

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1987 February Monday 2 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Mr C R O Turk, President, in the Chair, Dr I S Glass, Dr T Lloyd Evans, Dr Peter Mack, Miss P Booth, Messrs J Bondiotti, P Briton, A D B Cameron, J Churms, R Hurly, F N G Orpen (Hon Treasurer), J Spencer Jones and the Hon Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor A P Fairall, Professor M W Feast, Professor Brian Warner and Mr W L Combrinck.

3. PASSING OF SIR RICHARD WOOLLEY

Members of Council noted with deep regret the passing of Sir Richard Woolley who was an honorary member of the Society on 1986 December 24 at the age of 80. The Society was represented at the funeral at Somerset West on 1986 December 30 by its President Mr C R G Turk. A letter of sympathy had been sent to Lady Sheila Woolley. An Obituary Notice would appear in the 1987 February issue of M.N.A.S.S.A.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1986 November 10 at 20h00 at SAAO, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and their adoption proposed by Mr J Spencer Jones and seconded by Mr R Hurly. All in favour, confirmed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) APPOINTMENTS: PRINCIPALS AND ALTERNATES: NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

The Membership Secretary, Mr F N G Orpen, confirmed that Mr C S Lake was no longer a member of the Society neither was Miss van Hoogdalen who had been appointed by that Centre to represent them on Council. Their Secretary, Mrs B Lane, to be asked to investigate the matter. Mr J Churms would continue to act as the alternate.

(ii) APPOINTMENTS: HONORARY AUDITOR

Mr R G Glass had accepted the office of Hon Auditor in place of Mr W L Combrinck who had become the Business Manager. Mr Glass wanted it known that he would be operating under the name of his firm Messrs Penkin, Zeller and Carew.

(iii) PACKAGING OF MNASSA AND SKY AND TELESCOPE

The results of the trial period using plastic envelopes had been very encouraging. It was, therefore, decided to adopt this method as standard practice. 6000 envelopes bearing the Society's return address had been ordered.

(iv) RELIEF IN RESPECT OF SURCHARGE ON PERIODICALS

The Controller of Customs and Excise in Cape Town had replied informing us that there was no tariff provision for a rebate on the type of goods named in our application. We were, however, at liberty to communicate direct with the Board of Trade and Industries in Pretoria. Acting on this suggestion, a letter was sent to the Board on 1987 January 13 to which a reply dated 1987 January 26 was received acknowledging receipt of our letter and stating that it was receiving attention.

The matter was left over to the next Meeting of Council.

/ (v) List of Telescopes

(v) LIST OF SOCIETY'S TELESCOPES

Mr C R G Turk had drawn up a complete list of the Society's Telescopes which would be published in a future issue of MNASSA.

(vi) ADMINISTRATION OF LEGACY OF LATE MR I R H BRICKETT

Agreed to invest the money on 32 days call for the time being. During the ensuing discussion on the administration of the Legacy it was noted that the Royal Astronomical Society had recently constituted a trust fund based on the proceeds of a bequest from the estate of the late Dr G Morton, one time Treasurer of the Society. It was given the name of The Gerald Morton Fund. The purpose of the fund was to aid members who were temporally unable to pay their subscriptions for various reasons. Council saw in this a possible solution to the way in which the Brickett Legacy might be administered. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that:-

The interest accruing to the Brickett Legacy be used to subsidise the subscriptions of elderly members of the Society who could no longer afford to pay the full rate.

The capital sum invested and the interest accrued were to be treated as separate entities. It was further agreed that the portion of the interest not used for subsidising subscriptions be credited to the general account at the end of each financial year and used at the discretion of Council. Investing the capital was left to Mr Turk.

(vii) McINTYRE AWARD

The Editorial Board would investigate the conditions of the Award and report back to Council in due course.

(viii) FORBES BEQUEST

The committee consisting of Professor A F Fairall, Dr I S Glass and Mr Peter Briton made the following proposals:-

- (a) The competition be described as a project and not an essay.
- (b) That it consist of a Senior Section (over 15 years of age on May 11) and a junior one for competitors under 15.
- (c) That first, second and third prizes of R50, R30 and R20 be awarded to competitors in each section.
- (d) The school submitting the best project be presented with a copy of Norton's Star Atlas.

