

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1988 June 20 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

The President, Mr J H Spencer Jones, in the Chair. Dr I S Glass, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs E Olsen (Hon Treas), Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron, J Churms, R Hurly, M D Overbeek, L Scoble, C R G Turk and the Hon Secretary, M E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. WELCOME TO MR M D OVERBEEK AND MR H L N SCOBLE

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Mr M D Overbeek of the Transvaal Centre and to Mr H L N Scoble who was attending his first meeting in his capacity as an alternate for the Representative on Council for the Bloemfontein Centre, Mr H P van der Walt.

The reason for Mr Overbeek's welcome appearance at the meeting is given below.

4. OBITUARIES - Mr A Menzies and Mr A Morrisby

Mr Alexander Menzies passed away at his home in Hermanus on 13 May 1988 at the age of 93. He joined the staff of then Royal Observatory in 1923 and retired in 1967. He was the Honorary Secretary of the Society for 30 years, from 1935 to 1965. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Society in 1981.

Mr Arthur Morrisby died in tragic circumstances at his home in Bulawayo on April 16, May 1988. He was an active observer of lunar occultations and became Director of the Lunar Occultation Section when it was formed in 1971. He continued to act in this capacity up to the time of his early death.

The Meeting rose and observed a minute's silence.

5. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1988 April 11 at 20h00 at S A A O, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Mr C R G Turk that they be accepted. Confirmed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION - Minute No.4(iv)

Mr Jan Hers had agreed to accept nomination as the Society's Representative on the National Committee of the IAU. Copies of meetings of Council would be sent to Mr Hers in future.

(ii) ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA - Min. No.7

Mr M D Overbeek agreed to represent the Society on the Executive Committee of the AS&TS.

(iii) GILL MEDAL AWARD: PROFESSOR DAVID S EVANS - Minute No.8

A notice, accompanied by a brief citation and a ballot paper, was circulated to all members of Council informing them that Professor Evans was nominated as a suitable candidate for the Gill Medal. As all the votes received were positive and were well in excess of the two thirds required by the Constitution, it was agreed that the Gill Medal for 1988 should be awarded to Professor David S Evans.

Gill Medal Award/

It was highly unlikely that Professor Evans would attend the 1988 Annual General Meeting of the Society in Cape Town. He was to be informed however that Dr I S Glass would be attending the next meeting of the International Astronomical Union at Baltimore and that this may be a suitable occasion for Dr Glass to present him with the medal on behalf of the Society.

7. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Elizabeth Olsen, presented her usual Financial Statement. It was proposed by Mr L Scoble and seconded by Mr C D G Turk that it be adopted. All in favour with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Olsen.

The Financial Stement attached to these minutes is not the one referred to above but is a copy of the audited statement prepared by the Hon Treasurer for the Financial Year ended 1988 June 30.

The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that a sum of R3475 had incorrectly been credited to the funds of the McIntyre Award. This triggered off a complicated discussion of indeterminate length on the handling and distribution of the funds of the Society. The longer it lasted the more difficult it became to distinguish between proposals and decisions. As this is an important matter the Finance Committee (see below) will have to draw up a concise statement on the distribution of the Society's funds for presentation to a future meeting of Council.

Recent meetings of Council have been characterised by their unduly long discussions on financial matters. In an attempt to overcome this hazard it was decided to form a Finance Committee consisting of the Hon. Treasurer and Mr L Scoble who would report briefly to Council the results of their mutual discussions. It is confidentially anticipated that this procedure will obviate a repetition of the long drawn out debates of the past.

Subscriptions

It was agreed that

- (1) Members of the Society whose subscriptions remain unpaid by 1 August will be suspended
- (2) Subscribers to MNASSA would be given to 1 June to renew their subscriptions.

8. NEW MEMBERS

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

MR J. CAPAZORIO	P.O.Box 4529, Secunda 2302
MR G. DIEDERICKS	275 Polaris Lane, Waterkloof 0181
MASTER A. LIRA	10 Second Ave., Northmead, Benoni 1501
MRS P. A. ROSS	97 Mentone Road, Durban 4001
MR G. TORTA	123 Herbert Baker St., Groenkloof, Pretoria 0181
MR P. S. van ELLEWEE	10 Radkoll Ave., Olifantsfontein 1665

9. BRICKETT LEGACY - SUBSIDISATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Two members of the Society attached to the Cape Centre, Miss F Tucker and Mrs L E Smallie, had informed the Hon. Treasurer that they had cause to resign their membership of the Society for financial reasons. Council was satisfied that such was the case. It was agreed to inform the two ladies that their subscriptions would be reduced to R40 per annum as from 1988 July 1.

