.C.Bentley, J.Bondiotti, J.Churms, R.Hurly, W.Neilson, F.N.G.Orpen (Hon.Treas.), J.H. Spencer Jones and the Hon.Secretary H.E.Krumm.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Professor A.F.Fairall, Dr.A.W.Cousins and Dr.T.H.H.Lloyd-Evans.

3. Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1985 June 17 at 20h00, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. Their adoption was proposed by Mr.J.Bondiotti, seconded by Dr.Peter Mack and confirmed and signed as being a true record of the proceedings.

4. Passing of Mrs.M.D.Overbeek

Council heard with deep regret that Mrs.M.D.Overbeek had died. The Chairman, Mr.C.R.G.Turk, had sent Mr.Danie Overbeek a message of sympathy on behalf of Council.

5. Appointments

Alternates on Council

The following were appointed to act as alternates on Council subject to the approval of their principals:-

Mr.R.Hurly	for	Dr.G.D.Nicolson
Professor Brian Warner	for	Mr.J.Hers
Miss P.Booth	for	Mr.J.J.van Ellinckhuizen (Bloemfontein Centre)
Dr.T.H.H.Lloyd-Evans	for	? ? (Natal Centre)
Mr.J.Churms	for	Mr.C.S.Lake (Natal Midlands Centre)
? ?	for	? ? (Harare Centre)
Dr.Peter Mack	for	? (Pretoria Centre)
Mr.W.Neilson	for	? (Transvaal Centre)

- (1) Hon. Secretary to contact the Centres who have not as yet nominated their principals.
- (2) Dr.A.W.Cousins had withdrawn as an alternate on Council.
- (3) Professor Brian Warner would approach Professor A.F.fairall as an alternate for the Harare Centre.

Editorial Board

The following members of the Society were elected to serve on the Editorial Board:-

Dr.I.S.Glass (Editor)  
Mr.J.H.Spencer Jones (Assistant Editor)  
Mr.I.Combrink Assistant Editor)  
Professor M.W.Feast  
Professor Brian Warner  
Mr.M.D.Overbeek

NOTE: Agreed to appoint Professor M.W.Feast as an additional member of the Editorial Board. (see Minute No6 1a of Council Meeting 1984 September 24).

Member of Editorial Board on Council

Dr.I.S.Glass was elected to represent the Editorial Board on Council.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

(i) Amendment to the Constitution

It was noted that at least two thirds of the votes cast in reply to Council's notice of 1985 April 15 had been in favour of Article 6 paragraph five of the Constitution being amended to read as follows:-

"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."

It was accordingly agreed that the amendment be adopted.

(ii) Cost of Envelopes

There was nothing further to report.

(iii) Computing Section

See under Correspondence; Computer Section and Comet and Meteor Section.

7. FINANCE

(i) The Hon.Treasurer presented his financial statement, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. It was proposed by Mr. J.Churns and seconded by Mr.J.Bondietti that the statement be adopted. All in favour. Council took note of the following amounts standing to the credit of the Society:-

Credit Balance.....	16/9/85....	R5986-40
Plusplan Account.....	do .....	R3950-00
Fixed Deposit with United Building Society.....	do .....	R1000-00
Standard Bank at 32 days notice plus interest..	do .....	R9178-28

(ii) Membership and its financial implications.

(a) 377 members had paid their subscriptions  
70 had been suspended for non-payment  
46 had resigned

(b) The order for SKY AND TELESCOPE had been reduced from 500 to 450 copies as from June 1985. In view of (a) above it was decided to reduce it by a further 50 copies. The Hon.Treas/Membership Secretary was, however, of the opinion that this decision was somewhat premature when looked at in the light of the number of new members joining the Society (8 below) and the probability that a number of the suspended members would settle their accounts in due course. In the circumstances he felt that our present order should be retained.

(c) An active and important member of the Society had resigned as his financial position was not equal to the higher subscription. He had intimated that he hoped to renew his membership in September when funds would probably become available. Bearing all the facts in mind, Council came to the conclusion that this was a deserving case and as such it was agreed to reduce his subscription to R30 for the remainder of this financial year and further that he would not be required to pay an entrance fee.

(d) The Hon. Treasurer reported that he had sent Mr. Andrew Gray an up-to-date but somewhat belated list of members for his computer. The position was being complicated by the reinstatement of members who had been suspended under the new rule and were now beginning to renew their subscriptions. Mr.Orpem was keeping AMA informed.

(iii) Transfer of Society's Banking Account

Due to his indifferent state of health the Hon.Treasurer was finding it increasingly difficult to operate the Society's banking account at the

Heerengracht branch of the Standard Bank in Cape Town from his home at Kenilworth. He asked that the account might be transferred to the Bank's branch at Claremont which was closer to his place of residence. It was proposed by Mr. R.Hurly and seconded by Mr.W.C.Bentley that this be done. All in favour.

- (iv) In view of the declining exchange rate of the rand against the dollar it was decided to examine the state of the Society's finances at the next meeting of Council.

