

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1988 November 28 at 20h00 at S.A.A.O.
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

The President, Mr Peter Cramb, in the Chair.
Dr I S Glass, Dr T Lloyd Evans, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs E Olsen (Hon. Treas.), Messrs Peter Briton, J Churms, R Hurly, J Spencer Jones and the Hon Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A D B Cameron

3. WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr R Hurly extended a warm welcome to Mr Peter Cramb on behalf of the Council. It was noteworthy that he had travelled from Durban in order to attend this meeting of Council. Applause.

4. PRINCIPLES AND ALTERNATES

Principal: Transvaal Centre

The Committee of the Transvaal Centre had nominated Mr B Fraser as their Representative on Council. Noted. He succeeded Mr T Hilton.

Alternate for Professor W F Wargau

Dr I S Glass agreed to act as Professor Wargau's alternate if no other nominations were forthcoming.

Alternate: Natal Centre

Mrs R Scoble had indicated that she was unable to act as an alternate for the Natal Centre.

5. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council meeting held on 1988 September 26, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Dr T Lloyd Evans and seconded by Dr I S Glass that be adopted as a reliable account of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

FORBES BEQUEST: PRIZES (Minute No.11)

The meeting took notice of the comments by the judges, Dr A P Fairall and Mr W L Combrinck, when considering the allocation of the prizes.

Junior Section

It was decided that Stuart Chaplin, aged 11, of St Josephs College, Cape Town be awarded a prize of R10 for his essay on "Black Holes". Although his entry was unlikely to be a prize-winner had there been other entries in this category, it was felt that he deserved encouragement for his efforts.

Senior Section

The other entry came from last years prizewinner Francis Bryan, aged 15, of the German High School, Cape Town. Like his previous entry this was a highly-polished essay in all respects on the "Surface of Mars". It was decided to offer him either a cash prize of R50 or a years free membership of the Soc.

7. FINANCE

(i) STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs E Olsen, presented her statement of income and expenditure as at 1988 November 16, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. After a brief discussion it was proposed by the President, who paid tribute to Mrs Elizabeth Olsen for the excellence of her work, that the statement be adopted. Seconded by Mr R Hurly. All in favour.

It was agreed that the balance of R18 512,16 be transferred from the current account to the 32-day account.

(ii) BUDGET

The Hon. Treasurer submitted a budget of Income and Expenditure for the remainder of the Financial Year ending 1989 June 30. A copy is attached to these minutes.

(iii) ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES- AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

AS&TS informed Council that the membership fee had been increased from R10,50 to R50,00 per annum with immediate effect. The matter was taken up with their Manager, Mrs J A Nel, who subsequently informed Mr M D Overbeek, who represents the Society on the Executive Council of AS&TS, of the reasons for the increase in the fee which had not been raised for the last 30 years.

Mr Overbeek recommended that the Society should retain its membership for at least two years as AS&TS were negotiating the purchase of the Observatory site. This is an important consideration for the Society and for the Transvaal Centre in particular who make use of the site and who, in all probability, will be entrusted with the care of the 26 inch refractor.

After giving the matter due consideration, it was proposed by Dr I S Glass and seconded by the President, Mr Peter Cramb, that the Society retain its membership of AS&TS. All in favour. Mr Overbeek will doubtless report on the negotiations from time to time.

(iv) BY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mrs A Joubert reported on the membership position and submitted the following figures:-

Membership at 1988 July 1.....	457	
New Members.....	37	
Deaths.....	4	(Spies, McBain, von Maltitz, Nesper)
Resignations.....	13	
Unpaid.....	53	(atleast 18 expected to pay)
	<u>424</u>	

Council would be kept informed of the position.

Subsidisation of Subscriptions

The Membership Secretary would table the letters received from members who had resigned, at the next meeting of Council. It was possible that some, if not all, had resigned due to impecunious circumstances.

8. DEATH OF MR G O NESER

Mr George Nesper, who was a member of long-standing, passed away at Bellville, Cape on 1988 October 31 at the age of 87 years after suffering a stroke. He taught physics and chemistry at Paarl Boys' High School for many years and engendered a keen interest in astronomy among his many scholars. He was an outstanding teacher and a leader in educational circles connected with

the teaching of science. When he retired he continued to live at Paarl until his removal to Bellville where he was taken care of at the home of his daughter and son-in-law. Mrs Nesor predeceased him shortly before his own death. (It is hoped to publish an obituary notice in MNASSA)

9. NEW MEMBERS

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

MR A P F BARKHUIZEN	Daphne Avenue 341, Mountain View, Pretoria 0082
MR J BRADFORD	6 Vlok Street, Bryanston 2021
MR M A GLINTENKAMP	P O Box 2185, Nelspruit 1200
MR M J GREEF	14 Victoria Rd., Plumstead, Cape 7800
MR G F MOUNTJOY	26 Upper Wheelen Street, Newlands, Cape 7700
MR D NAIDOO	2 Amora Knoll, Helmsford Heights, Tongaat, Natal 4400
MS V RAZAVI-PAQUAY	P O Box 585, King Williams Town 5600
MR D J ROGERS	2 Blue Water Mews, Marine Drive, Umhlanga Rocks 4320
MR H SCHUMACHER	P O Box 432, Vereeniging 1930
MR C R v.d. WATT	Maanlig, P O Box 81, Hartswater 8570

10. ZUO TIME SIGNALS

The August issue of MNASSA contained a news note which quoted a rumour that the ZUO transmitters might close down when they reach the end of their useful lives. Mr M D Overbeek, in his capacity as Director of the Occultation Section, reacted immediately to this news in a letter of 1988 August 18 to the Post and Telecommunications Department requesting further information regarding the matter.

