

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1987 September 14 at 20h00 at S A A O  
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

The President, Mr J Spencer Jones, in the Chair, Professor A P Fairall, Dr I S Glass, Miss P Booth, Mrs E Olsen (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs A Joubert, Messrs J Bondiotti, A D B Cameron, R Hurly, F N G Orpen, C R G Turk and the Hon. Secretary H E Krumm. *P Baton L87*

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Brian Warner, Dr T H H Lloyd Evans, Messrs J Churms and W L Combrinck.

Professor A P Fairall apologised in retrospect for his absence from the previous meeting of Council. Noted with appreciation.

3. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the following new members on Council:-  
Mrs E Olsen whose election to the office of Honorary Treasurer was duly confirmed.

Mrs A Joubert the newly appointed Cape Centre Representative on Council.

4. APPOINTMENTS - 1987/1988

(i) Members of Council

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	:	Mrs E Olsen
Business Manager	:	Mr W L Combrinck

(ii) Editorial Board

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr Rupert Hurly <sup>is appointed</sup> ~~be appointed~~ to ~~serve~~ on the Board which now consists of the following members:-

Dr I S Glass (Editor of MNASSA)  
Mr J H Spencer Jones (Assistant Editor of MNASSA)  
Mr W L Combrinck (Assistant Editor of MNASSA)  
Professor M W Feast  
Professor Brian Warner  
Mr R Hurly (Editor of the Handbook)  
Mr M D Overbeek

(iii) Member of Editorial Board on Council

Dr I S Glass

(iv) Honorary Auditor

Mr R Glass

4. (v) Representatives of Centres on Council

It was noted that members of some Centres, who had been elected to Council at the Annual General Meeting, were acting as representatives of their Centres on Council. Council proceeded to discuss the matter in the light of Article 10:COUNCIL of the Constitution which states, "The Society shall be governed by a Council consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a Representative of each of the duly constituted Centres, four other members of Council....."

It was decided that the spirit of the Constitution should be upheld and that each Centre should exercise its right to appoint a member, who shall be a full member of the Society, to act as its own Representative on Council, apart from any other member of that Centre who might have happened to be elected to Council at an AGM of the Society.

It was agreed that the Centres immediately concerned be asked to submit the names of their Representatives as soon as possible.

(vi) Alternates on Council

The list of Principals and Alternates was left over to the next meeting of Council in view of the decision taken (v) above.

5. MINUTES

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1987 June 22, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) BRICKETT LEGACY: SUBSIDISATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS (Minute No.4(i) )

Mr F Kopinsky

Mr Kopinsky had replied on 1987 July 26 to the effect that he was no longer a National Serviceman and was currently working as an actuarial student for an insurance company. In the circumstances he would be renewing his membership of the Society if the subscription was less than R75 per annum. He was informed that the current subscription had been retained at R50. The meeting was informed that Mr Kopinsky had rejoined the Society.

Mr R S Lake

Mr J Churms had contacted his Principal Mr J W Watson of the Natal Midlands Centre who would be interviewing Mr Lake. He would reply either to Mr Churms or the Hon. Secretary in due course.

Lesley Lowe

Mr M D Overbeek had written to Lesley Lowe but had as yet received no reply. As the sex of the person concerned was in doubt, Mr Overbeek took the direct approach by writing as follows: "Are you by any chance our member Miss L S Lowe who used to reside in Pinelands, Cape?"

(ii) McINTYRE AWARD : REVISION OF CONSTITUTION (Minute No.4(ii) )

Mr C R G Turk had nothing to report owing to pressure of work but he would do so in due course.

(iii) FORBES BEQUEST : PRIZE 1987

The subject chosen was "The Outer Planets". Only three projects were submitted, all coming from the Junior Section (scholars under 15 years), two of which were disqualified for not having chosen the correct subject. The other entry was submitted by Francis W Bryan (aged 14 Years) of the German High School in Cape Town. This project was of such a high standard

that the adjudicators, Professor A P Fairall and Mr W L Combrinck, had no hesitation in recommending that Francis Bryan be awarded a first prize of R50 and that his school be presented with a copy of Norton's Star Atlas in terms of the conditions laid down for the competition. He was present at the AGM on 1987 July 22 to receive the prize. The copy of Norton's Star Atlas was handed to the Headmaster of his School in his presence on a subsequent occasion.

