

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1987 June 22 at 20h00 at S A A O  
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

The President, Mr C R G Turk, in the Chair, Dr Peter Mack, Miss P Booth, Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron, J Churms, R Hurly, F N G Orpen (Hon. Treas.) the Hon. Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor M W Feast, Dr I S Glass, Messrs J Bondietti and J Spencer Jones. The President apologised in retrospect for his absence from the previous meeting of Council.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council meeting held on 1987 April 27, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Minute No.5(iii). BRICKETT LEGACY: SUBSIDISATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Council confirmed the decision taken at the previous meeting of Council with the additional condition that all cases shall be reviewed from year to year.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the following members had indicated that they had resigned due to impecunious circumstances:-

- (1) Mr F Kopinsky of the Transvaal Centre explained that he was a National Serviceman and had to order his finances within the confines of his budget. He intended rejoining the Society when he had completed his period of National Service. After giving Mr Kopinsky's case careful consideration it was agreed to subsidise his subscription in full for the 1987/1988 financial year.
- (2) Mr C S Lake of the Natal Midlands Centre. As the circumstances surrounding Mr Lake's case were not clear it was agreed to ask Mr J Churms to contact the Centre's Representative on Council, Mr J Watson for more information.
- (3) Mr Leslie Lowe hoped to renew his membership at some future date. Mr M D Overbeek to be asked to interview Mr Lowe who was a member of the Transvaal Centre.

(ii) Minute No.5(iv). McINTYRE AWARD

Council confirmed the decision taken at its previous meeting, namely, that any worthwhile article or book could qualify for the Award. This decision required an amendment to the Constitution. Mr C R G Turk volunteered to rewrite the section concerned and would submit his draught to the next meeting of Council.

(iii) Minute No.5(v). FORBES BEQUEST: ESSAY COMPETITION

Mr P Briton stated that there was nothing to report but that the matter was in hand.

(iv) Minute No.5(vi). NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK

Professor Brian Warner had written to all universities and other institutions including the Technicons, informing them of National Astronomy Week, explaining why it was being arranged and giving the reason for it being held from 28 September to 4 October, 1987. He went on to recommend to

them they coordinate their activities with local Centres of the Society where these happen to exist in their regions. The local Centres were asked to reciprocate in like manner.

Mr Rupert Hurly, the Society's PRO, had followed up his telephone conversation with the S A Broadcasting Corporation with a comprehensive letter dated 1987 June 22. He suggested, among other things, that Radio Suid Afrika could include a daily talk during Astronomy Week in the Magazine Programme between 12 noon and 1.00 p.m. and that Radio South Africa might do something similar in their weekly programme between 4.00 and 5.00 p.m. The Provincial Library was prepared to make available to the SABC several films including an excellent one on the Crab Nebula. The programme 50-50 and/or Network could make good use of these films or any other astronomical films and space material which were available. He concluded his letter with a long list of professional and amateur astronomers who could be used as speakers.

Mr Hurly reported that-

- (1) He would be addressing the Institute of Citizenship on astronomy on the Thursday of Astronomy Week.
- (2) Mr Jan Hers would be dealing with the South Western Press.
- (3) Contact had been established with the librarians of Cape Town, the Public Library and the Provincial Library Services, all of whom would be doing something for Astronomy Week.

Mr Hurly was thanked for the fine work he was doing to publicise National Astronomy Week.

The Cape Centre had appointed a committee of four members who had made tremendous progress. They were in the process of arranging an extensive and varied programme. Their efforts were noted with thanks and hearty congratulations. Members of Council would appreciate receiving a brief note from other Centres on their progress.

Mr P Briton suggested that a suitable poster be devised bearing a blank middle section which could be used by all Centres.

(v) Minute No.5(viii). FORMATION OF PORT ELIZABETH CENTRE

In his letter of 1987 May 31 Mr M G McCormack reported that the members of the Port Elizabeth Peoples' Observatory refused to have anything to do with the formation of a Centre, in fact, their Chairman, who is a member of ASSA, stated catagorically that there was no need for a Centre at Port Elizabeth. Notwithstanding this unfavourable response, Mr McCormack and nine other members (the word is his) decided to go ahead and form a Centre. Unfortunately, of the 10 names given in his letter only five were full members of the Society. The Constitution requires a minimum of 10 full members before a Centre can be formed, preferably 10 members who have expressed a desire to form a Centre. Mr McCormack will be asked for his comments as it seemed likely that he had misinterpreted the Constitution.

5. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer presented a draft copy of his Financial Statement for the financial year ending 1987 June 30. It was agreed to withdraw the Statement due to several inaccuracies. A copy of the audited statement is attached to these minutes.

Mr Orpen had recently found it increasingly difficult to cope with the growing complexity of the Society's finances and his duties as membership secretary due mainly to his indiffernt state of health and requested Council to relieve him of his Office. Council appreciated his position and accepted his wish. He had been Hon. Treasurer for 37 years and Membership Secretary since 1980. He carried out his duties with an efficiency that was characterised by single-mindedness of purpose; duties which were often carried out in difficult circumstances.

Council accorded Mr Orpen a hearty vote of thanks for his long and valuable services to the Society. He was elected an honorary member in 1981.

6. NEW MEMBERS

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

MR.R.COOKE                    11 Rhodes Avenue, NEWLANDS, Cape 7700  
MR.M.GEYSER                   345 Frederik Burger Street, Erasmia, PRETORIA 0183  
MR.C.GIREZHA                   51 Mutondo Street, P.O. Mufakose, Harare, ZIMBABWE

7. SOLAR OBSERVING SECTION

Mr J Knight of the Transvaal Centre, in a letter dated 1987 May 19 informed Council that the founder and director of the Solar Observing Section, Mr R Anderson had died on 1987 May 14 after a long and painful illness. He was 85. The news was noted with regret.

Mr Knight had taken over the activities of the Section in a temporary capacity in order that it might continue to operate. The appointment of a successor to Mr Anderson was discussed at some length, it being eventually decided to offer the position of Director to Mr Knight. Should he decline he would be asked to continue to act until the post was filled.

8. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL: 1987/1988 - NOMINATIONS

As only sufficient nominations had been received to fill the positions on the new Council it was agreed that the following names be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for election:-

President                        : Mr J H Spencer Jones  
Vice-Presidents                : Mr C R G Turk  
   Mr P Cramb  
   Dr I S Glass  
Members                         : Mr J A da Silva Campos  
   Dr T H H Lloyd Evans  
   Mr M D Overbeek  
   Mr J van Ellinckhuizen  
Hon. Secretary                 : Mr H E Krumm  
Hon. Treasurer                 : Vacant  
Business Manager               : Mr W L Combrinck

9. NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold the next meeting of Council on 1987 September 14

10. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h42

Date.....<sup>14</sup>.....<sup>1987</sup>.....

  
Chairman.....

**ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
**SUMMARY OF CASH BOOK INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1987**

**RECEIPTS**

Subscriptions -		
Arrears	280,50	
Current	18 291,50	
Advances	611,43	
		19 183,43
Entrance fees		485,00
Sales of M.N.A.S.S.A.		2 375,55
Sales of Handbooks		1 287,12
Sales of back numbers of "Sky and Telescope"		56,20
Donations		23,08
Income from M.N.A.S.S.A. articles		296,78
Interest received - Fixed deposit	220,42	
- Current account	92,93	
		313,35
Transfer from Plusplan account		150,00
Withdrawal from 32 day account		12 000,00
Estate late I.R.H. Brickett		2 000,00
		38 170,51
		R 38 170,51

**EXPENDITURE**

Overdraft per cash book 1 July 1986	214,92
Balance per Plusplan 1 July 1986	159,71
Subscriptions to "Sky and Telescope" and freight charges	13 000,52
Cost of production of M.N.A.S.S.A.	3 626,86
Cost of production of handbook	3 541,66
Addressing and despatch of publications	492,59
Postage on publications	2 414,65
Stationery and printing	1 023,50
Postage, other than above	354,61
Cost of star charts	26,85
Fire Insurance premium	75,75
Import Surcharge on "Sky and Telescope"	1 408,24
General Sales Tax on "Sky and Telescope"	1 637,88
Invested in "32 days" notice account	8 000,00
Honoraria for Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer	100,00
Bank charges	258,71
	36 336,45
BALANCE per cash book, 30 June 1987	1 834,06
	R38 170,51