

## ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1987 April Monday 27 at 20h00 at S A A O  
Cape Town

### 1. PRESENT

Mr J Spencer Jones, Vice President, in the Chair, Professor A P Fairall, Professor M W Feast, Professor Brian Warner, Dr I S Glass, Dr T Lloyd Evans, Miss P Booth, Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron, W L Combrinck, J Churms, R Hurly, F N G Orpen (Hon. Treasurer) and the Hon Secretary H.E. Krumm.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apolologies for absence were received from Dr Peter Mack and Mr J Bondietti.

### 3. PROFESSOR BRIAN WARNER

Professor Brian Warner was given a hearty welcome on his return from a somewhat extended visit overseas.

### 4. MINUTES

After Professor Warner had pointed out that "Morton" should read "Merton" (Min.No.5vi) and that it was usual to spell business with one "b" and not two (Min.No.11), the minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1987 February 2 at 20h00 at S A A O, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and their adoption proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Dr T Lloyd Evans; all in favour, confirmed and signed.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### (i) APPOINTMENTS: ALTERNATE - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Mr J W Watson's appointment was noted and confirmed.

#### (ii) RELIEF IN RESPECT OF SURCHARGE ON PERIODICALS

Our letter of 1987 January 13 to the Board of Trade and Industries was referred back by them to the Commissioner of Customs and Excise as our application fell under the purview of the latter and not the former. The Commissioner subsequently replied on 1987 February 25 to the effect that our application had been disapproved on the following grounds:-  
"The Surcharge Committee's mandate authorises the issue of exemption permits in respect of raw materials which are imported free of customs duty for manufacturing purposes. In terms of the provisions of schedule No.3 or 4 to the Customs and Excise Act materials/goods which are subject to payment of customs duties do not fall within the same category as the goods which are exempted".  
Noted with regret.

#### (iii) AMINISTRATION OF LEGACY: LATE MR I R H BRICKETT

It was confirmed that the legacy had now been invested on 32-days call. It was noted that at a previous meeting it had been left to Mr C R G Turk to invest the sum of money on the best possible terms. Council agreed to accept a proposal by Professor M W Feast that the interest accruing from the legacy be used to subsidise the subscriptions of members who had informed the Hon Treasurer that they had resigned as they were no longer in a position to pay the full rate. Each case would be considered by Council on its merits.  
The Hon Treasurer was asked to submit the names of members who had resigned for the above reason.

(iv) McINTYRE AWARD

The Editorial Board proposed that the conditions of the Award be broadened and not confined to historical subjects. In other words, articles on any worthwhile subject which appeared in, say MNASSA during the previous five years would be eligible for consideration. Council accepted the Board's proposal with thanks and went on to agree to a suggestion by the Editor, Dr I S Glass, that articles which were published in MNASSA over the last five years be now considered for the Award.

It was agreed to ask Professor David Evans and Mr J C Bennett to act as adjudicators.

Note: The Constitution states that either a book or an article is acceptable.

(v) FORBES BEQUEST

Council noted with thanks the action taken by Mr P Briton in notifying most of the schools in the Cape Province of the Competition and for his having written to the Centres of the Society asking them to circularise the schools in their areas.

Professor A P Fairall and Mr W L Combrinck kindly agreed to adjudicate the projects.

(vi) NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK - September 28 to October 4

Mr R Hurly reported that his approach to SATV and SABC had met with a very favourable response. He was continuing with his duties as PRO and would be drawing up a Press statement and a notice for publication in the S A Journal of Science.

Professor Brian Warner kindly offered to circularise all the universities and other interested bodies regarding the event. He would suggest to them that they liaise with local Centres of the Society where they exist in their regions. The Society would inform their local Centres of the action taken by Professor Warner with the request that they go and do likewise with respect to the universities.

Mr R Fleet of the Harare Centre had written explaining why they would find it almost impossible to organise a National Astronomy Week. Council fully appreciated their difficulties.

(vii) FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY

Mr R Hurly to request the Society's Auditor, Mr R G Glass, to submit a statement on the position of the Society's finances as soon as possible, preferably before the next meeting of Council.

(viii) FORMATION OF PORT ELIZABETH CENTRE

In reply to our letter of 1987 January 23 Mr M G McCormack wrote on 1987 February 11 explaining that it was his intention to go ahead with his efforts to form a Centre. He would invite interested persons to an inaugural meeting after which a formal request would be sent to Council for permission to establish a Centre of the Society at Port Elizabeth. He and two of his colleagues had agreed that the procedure suggested as to how their Centre might work in association with the Port Elizabeth Peoples' Observatory would ensure that parties were catered for.

At his request the names and addresses of members of the Society residing within Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape was sent to him. It was thought advisable to include the names of those who were no longer members of the Society.

(ix) HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(a) Mr Christos Papadopoulos

Mr Papadopoulos had written to express his grateful and sincere thanks to Council for the honour bestowed upon him. It was agreed that he should continue to receive copies of SKY AND TELESCOPE and the publications of the Society.

(b) Professor Albert Georges Velghe

It was noted with regret that Professor Velghe, an honorary member of the Society, had recently passed away.

6. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer presented his Financial Statement, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Proposed by Mr W L Combrinck and seconded by Professor A P Fairall that the Statement be accepted. All in favour.