Application had been made to the Department of Education for permission to hold the competition but no reply had been received as yet. Although this, apparently, was only a formality, the committee decided not to circularise the schools until permission had been obtained.

On behalf of Council the Chairman thanked the committee for their valuable deliberations.

(ix) NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK

Replies had been received from the Cape, Natal, Pretoria and Transvaal Centres. Bloemfontein, Harare and the Natal Midlands had not reacted. The replies received from the Cape, Natal and Pretoria Centres were very positive and contained a number of useful suggestions. Transvaal were neutral but would give the matter further thought.

It was agreed to send copies of all these replies to all the Centres for their information. Mr Turk kindly offered to have the letters duplicated.

The date fixed for the occasion was the first week in October 1987; more precisely from September 28 to October 4. The Cape Astronomical Association was founded 75 years ago on October 3, 1912.

National coverage would be undertaken by Council. Mr R Hurly was appointed PRO and would maintain contact with the SABC and the local newspapers.

6. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer presented his Financial Statement, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Dr Peter Mack that the Statement be accepted. All in favour.

(ii) SIGNATORIES ON CHEQUES

It was agreed that any one of the following members of Council shall have the authority to sign cheques and fill in forms:-

Mr W L Combrinck
Mr F N G Orpen
Mr C R G Turk

(iii) PURCHASE OF ADDING MACHINE

The Hon. Treasurer was authorized to purchase an adding machine and to debit the Society with the cost.

(iv) FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY

It was proposed and seconded that Mr R Hurly be asked to request our auditor to examine the state of the Society's finances. Agreed.
The Hon. Treasurer welcomed the proposal.

7. NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

DR D L BLOCK	4 Sonop Street, Horizon View, ROODEPOORT 1724
MR K E BUCHMANN	P.O.Box 97009, PETERVALE 2151
MR G de BEER	11 Republic Street, LADYSMITH 3370
MR E P EGENES	708 Son Vida, Main Road, GREEN POINT, Cape 8001
MR R D EVANS	3 Westridge Circle, CONSTANTIA, Cape 7800
MR J G GROVE	415 Queens Crescent, Lynwood, PRETORIA 0081
MS L HADDAD	7 Beech Road, BEDFORDVIEW 2008
DR W HATTINGH	225 Erasmus Street, Meyers Park, PRETORIA 0184
DR E R H KUSCHKE	445 Leipoldt Medical Centre, BELLVILLE, Cape 7530
MR Z A S KUYPERS	208 Merlyn Manor, Mulder Street, FLORIDA PARK 1710
MR M G MCCORMACK	10 Buckingham Road, Mount Croix, PORT ELIZABETH 6001
MR N J OTTEN	P O Box 39961, BRAMLEY 2018
MR P R PAGE	120 Murray Street, BROOKLYN, PRETORIA 0181
MR T R ROBERTS	8 Van Praagh Avenue, Mitton Park, HARARE, ZIMBABWE
MR H L N SCOBLE	1 Lanyon Road, RONDEBOSCH, Cape 7700
MS L A van der HORST	Driefontein, P.O.Box 371, WOLMARANSSTAD 2630
MR P van LAUN	24 Jane Street, Ridgeway Extension 5, JOHANNESBURG 2091
MR G W van VUUREN	Ansell May Hall, Univ.of Natal, King George V Ave.Durban4001
MR A W WELLS	4 Barling Crescent, FISH HOEK, Cape 7975
MR N A HILLAR	Avenue Gauss 668, Villa Belgrano (5147), CORDOBA, Republic of ARGENTINA.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

FORMATION OF CENTRE AT PORT ELIZABETH

In letter dated 1986 November 16 Mr M G McCormack who was a member of the Port Elizabeth Peoples Observatory Society and now a member of ASSA, had enquired whether ASSA would consider the formation of a local centre in Port Elizabeth, either as a separate entity or affiliated to the PE Observatory. He felt that, while the Observatory provided a valuable service to the general public through its regular open nights, it did little to cater for the needs of the serious amateur astronomer. They pursued their hobby in isolation which was far from ideal. He had the support of several local astronomers for the idea.