In their reply of 1988 September 15 they informed him that should ZUO (Olifantsfontein) close down, essential services such as the time signal broadcasts would not be terminated but be operated from other suitable places. (This information was carried in the October issue of MNASSA)

The latest news on the subject was a phone call from the GPO to Mr Overbeek informing him that they were sure that the SABC, which had spare capacity, would relay a continuous time signal.

11. ADVERTISING ASTRONOMY

Mr Peter Briton reported that his lecture on astronomy to 150 Std.9 pupils at the Youth Leadership Seminar had been well received. He was making every effort to inform teachers and scholars through the medium of his news letter of the availability of astronomy to schools. He had lectured at schools. He maintained that we do not do enough to advertise ourselves. The President reported that Natal had run a course of 12, 2½ hour lectures to advertise astronomy. He contended that much could be done through the medium of the school teacher.

12. NEW MEMBERSHIP FORMS

The Membership Secretary recommended that the Membership Form be revised. Decided to appoint a sub-committee consisting of Mrs A Joubert and Messrs J Churms and J Spencer Jones to look into the matter.

13. NEXT MEETING: Agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday 1989 February 13

14. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h15

DATE...13-2-89...

CHAIRMAN...1. S. Gla...

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPEND

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS	88/89	24 423.81	
	89/90	<u>60.00</u>	24 483.81
DONATIONS TO ASSET			1 210.00
ENCTRANCE FEES			314.00
INTEREST REC'D:	PLUS PLAN	.27	
	BANK	40.33	
	SYFRITS	45.30	
	UBS	<u>297.91</u>	383.81
GENERAL RECEIPTS			
	Refund Postage, Southern Astron	23.25	
	Cape Centre, Disc	1.00	
	Donation	80.00	
	Donation Postage	4.50	
	Sky & Tel back numbers	<u>5.00</u>	113.75
DEPT EDUCATION GRANT	88/89		400.00
SALES:	MNASSA 1988		541.84
	MNASSA 1989		93.77
	HANDBOOK 1988		173.00

TOTAL INCOME TO DATE: R27 713.98

BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 1987/88: 100.72

R27 814.70

ATURE AT 16TH NOVEMBER 1988

OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

EXPENDITURE

ASSET donations transferred		1	185.00
BANK CHARGES			93.50
AFRIC MAIL ADD:			
POSTAGE Mnassa Jul/Oct			150.15
POSTAGE Sky & Tel Jul/Sept			512.80
DISTR Mnassa Jul/Aug			10.06
DISTR Sky & Tel Jul/Sept			138.04
PRINTING & STAT: Mnassa Invoice forms			123.14
Mnassa letterheads			95.20
Mnassa add. lists & late accs.			84.01
Plaslope, bal of a/c			35.00
Paper, cards,			19.70
Receipt books			29.40
SAAO photoc. renewals			50.00
GENERAL POSTAGE 16.85, 6.35			23.20
SUNDRIES: Engrave Gill Medal			11.20
Parking Ticket			20.00
Telephone calls: Langebaan			23.36
SKY & TELESCOPE: Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct		4	420.60
SPACE CLEARING; Clearing Jul/Aug			415.14
Import Jul/Aug			301.50
GST Jul/Aug			404.48
UCT: Printing MNASSA Jul/Aug			996.00
TRANSFER MC INTYRE: Int 87/88	115.76		
88/89	<u>45.30</u>		161.06
TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO DATE:		R9	302.54
CARRIED FORWARD:		18	512.16
		R27	<u><u>814.70</u></u>

BUDGET : FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 1989

ASSA : at 20th October 1988

INCOME

Bank Balance 20/10/88 4 274
 32 day Account 13 000

FUNDS ON HAND TO DATE: R17 274

Income receivable:

Interest Receivable UBS 360
 " " 32 day a/c 600 960

ASSA Subs outstanding and
 expected to be paid: 50 @ R60 3 000

MNASSA Subs 1988 outstanding 900

MNASSA Subs 1989 160 @ R20: 3 200 4 100

HANDBOOK 1989 1 100

R26 434

EXPENDITURE

Sky & Telescope: Nov/Dec 2 300
 Jan/Feb 2 400
 Mar/Apr 2 500
 May/Jun 2 500 9 700

Sky & Telescope Sept Oct
 AMA: Postage &) Nov Dec
 Distribution) Jan Feb
 Mar Apr
 May Jun 2 280

Sky & Telescope:
 SPACE CLEARING Sep/Oct 1 100
 Nov/Dec 1 100
 Jan/Feb 1 100
 Mar/Apr 1 100
 May/Jun 1 100 5 500

MNASSA: Printing Sep/Oct 998
 UCT Nov/Dec 990
 Jan/Feb 990
 Mar/Apr 990
 May/Jun 990 4 958

MNASSA: Postage: 5 issues @ R 85.32
 Distrib: 5 issues @ R28.50 570

HANDBOOK Printing 1989 1 750
 UCT

MISCELLANEOUS & CONTINGENCY 1 500

Total expenditure R26 258
 surplus c/forward: 176

R26 434