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 alterative 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 concider whether the financial position of the Society demanded an increase in the annual subscripton 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 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 nonmember 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

MR J.M. CROMAR

MR P.IKIN

MR J.J.JANSEN VAN VUUREN

MR T. KLEYHANS

MS R. KRISHNA

MR.U.PETSCH

MR G.N. VAN DER WALT

MR W.A.E. VANHOUTTE

31 Lytton Street, Observatory,

3 Bourchier Wrey, Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

1 Elanje Court, Vredehoek Avenue, Vredehoek 8001

P.O.Box 214, Patensie, 6335

48 Stander Street, George, 6530. 84 Hippo Road, Seacow Lake, Durban, 4051. Southern Cross, Valley Road, Hout Bay, 7800

P.O.Box 449, Graaf Reinet, 6280

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 consignents 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.

8. LIGHT POLLUTION

An interesting and important letter was received from Mr Brian Fraser on "Light Pollution" and was tabled for consideration by Council. He stated that the time had arrived for the Society to make its views known to the general public.

Professor Brian Warner said that the issue of the pollution of the atmosphere by lighting had become such an important matter as to cause the International Astronomical Union to appoint a commission to study the subject. Volumes had been written on the subject in the USA.

After a discussion it was decided to ask Mr Fraser to draw up a document for consideration by Council at its next meeting and which could be used as a press-release in the name of the Society. It was suggested that Mr Fraser contact Dr John Menzies of the S A A O who was a member of the relative IOU Commission.

9. THE LEARNING CENTRE CONCEPT

It was agreed to send a memorandum on the above subject from AS&TS to Mr A Hilton, Director of the Computer Section, for his comments as its contents fell within the orbit of his interest in computers.

10. SUPPLY OF HANDBOOK TO SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM

The supply of 100 copies of the Handbook to the S.A.Museum at R4.00 per copy was confirmed.

11. REVISED EDITION OF CONSTITUTION TO SECRETARIES OF CENTRES

Agreed to send copies of the Constitution to Secretaries of Centres.

12. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MENTING

Agreed to hold next Annual General Meeting on 1990 July 25 at S A A O.

13. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 1990 April 23

14. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22hl0

DATE. 23 Apr. 1990

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING: ju89-ja90

INCOME	EXPENSES	
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OPENING BALANCE	R1,455.90 SKY & TELESCOPES	R10,835.38
SUBSCRIPTIONS	23,530.00 IMPORT TAX & GST	0.00
DONATIONS	2,025.00 POSTAGE: PUBLICATIONS	1,920.87
ENTRY FEES	250.00 PRINT & DISTR - MNASSA	2,372.82
MNASSA & HANDBOOK	1,203.91 BANK CHARGES	38.00
INTEREST	529.30 : PRINTING & STATIONERY	148.70
LEVY	3,045.00 GENERAL POSTAGE	183.21
ASSETS - TRUST	715.00 ASSETS - TRUST	605.00
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SUNDRIES	476.02°! SUNDRIES	126.89
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