(ii) INTEREST ON REPRINTS

It was agreed that the interest on reprints be raised to 50%.

7. NEW MEMBERS

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

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| DR.D.J.BRINK       | Optical Sciences Division, N.P.R.L, C.S.I.R., P.O.Box 395,<br>PRETORIA 0001 |
| MR.A.M.GAMMICK     | 4 Methven Road, WESTVILLE, Natal 3630                                       |
| MR.K.CORONAIOS     | c/o Lanseria Airport, Private Bag 2047, KRUGERSDORP 1740                    |
| MR.J.D.DEERE-JONES | 36 McBride Street, Brackenhurst, ALBERTON 1450                              |
| MRS.L.FOUCHE       | 24 Westfort Road, HOUT BAY, Cape 7800                                       |
| MRS.G.JAGERS       | P.O.Box 651277, BENMOORE 2010   |
| MR.W.R.PHILIP      | 35 Almora Circle, TOKAI, Cape 7945  |
| MR.C.SHELMERDINE   | 9 Goldbourne Road, KENILWORTH, Cape 7700                                    |
| MR.P.S.van ELLWEE  | Flat NO.10, Radkoll Avenue, OLIFANTSFONTEIN 1665                            |
| MR.S.WESEMANN      | Indlovu, Union Street, HOUT BAY, Cape 7800                                  |

8. CORRESPONDENCE

THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

In a letter dated 1987 February 17, The President, Dr P J D Lloyd, of AS & TS enumerated the various services available to members of his Association. He suggested that ASSA might consider establishing formal links with AS & TS. Apart from the cost of the services involved, Council decided that the Society's infrastructure was of such a nature as not to be in need of these services.

9. SOCIETY' LIBRARY

Council agreed to a request emanating from Mr P Briton that the Society's Library be opened during informal meetings of the Cape Centre. Miss A Joubert was appointed as assistant Librarian to Miss P Booth who would have a set of duplicate keys cut.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agreed to hold the AGM on Wednesday 22nd July 1987 at 20h00 at S A A O.

11. MNASSA

Mr Hurly congratulated the Editorial Board on the high standard of MNASSA.

12. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h18.

DATE.1987 June 22...

CHAIRMAN. ....

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE  
HELD ON MONDAY, 27th APRIL 1987

RECEIPTS.

EXPENDITURE

|  | R. o.            |                                  | R. o.            |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Subscriptions.</u>                  |                  |                                  |                  |
| Arrears                                | 180-50           | Debit balance brought forward    | 214-92           |
| Current                                | 15526-00         | (1/ 7/1986)                      |                  |
| Advance                                | <u>436-00</u>    | Subscription to "Sky & Teles-    |                  |
|  | 16142-50         | cope, July 1986 - March 1987.    | 9530-71          |
| Entrance Fees                          | 425-00           | Cost of production of MNASSA,    |                  |
| Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.                  | 2181-86          | July 1986 to February 1987       | 2530-01          |
| Sales of Handbooks                     | 1230-25          | Reprint of article by Prof.      |                  |
| Sales of back and extra numbers        |                  | Jarrett in MNASSA nos. 1&2       | 86-00            |
| of "Sky & Telescope"                   | 54-00            | Cost of production of Handbook   |                  |
| Payment made for articles in MNASSA.   | 167-78           | for 1987                         | 3541-66          |
| Interest on Fixed Deposit              | 220-42           | Despatch of publications,        |                  |
| Interest on Current Account            | 76-11            | July 1986 to February 1987       | 383-63           |
| Interest on Plusplan Account for       | 9-20             | Postage on publications,         |                  |
| 1986 and 1987                          | 149-85           | July 1986 to March 1987          | 2131-62          |
| Donations                              | 16-08            | General postage to April 1987    | 101-44           |
| Postage and Airmail Postage paid       |                  | Stationery and printing, includ- |                  |
| by M.N.A.S.S.A. Subscribers            | 19-10            | ing new plastic envelopes        | 971-70           |
| Commission paid                        | 30               | Import surcharge on "Sky &       |                  |
| Transferred ex 32 days' notice A/c     | 7                | Telescope", July 1986 to         |                  |
| During December 1986 and January 1987. |                  | March 1987                       | 1054-80          |
|  | 10000-00         | General Sales Tax on "Sky &      |                  |
|  |                  | Telescope" for above period      | 1518-96          |
|  |                  | Fire Insurance Premium           | 75-75            |
|  |                  | Variable Star Charts             | 26-85            |
|  |                  | Transferred to 32 Days' Notice   |                  |
|  |                  | A/c, July and October 1986       | 6000-00          |
|  |                  | Bank charges                     | 214-08           |
|  |                  | Credit balance at 27/4/1987      | 2310-32          |
|  |                  |                                  |                  |
|  | <u>R20692-45</u> |                                  | <u>R20692-45</u> |

The Credit Balance shown consists of R2236-94 in the Current Account and R73-38 in the "Plusplan" Account. The Society also has an amount of R1000-00 on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society.

The present balance of the "32 Days' Notice Account" with the Standard Bank, Kenilworth is now R4430-10 of which R1000 is under notice for withdrawal in mid-May.

The balance in the McIntyre Award Account is now R4764-72, of which R4000-00 is on Fixed Deposit with the United Building Society

*Garrett Oshen*  
HON. TREASURER