Council agreed that:

- (1) The Competition be held every year
- (2) A committee consisting of Professor A P Fairall, Dr I S Glass and Mr P Briton be appointed to decide on a suitable subject and that they proceed with an intensive advertising campaign as soon as possible
- (3) The individual prizes be not less than R50, R30 and R20.
- (4) The book award to the schools be kept at R100. The choice of books with an astronomical theme be left to the schools after consultation with Council.

(iv) NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK Minute No.4(iv))

Mr R Hurly had followed up his advertising campaign with a long and comprehensive letter to S A Broadcasting Corporation. Among his many suggestions were the following:-

- (a) Discussions on Radio Suid Afrika between 12 noon and 1 pm and on Radio South Africa between 4.00 and 5.00 pm on their Magazine Programme.
- (b) Advising them of films available from the Provincial Library, some of which might be used by TV on the programme 50-50 and Net Work.
- (c) This was followed by a long list of well-known astronomical personalities whom he suggested could be invited to give talks on TV and over the Radio.

These few remarks hardly do justice to Mr Hurly's efforts to bring National Astronomy Week to the notice of the public. He was heartily thanked by the Chairman on behalf of Council for his labours and initiative.

The Director of the East London Museum, Miss R M Tietz, was hoping to arrange a small display at the Museum during N.A.W. In reply to her appeal for assistance it was suggested that she be sent copies of the Presidential Address on the History of the Society by Mr Arthur Long in 1929 and that by Mr P Smits delivered in 1960. The Chairman offered to have the copies made with two photographs of the first President, Dr J K E Halm.

(v) FORMATION OF PORT ELIZABETH CENTRE Minute No.4(v)

In his reply dated 1987 July 16 Mr M G McCormack admitted that he had misread the Constitution and was under the impression that 10 persons who were not necessarily full members of the Society would satisfy the conditions laid down in the Constitution. As he was able to raise only five members of the Society it was clear that they were not in a position to form a Centre of the Society at Port Elizabeth.

After a long discussion Council reluctantly came to the conclusion that nothing could be achieved by pursuing the matter any further. Consideration, however, might be given to a personal approach being made to the Chairman of the P.E. Peoples' Observatory as it was apparently he, who although a member of the Society, was against the formation of the Centre.

(vi) SOLAR OBSERVING CENTRE : APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR (Minute No.7)

Mr Jim Knight had shown enough expertise and enthusiasm to convince Council that he would be a worthy successor to the late Mr R Anderson. Seeing that he had indicated his willingness to accept the office, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr J Knight as Director of the Solar Observing Section.

7. MINOR PLANET (3172) Hirst = 1981 WW

Agreed that a letter be sent to Mr W P Hirst congratulating him on his having a minor planet named after him.

An account of Mr Hirst's achievements appeared in MNASSA, volume 46, nos 9 & 10, October 1987, p 114.

8. PROFESSOR M W FEAST - ARTICLE "SCIENTIA"

It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to Professor M W Feast congratulating him on his article which appeared in the above periodical on Supernova 1987A.

(At this stage in the proceedings Mr R Hurly left the meeting:21h40)

9. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs E Olsen, presented her financial statement dated 1987 August 10, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. It was agreed to adopt the statement.

The meeting proceeded to discuss the auditor's Report dated 1987 July 22 on the Society's investments. He maintained that there were too many small investments in existence and suggested that steps should be taken to consolidate a number of them in one account. This gave rise to a debate of indetermidable length, in the course of which the Hon. Treasurer supplied irrefutable evidence in support of the auditor's contentions.

A summary of the discussion subsequently compiled by Mrs Olsen and sent to the Hon. Secretary in the form of a private communication has made it possible to include in these minutes the decisions taken at the meeting regarding the Society's investments. It was agreed that they be treated as follows, namely that:-

- (a) The Current Account, 32-day Notice Account and the Plus Plan Account be retained as separate accounts.
- (b) The following investments for each fund be consolidated and merged into one fund to be known as "The General Purposes Fund":-
  - (i) The S A Perm. investment be terminated.
  - (ii) The proceeds, capital and interest of the fixed deposits invested in the United Building Society be transferred as they mature.
  - (iii) The United Building Society Special Savings Account.
  - (iv) The R2000 Brickett Bequest be withdrawn from the 32-Day Notice Account.

