

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1989 April 24 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Dr T H Lloyd Evans, Messrs .P
Briton and A D B Cameron.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1989 February 13, copies of
which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr M
Soltynski and seconded by Mrs A Joubert that they be accepted as a reliable
record of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) EDITOR OF YEARLY HANDBOOK. Min. No.7(2)

Mr Brian Fraser had replied to Mr R Hurly to the effect that for several
good and sufficient reasons it would be more convenient to have the
Handbook edited and produced at the Cape.
The name of Miss Pat Booth had been mentioned at a previous meeting as
a successor to Mr Hurly. In the light of Mr Fraser's remarks, Council
was both relieved and delighted to be told by Miss Booth that she was
prepared to compile and edit the Handbook and to supervise its production.
(Applause)

Miss Booth is a most competent person with a degree in Pure and Applied
Mathematics and is on the staff of the Trigonometrical Survey. She has
assisted Mr Hurly in the preparation of data for the Yearly Handbook
for the last two years using a personal computer.

(ii) HONORARY TREASURER. Min.No 7(3)

Mr D C Duprez, one-time Chairman of the Cape Centre, had offered his
services as Hon. Treasurer in succession to Mrs E Olsen who retires at
the end of 1989 June 30. Mrs Olsen would have further discussions with
Mr Duprez. It was agreed to invite him to the next Meeting of Council.
Two replies to the Hon. Treasurer's circular were received, both coming
from the Transvaal. In as much as Council appreciated their offers of
help, they could not be considered for geographical reasons.

(iii) SUBSIDISATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS. Min.No.7, Council Meeting 1988 Nov. 28.

The Membership Secretary, Mrs A Joubert, tabled the names of members who
had resigned. All, except a Mr H. Garbini, did not appear to have any
financial problems. Mrs Joubert to write to Mr Garbini for further
information.

(iv) NEW MEMBERSHIP FORMS. Min No.6

After a short discussion it was proposed by Mr L Scoble and seconded by
Mrs E Olsen that the new lay-out of the Membership Form be accepted.
Confirmed.

(v) ZUO TIME SIGNALS. Min. No.6

Members of Council are referred to the attached copy of the communication received from the Division of Telecommunications dated 1989 April 11 in reply to Council's letter of 1989 March 11. Copies of both letters were sent to Mr M D Overbeek.

In a letter dated 1989 April 14 Mr M D Overbeek mentioned that observers in various parts of the Republic reported that reception on 5MHz had improved of late. He went on to say that one would like to think that this was the outcome of representations by Council as well as individual observers who have been encouraged by him to telephone ZUO transmitter operators when they had problems. He would be writing to the Americans and Japanese as requested by Council.

It was mentioned at the meeting that SAAO would monitor local time signals as observers had recorded variations of one second. An upgraded time service was urgently needed.

5. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer presented her statement of Income and Expenditure as at 1989 April 12 a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. The statement was accepted with thanks to Mrs E Olsen. In a separate document she reported that the 32-Day Account stood at R7000 and the Current Account at R1680.

Herein followed a long discussion on whether the present subscription of R60 per annum was adequate enough to balance the books at the end of the next Financial Year. Mrs Olsen was of the opinion that the present subscription plus the interest from investments did not indicate that a need exists for an increase in the subscription. Mr C R G Turk, in his capacity as the custodian of Endowment Trust, suggested that he could be approached for assistance if this became necessary. He went on to ask whether space might be provided on the subscription notices for donations to the Trust.

At this stage in the proceedings Mr L Scoble, a member of the Finance Committee who during the above debate had been studying the financial position of the Society as presented by the Hon. Treasurer, stated that he was of the opinion that the subscription should be increased to R65 to cover the possibility of an increase in the price of SKY AND TELESCOPE, the weakening of the Rand, an increase in surcharge, purchase tax and postage. After a heated debate Mr Scoble's proposal that the subscription be increased from R60 to R65 per annum as from 1989 July 1 was put to the vote. It was carried, 9 being for and 2 against.

However, this was not the end of the story. A member of Council mentioned that he believed that it was necessary to give members of the Society three months notice of an increase in the subscription and that there were less than three months left before 1989 July 1. Mr Turk thereupon consulted the Constitution and confirmed that the member concerned was right in all respects, much to the dismay of the 9 members of Council who had voted in favour of the increase. Council now resorted to various subterfuges whereby the extra R5 could painlessly be extracted from the pockets of the unsuspecting members of the Society, but to no avail. It was therefore concluded that the subscription would have to remain at R60 and to go into the new year more in faith than in hope.

6. HANDBOOK AND MNASSA

HANDBOOK. Circulation: 1000. Cost: R1715. Full page advertisement: R80 per page
Agreed to raise selling price from R4,00 to R5,00 per copy

MNASSA. Printed 700 copies and 25 re-prints. Circulation: 625 copies.
Advertisement: R60 per full page.

7. NEW MEMBERS

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

ASTRONOMISCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN GESELLSCHAFT WINDHOEK.
c/o Sonia Enke, P.O.Box 5198, Windhoek, S W A /Namibia.