10. OCCULTATION SECTION

Arising out of the death of Mr Arthur Morrisby, a letter dated 1988 May 5 was received from Mr M D Overbeek regarding the future of the Occultation Section. Council could do one of two things, either appoint a director of the "total" Occultation Section or combine it with the other two occultation sections, namely the Grazing and Planetary, of which Mr Overbeek is the Director, to form one section to be known as the Occultation Sections. Should Council decide on the latter he would be prepared to become its Director.

It was proposed by Mr C R G Turk and seconded by Mr L Scoble that the three sections should be combined to form one section with Mr M D Overbeek as Director. Agreed.

11. FUTURE OF THE OLD REPUBLIC OBSERVATORY

In a letter dated 1988 June 13 Mr M D Overbeek stated that it would appear that AS&TS have been in contact with the CSIR in connection with the future of the old Republic Observatory site in Johannesburg. If it transpires that the Society will be drawn into the discussions he would try to attend the meeting of Council on 1988 June 20 in order to be briefed by Council. (See Minute No.3 above)

Although Council might not necessarily share the Transvaal Centre's views on the subject, it was agreed that everything should be done to advance the interests of the Transvaal Centre as part of the Society. Mr Overbeek asked to inform them that Council wishes them the best of luck.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

DATE: AGREED to hold the AGM at the SAAO, Cape Town on Wednesday 1988 July 27 at 20h00.

MEMBERS ON COUNCIL

The following nominations would be submitted to the AGM :-

President:	Mr Peter Cramb
Vice-Presidents:	Mr J H Spencer Jones
	Dr I S Glass
	Mr Jose da Silva Campos
Members of Council	Mr Brian Fraser
	Dr T H H Lloyd Evans
	Mr M D Overbeek
	Mr M Soltynski
	Professor W F Wargau
Hon. Secretary:	Mr H E Krumm
Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs Elizabeth Olsen
Business Manager:	Mr W L Combrinck

It will be necessary to proceed to a ballot as five names have been nominated to fill the four vacancies for members of Council.

13. NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL; Date to be determined at a later stage

14. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting

DATE. 26.12.88.....

CHAIRMAN.....
at 22h30.

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE AT 30TH JUNE 1988 .

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS	86/87	175.00	
	87/88	18 692.30	
	88/89	<u>150.00</u>	19 017.30
Donations to ASSET			879.00
Entrance Fees			470.00
Adverts: Noyes Avicon			374.51
Interest Rec'd: 32 day a/c		919.91	
	Bank	118.09	
	+ Syfrets	115.76	
	UBS	1 771.45	
	S A Perm	<u>21.36</u>	2 946.57
Proceeds: S A Perm Shares		200.00	
	S A Perms Savings A/c	58.05	
	Plusplan	60.00	
SALES: Mnassa to Cape Centre		70.00	
	Mnassa Back numbers	112.00	
	MNASSA 1988	1 674.02	
	HANDBOOK 1988	1 169.40	
	Sky & Tel Back numbers	10.40	
	1 Norton's for Mr Rattray	71.90	
Subsidy, Dept Education		350.00	
Grant ex ASS Endowment Fund (ASSET)		200.00	
INCOME: 1/7/87 to 30/6/88:			R27 663.15
ADD bal b/fwd from 86/87,			
being portion of the			
87/88 subs banked in			
86/87 financial year:			1 834.06
			<u>R29 497.21</u>

+ = Mc Intyre funds
to be re-paid.

EXPENDITURE

ASSET donations, transferred		879.00
Award: Forbes Bequest to Francis Bryan		121.90
Purchase Norton's for M Rattray		68.60
Bank Charges		272.75
Afric Mail Addressing:		
Postage Mnassa		579.07
Postage Sky & Telescope	2	323.25
Distr. Mnassa		117.37
Distr Sky & Telescope		423.86
Postage, General & Sections		367.96
Printing & Stationery : Plaslope:	1	000.14
Add lists, tel calls:		115.97
Photocopies Mnassa		25.00
Photocopies Sections		147.90
SKY & TELESCOPE: July 87 to June 88	10	205.50
SPACE CLEARING: Clearing	2	416.95
Import Surcharge	1	299.90
GST	1	871.76
Subs: 'Int Comet Qtrly'		58.50
A S & T S		10.50
Refunds & Stop Prepayments		85.00
UCT Printing MNASSA to 30/6/88	5	375.00
HANDBOOK 1988	1	559.00
Honoraria: Mr H E Krumm, Sec		50.00
Mrs E C Olsen Hon Treas		50.00
BALANCE Carried forward to 88/89:		<u>72.33</u>
		<u>R29 497.21</u>