Mrs Elizabeth Olsen thanked her predessor Mr Garrett Orpen for his Cooperation and assistance. Mr Clif Turk proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Olsen and Mr Orpen for "hammering out" the complexities of the Society's finances and investments. Seconded and confirmed.

The following SIGNATORIES would continue to act for the time being:-

STANDARD BANK

Mr W L Combrinck  
Mr R Hurly  
Mr F N G Orpen

U.B.S.

Mr R Hurly  
Mr H E Krumm  
Mr F N G Orpen

10. NEW MEMBERS

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

MISS J.S.BLAESKE	c/o S A Museum, PO Box 61, CAPE TOWN 8000
MR.R.W.CURTIS	PO Box 793, Jugskei Park, JOHANNESBURG 2153
MISS L.C.ENSLIN	PO Box 434, PLETTENBERG BAY 6600
Mrs.L.FOUCHE	24 West Street, Hout Bay, Cape 7800
MR.R.HEWITSON	"Way Side", 2A Lew Road, Claremont 7700
Miss K.C.McGIBBON	73 Circle Road, Sunridge, Table View 7441
MR.D.NAGTEGAAL	PO Box 616, Hermanus 7200
DR.K.SEKIGUCHI	SAAO, PO Box 9, Observatory, CAPE, 7935
MR.T.J.SHEPHERD	104 De la Rey Avenue, BLOEMFONTEIN 9301
MR.M.C.SMITH	12 Harold Crescent, Beacon Bay 5241
MR.A.H.SNELL	PO Box 70225, Die Wilgers, PRETORIA 0041
MISS C.W.A.SPENCER	82 Hunters Way, Umgeni Park, DURBAN 4051
MISS B.van HOOGDALEN	2 Uplands Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201
MR.A.WELGEMOED	PO Box 2279, Edenvale 1610
MR.G.A.WYNNE	180 Main Road, Muizenberg, CAPE 7945
S.A.MUSEUM (Resource Centre)	PO Box 61, CAPE TOWN 8000

11. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mr F N G Orpen would continue as long as possible or until a successor was found.

12. ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

It was agreed that the Society join the A.S. & T.S. as an Affiliate Member at a fee of R10,50 per annum.

13. COMET AND METEOR SECTION: SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PERIODICALS

The Director, Mr J Campos, was authorised by Council to subscribe to "METEOR NEWS" and "INTERNATIONAL COMET QUARTERLY" on behalf of his Section.

14. NATAL CENTRE: AMENDMENTS TO RULES

An application by the Natal Centre to make slight amendments to Articles XVI and XVII of its Rules was accepted by Council.

15. MR J C BENNETT: RETURN OF TELESCOPE

Mr Bennett informed Council that he would be returning the small telescope which he had on loan from the Society for several years.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:, No decision taken

17. CLOSING

The being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 23h25

DATE... 30.11.87.....

CHAIRMAN.....  


R E C O N C I L I A T I O N      10/8/1987

OPENING BALANCE	1/7/1987		1 834. 06
ADD Receipts: excluding	489 Harrison		
	497 Zimbabwe	R100	
	including		
	Redeposit		
	Wallach	R 50	= 12 244.25
LESS Expenses: excluding	cheq 107, unknown		= 1 302.13
			10 942. 12
			R12 776. 18

BANK @ 1/7/1987			1 834.06
ADD Deposits			11 378.04
			13 212.10
LESS Expenses			1 302.13
			11 909.97
ADD Receipts not yet banked			866.21
			R12 776.18

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

CASH BOOK			12 776.18
less Receipts not deposited yet			866.21
			11 909.97
ADD cheques not cleared thro' Bank:			
No. 104	R165.97		
No. 103	<u>11.88</u>		<u>177.85</u>
= BANK @ 7/8/87			R12 087.82