DR G K DE RIJK-CONRAD	41 Harold Ashwell Blv., Melkboshstrand	7441
DR I C DUNCAN	26 Serfontein Str. libradene, Boksburg	1459
MR J GERICKE	16 Federation Road, Parktown	2193
MR P M HINDT	Hindhausen Farm, P O Box 750, Knysna	6570
MR D D R KOEUL	P O Box 15672, Vlaeberg	8018
MRS E E MENZIES	No.6 14th Avenue, Voelklip, Hermanus	7200
"QUANTANI" M PETERSON	P O Box 165, Harrismith	9880
MR T A SAUER	3 Kiewiet Road, Croydon	1619
MR J M S WOOTTON	P O Box 69145, Bryanston	2021

The Astronomische Gesellschaft send a donation of R100

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agreed to hold the A.G.M. on Wednesday 26 July 1989 at 8.p.m.
As the President would be attending this meeting in Cape Town it was agreed to hold it at the S A A O.

9. NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

Agreed to hold the next meeting on 19 June 1989 at 20h00

10. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22h15

Date.....5 June 1989

Chairman.....I.S. Glas.....

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE AT 12th APRIL 1989

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS	88/89	26 072.81	
	89/90	<u>195.00</u>	26 267.81
DONATIONS TO ASSET			1 310.00
ENTRANCE FEES			524.00
INTEREST REC'D: PLUSPLAN		.27	
	Bank	69.60	
UBS: ASSA/FD		387.91	
UBS: MC I/FD		96.67	
SYF: MC I B'Q		<u>145.94</u>	700.39
GENERAL	Advert in Mnassa	19.80	
	Refund Postage	23.25	
	C Centre disc	1.00	
	Donations	84.50	
	S & T Back Nos	51.00	
	O'payment subs	<u>100.00</u>	282.55
DEPT EDUCATION GRANT 88/89			400.00
SALES: MNASSA 1988		714.55	
	MNASSA 1989	1 001.73	
	HANDBOOK 1988	373.00	
	HANDBOOK 1989 to date	392.50	

B/fwd from 1987/88

31 966.53
100.72

EXPENDITURE

ASSET donations transferred		1 310.00
BANK CHARGES		194.51
AFRIC MAIL AD		
	Postage MNASSA Jul/Feb	357.35
	Postage SKY & TEL Jul/Feb	1 377.70
	Distr. MNASSA Jul/Feb	40.47
	SKY & TEL Jul/Feb	<u>336.76</u>
PRINTING & STAT		
	MNASSA Inv & letterheads	218.34
	MNASSA Add lists & late A/C	84.01
	ASSA Ptd envs, renewal forms	148.31
	" Paper, pens, rec bks	55.73
	Plaslop balance	35.00
	Computer ribbons	33.60
	AMA 77 late a/c & envs	<u>9.66</u>
		584.65
POSTAGE - general		77.26
SUNDRIES		
	Gill Medal	11.20
	Trfr Syf & UBS see below	
	Phone, parking	44.33
	Prizes Bryan & Chaplin	60.00
	Subs AS & TS	50.00
	Refund O'payments	100.00
	Jan Hers, p'copies, charts	168.19
	Hon Treas notice	24.00
	Back Nos. S & T ex auction	10.00
		<u>467.72</u>
SKY & TELESCOPE July - Feb		8 066.12
SPACE CLEARING Jul/Feb Clearing		1 694.56
	Import	1 728.70
	GST	1 517.60
UCT HANDBOOK		1 715.00
	MNASSA Jul/Feb	3 561.00
TRANSFER MC I FUNDS TO UBS		
	R115.76, R145.94, R96.67	<u>358.37</u>
		23 387.77
Carry fwd:		<u>8 679.48</u>

Teleteks: 378001 Adjunk-posmeester-generaal
Teletex: 378010 Deputy Postmaster General
Ingenieurswese/Engineering
Kommersieel/Commercial
Teleks: 322889
Telex:
Tel.



Vermeid in antwoord
In reply quote

No.

POSKANTOOR — POST OFFICE

TELEKOMMUNIKASIEAFDELING/TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
PRIVAATSAK/PRIVATE BAG X74
0001 PRETORIA

1989-04-11.

The Hon Secretary
Astronomical Society of Southern Africa
Langberg
LANGEBAAN
7357

Dear Sir

ZUO TIME SIGNAL

I refer to your letter dated 1989 March 11.

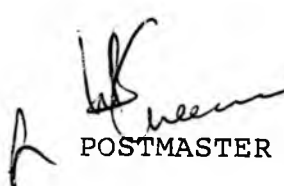
It is not the intention to discontinue the time signal transmissions, but to seek a more efficient, and viable means of disseminating them.

The SAPT high frequency transmitting station at Olifantsfontein, has been in operation for many years and both the equipment and technology are therefore dated. In addition, the demand for H.F. services has decreased drastically, reducing the station to a liability in terms of finance.

As pointed out in your letter, the performance of the time signal is not always of the best; we agree. However, to restore the transmission to its original accuracy and dependability would be vastly expensive for a service which derives no income.

For the above reasons, alternative arrangements for disseminating an upgraded time signal are being investigated. The various considerations involved (financial, technical, and jurisdiction) present many conflicting problems, which it is hoped can be resolved in the not too distant future. You will be kept informed of matters in this regard.

Yours faithfully


POSTMASTER GENERAL