For the benefit of new members of Council it should be mentioned that attempts have been made since 1981 to form a Centre at Port Elizabeth. Despite (ref Council Minutes: 1981 Nov. 23, p3 and 1983 June 13 (7))

/p4 numerous

numerous debates on the subject, all endeavours to form a Centre had failed. The position was that the Port Elizabeth Peoples Observatory Society had applied to become an approved Centre by becoming an affiliate of ASSA. The word "affiliate" was not acceptable in terms of our Constitution. Moreover, none of their members was a member of ASSA. In addition, they could not sail under the banner of two constitutions, namely that of their own Society and and that of a duly constituted Centre of ASSA.

It would now appear from Mr McCormicks enquiry that they now have enough members in the Eastern Cape to form a Centre, namely 10. In our reply we assured him that we would be very happy to have Port Elizabeth as a properly constituted Centre existing as a separate entity. It was suggested to him that there should be no good reason why a Port Elizabeth Centre should not share the same good relationship with the Peoples Observatory as does the Cape Centre with the S.A.Astronomical Observatory. Application Forms for membership and copies of the Constitution and the Prospectus were sent to Mr McCormack at his request.

9. MR C PAPADOPOULOS - HONORARY MEMBER

A proposal was submitted by members of the Transvaal and conveyed to Council by their representative, Mr M D Overbeek, that Mr C Papadopoulos be considered for election to honorary membership of the Society.

Council subscribed to the reasons given by the Transvaal Centre for their proposal. Mr Papadopoulos' contributions are well known to astronomers in this country and overseas, in particular his star Atlas which will be of lasting value to astronomers all over the world. He has played a great part in the development of amateur astronomy on the Reef. He earned the Gill Medal in 1981.

After giving the matter further thought, Council came to the conclusion that it was right and proper that Mr Christos Papadopoulos be elected an honorary member of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

He would be informed of Council's decision in a letter sent to Mr Danie Overbeek who would be requested to present him with the letter accompanied by a suitable citation on an appropriate occasion.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Council on either 1987 April 13 or 27.

11. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h54.

DATE. 27. IV. 87

CHAIRMAN. 

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
ON MONDAY, 2nd. FEBRUARY 1987

<u>RECEIPTS.</u>	R. c.	<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	R. c.
<u>Subscriptions.</u>		Debit balance brought fwd. 1/7/1986.	214-92
Arrears	180-50	Subscription to "Sky & Telescopes", July 1986 to December 1986	7241-07
Current	14917-50	Cost of production of MNASSA, July 1986 to December 1986	1868-86
Advance	<u>361-00</u>	Cost of production of Handbook for 1987	3541-66
Entrance Fees	275-00	Despatch of Publications, July to December 1986	215-64
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.	1127-13	Postage on Publications, July to December 1986	1357-68 17387-68
Sales of Handbooks	527-75	Postage, other than above	113-17
Articles in M.N.A.S.S.A.	167-78	Stationery	159-97
Donations	9-58	Import Surcharge on "Sky & Telescope" July to December 1986	748-90
Bequest: Late I.R.H. Brickett	2000-00	General Sales Tax on "Sky & Telescope", July to December 1986.	1078-44
Interest on Current Account	53-28	Fire Insurance Premium	75-75
Interest on Fixed Deposit	14-17	Variable Star Charts	26-85
Sale of back and extra numbers of "Sky & Telescope"	43-00	Transferred to 32 days' notice A/c.	6000-00
Postage and airmail postage paid by M.N.A.S.S.A. subscribers	18-80	Transfer of Brickett Bequest to 32 days' notice A/c.	2666-00
Transferred from 32 days' notice A/c.	10000-00	Balance carried fwd. 2/2/1987	<u>5052-38</u>
Commision on cheques received	0-30		<u>R.29695-29</u>
	<u>T</u> <u>R.29695-29</u>		

The balance shown consists of R4979-00 in the Current Account and R73-38 in the "Plusplan" A/c.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R4448-91 of which R4000-00 is on Fixed deposit with the United Building Society

The Society also hasan amount of R1000-00 on Fixed deposit with the United Building Society

Garrett Bryden
HON. TREASURER.