#### 8. New Members

The following new members were elected to the Society interms of Art.5(1) of the Constitution:-

MR.E.CAMPBELL	Fairy Glen, P.O.Box 2, BATHURST 6166
MISS M.P.COOK	28 Coetzee Avenue, ROODEPOORT WEST 1725
MR.A.J.DE BLIQUY	64 St.Leger Road, CLAREMONT, CAPE 7700
MR.H.J.LUBBE	49 St.Peters Road, Southernwood, EAST LONDON 5201
MR.H.F.LUND	10A Richmond Avenue, Craighall Park, JOHANNESBURG 2196
MR.A.J.MAREE	P.O.Box 5173, WELTEVREDENPARK 1715
MR.R.H.MEYER	ALWYNSKOP 723, LOSOTHO
MISS G.MURRAY	7 Truter Street, Parkdene, BOKSBURG 1460
MR.B.B.OPPEL	Van der Snelstraat 66, OBERHOLZER 2502
MR.H.L.SELSICK	49A Atholl-Oaklands Road, Melrose North, JOHANNESBURG 2196
MRS.E.K.SMITH	21 Lebombohof, 65 Botanic Gardens Road, Berea, DURBAN 4001
MISS M.STOLZ	108 Eighth Street, Linden, JOHANNESBURG 2195
MR.T.J.TURNER	No.3, Cockle Crescent, CLOVELLY 7975 (rejoined)
MR.H.P.van der WALT	P.O.Box 1238, BLOEMFONTEIN 9300 (or 39 Scholtz Street, Universitas, BFX 9300)
MISS J.D.WELLS	P.O.Box 56411, PINEGOWRIE 2123

(The above names will be published in M.N.A.S.A. in due course)

#### 9. Correspondence

##### (i) Computing Section - Comet and Meteor Section

See minute 4(vi) of Council Meeting held on 1985 June 17)

In order to appreciate the contents of Mr.Jose Campos' reply of 8 September 1985 to Council's invitation to him to form a Computing Section and become its Director, it is necessary to summarize the sequence of events.

Mr.Jack Bennett had decided to ask Council to relieve him of his duties as Director of the Comet and Meteor Section for health reasons. Before doing so he approached Mr.Campos to ascertain whether he would be prepared to succeed him as Director of the Section. Mr.Campos' answer was yes. In his reply to Council Mr.Campos stated that while he deeply appreciated the confidence placed in him with respect to the Computing Section, he would prefer, if given the choice, to take over the Comet and Meteor Section - as this was a line of work in which he was intensely interested. In view of his competence, experience and expertise Council agreed to accept his preference for comets and meteors and to appoint Mr.Jose Campos as Director of the Comet and Meteor Section in succession to Mr. Bennett. The appointment to take effect forthwith. He would, however, be asked to try and find someone, preferably in Durban, who would be prepared and able to form a Computing Section.

##### (ii) Payment of levy to the Society by members of the Centres

See minute No.8(i) of Council Meeting held on 1985 April 15

The following Centres had intimated that they were not in favour of Mr. James Barker's proposal:- Cape, Natal Midlands and Transvaal.

The thoughts of the other Centres were not known as they do not seem to have replied.

(iii) Lowveld Astronomy Club

See Minute No.9 of Council Meeting held on 1984 September 24  
Minute No.8 of Council Meeting held on 1985 February 11

In response to Council's letter of 11 August 1985 Mr.Danie Overbeek had replied on 9 September 9 to the effect that he had written to Mr. Andrew Gray on 20 February 1985 in connection with the above Club. Mr.Gray had replied to Mr.Overbeek informing him that he had sent his contact at White River a number of application forms for membership of of the Society and that there had been no response. Council agreed that the writer of the original letter to the Society should be contacted again asking him whether his Club would care to form a Centre of the Society. Mention should be made of the possibility that he might know of the existence of a member or members of the Society in his district. He would,however, be reminded that at least ten members of the Society are required before a Centre can be constituted.

10. Observing Sections and Directors

Council decided that the names of the Observing Sections and their Directors be recorded in the Minutes:-

Comet and Meteor Section.	Mr. José Campos
Grazing Occultation Section.	Mr. M.D.Overbeek
Nova Search Section.	Mr. J.C.Bennett
Occultation Section.	Mr. A.G.F.Morrisby
Planetary Occultation Section.	Mr. M.D.Overbeek
Solar Observing Section.	Mr. R.G.Anderson
Variable Star Section.	Mr. J.Hers

11. "THE OBSERVATORY" Magazine (see Minute No.7 of 1985 June 17)

A suggestion that members of the Society who do not receive "THE OBSERVATORY" by virtue of their membership of the R.A.S. may wish to subscribe to this magazine received no support. It was felt that variations in the exchange rate would only serve to complicate the issue.

12. Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Council on 11 November 1985

13. Closing

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h00

Date *1985 November 18* .....

Chairman *[Signature]* .....

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 1935.

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE.

	R. c.		R. c.
Balance Brought Forward 1/7/1935.	4436-48	"Sky & Telescope", July and August 1935	2549-52
<u>Subscriptions.</u>		Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A., July & Aug.	460-50
Errours	25-00	Despatch of Publications, July 1935	35-29
Current	3860-00	Postage on publications, July 1935	224-60
Advance	<u>85-00</u>	Stationery	6-44
"Levies" on 1934/35 Subscriptions	3980-00	Postage, other than above	20-61
Entrance Fees	560-00	G.S.T. on "Sky & Telescope", July and August 1935	253-32
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.	105-00	Fire Insurance	50-50
Sale of Handbooks	187-62	Bank charges	30-38
Sale of back and extra copies of "Sky & Telescope"	2-00	Credit Balance @ 16/9/1935	5986-40
Donations	32-20		
Interest on Fixed Deposit	188-00		
Interest on Current Account	96-67		
	29-59		
	<u>R9617-56</u>		<u>R9617-56</u>

The credit balance of R5986-40 consists of R2036-40 in the Current A/c. and R3950-00 in the "Plusplan" A/c. There is also an amount of R1000-00 on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society. There is now an amount of R9000-00, plus interest amounting to R178-28 to date in a "31 Days Notice" (since changed to "32 Days Notice") A/c. with the Standard Bank, Heerengracht Branch, Cape Town.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R3542-57, of which R3000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society

*Garrett O'Brien*  
HON. TREASURER.