

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1990 February 12 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr I S Glass (President) in the Chair
Professor Brian Warner, Dr T Lloyd Evans, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert,
Mrs Mrs E Olsen, Mrs A Strauss; Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron, J Churms,
D Duprez (Hon Treasurer), Mr R Hurly, Mr M Soltynski and the Hon Secretary
H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies in retrospect were received from Mr R Hurly for his absence
from the previous meeting of Council.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of previous meeting of Council held on 1989 December 4, copies of
which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr D
Duprez and seconded by Mrs A Joubert that they be accepted as a reliable
record of the proceedings. Confirmed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) ZUO TIME SIGNALS. (Minute No. 4(i))

Professor Brian Warner hoped to discuss the future of ZUO with Dr Arndt
during the course of the next two or three months either in Cape Town
or Pretoria. He felt that our chances were remote and that we should
start thinking of an alternative to ZUO.

Council thanked and congratulated Mr M D Overbeek on the letters he
had sent to IOTA and ILOC.

(ii) SLIDES (Minute No.4(ii))

Matter left over to next Council meeting for discussion.

5. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon Treasurer, Mr D Duprez, submitted a statement of income and
expenditure for the period 1989 July 1 to 1990 January 31. After
thanking him for his statement and the work he was doing on behalf
of the Society, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the statement
be adopted.

The Hon Treasurer reported that:-

(a) 60 subscriptions remained outstanding

(b) It was anticipated that the Society would show a surplus of
approximately R3000 at the end of the current financial year.

(ii) ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Council proceeded to consider whether the financial position of the
Society demanded an increase in the annual subscription of R75 or not.
After a long discussion, which was not without merit, it was decided
to leave the matter over to the next meeting of Council.

(iii) HONORARY TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER

Since the previous Council meeting, the Acting Business Manager, Mrs

E Olsen, had informed members of Council that she was of the opinion that the offices of Hon Treasurer and Business Manager should be combined and that a person, preferably retired who is not a member of the Society, be appointed at a salary of R300 per month.

The office of Treasurer and that of Business Manager are each in its own way time consuming and require much attention to detail. Suitable candidates are not easy to come by. In this respect Council was fortunate in being able to fill the vacancy when Mrs Olsen resigned as Hon Treasurer with a member of the Society, Mr D Duprez. The departure of the Business Manager, Mr W L Combrinck, for the Transvaal left a vacancy which has not been filled. Fortunately Mrs E Olsen kindly agreed to fill the gap until the end of the present Financial Year, 1990 June 30. Mr Duprez intimated that he saw his way clear to carry on for another Financial Year.

The immediate problem, therefore, revolved round the appointment of a Business Manager. Council discussed the matter at length but to no avail. It was eventually decided that Mrs Olsen and the Membership Secretary, Mrs A Joubert, should investigate the possible appointment of a non-member of the Society and to report back at the next meeting of Council.

(iv) HONORARY TREASURER : OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Agreed to accept a proposal by Mr Peter Briton that the Hon Treasurer be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

(v) ASSOCIATED AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA : ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

It was agreed to renew the Society's subscription of R50 per annum as an Affiliated Member of AS&TS for another year.

6. NEW MEMBERS

Mrs E Olsen proposed and Professor Brian Warner seconded that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

MS C.A.BOWER	31 Lytton Street, Observatory, 7925
MR J.M.CROMAR	3 Bouchier Wrey, Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
MR P.IKIN	1 Elanje Court, Vredehoek Avenue, Vredehoek 8001
MR J.J.JANSEN VAN VUUREN	P.O.Box 214, Patensie, 6335
MR T.KLEYHANS	48 Stander Street, George, 6530.
MS R.KRISHNA	84 Hippo Road, Seacow Lake, Durban, 4051.
MR.U.PETSCH	Southern Cross, Valley Road, Hout Bay, 7800
MR G.N. VAN DER WALT	P.O.Box 449, Graaf Reinet, 6280
MR W.A.E.VANHOUTTE	21 Rosmead Road, Nigel, 1490

CONFIRMED

7. SKY AND TELESCOPE : DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS

In a letter dated 1990 Jan 30 Mr M.D. Overbeek informed Council of a complaint he had received from a member of long standing regarding the unsatisfactory delays in the distribution of SKY & TELESCOPE.

Council recognised that problems had occasionally been experienced with our distributors but these were soon rectified by the Membership Secretary. A more intangible problem arose from time to time due to the failure of the publishers of SKY&TELESCOPE to post the necessary documentation prior to the receipt of consignments of the magazine. This leads to delays of varying magnitude as Customs will not release a consignment without the necessary documents. It sometimes happens that a phone call from the Post Office is the first intimation of what is happening.

It was agreed that the Hon. Treasurer should write a strongly worded minute to the publishers stressing the seriousness of the problem. He has been through all this before but it would seem that their managerial procedures do not rise above their inherent inefficiency.

