

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1990 June 18 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr I S Glass, President, in the Chair.
Dr T Lloyd Evans, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs E Olsen, Mrs A Strauss,
Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron, J Churms, D Duprez (Hon. Treas.)
M Soltynski, C R G Turk and the Hon. Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor Brian Warner and Mr J Bondiotti.

Professor Warner, who was Mr M D Overbeek's alternate on Council, informed Council that he would be leaving the Cape on 1990 June 22 for six months sabbatical leave. At a previous meeting of Council it had been agreed that Mr C R G Turk would deputise for him during his absence overseas.

3. DEATH OF MR JACK BENNETT

The Chairman informed the meeting of the passing of Mr John Caister Bennett, who was one of the Society's most distinguished observers, in Pretoria after a long illness on 1990 May 30 at 76 years of age. Jack Bennett was Director of the Comet and Meteor Section for many years and had the distinction of having discovered two comets both of which bear his name. He will also be remembered for having visually discovered a supernova in a distant galaxy.

The Chairman requested the meeting to rise and observe a few moments silence in memory of Jack Bennett.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1990 April 23, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. It was proposed by Mr C R G Turk and seconded by Mrs A Joubert that they be accepted as a reliable record of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) BUSINESS MANAGER: Minute No 4(iii)

Mr C R G Turk regretted that he had not been successful in locating a suitable candidate for the position, notwithstanding his unrelenting enquiries. It was agreed to place an advertisement in MNASSA and, further, to ascertain from the Cape Centre at their next meeting whether one of their members or perhaps someone known to them would be prepared to accept the position of Business Manager.

(ii) LIGHT POLLUTION

A press release submitted by Mr Brian Fraser was tabled for discussion. Council was of the opinion that, with a few amendments, it could be accepted as a reasonable statement of the situation. It was decided that it be submitted to Dr John Menzies for his comments after which it would be returned to Mr Fraser for publication on behalf of the Society.

Mr Fraser was commended for his efforts and on his suggestion that the Society might liaise with the National Parks Board.

(iii) TRANSVAAL CENTRE RULES: Minute No.10

Mr C R G Turk reported that he was of the opinion that the revised rules submitted by the Transvaal Centre were acceptable except for a few minor adjustments. He would communicate direct with their Secretary.

6. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr D Duprez, presented his Financial Statement for the period 1989 July 1 to 1990 May 31, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Adopted with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Duprez. The Hon. Treasurer forecast a surplus of R2000 at the end of June. He had good reason to believe that the Society could look forward with confidence to the next Financial Year.

(ii) MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION: Fees and Subscriptions: Item No.6

(a) It was agreed to adhere to the clause relating to overdue subscriptions viz. that a member who fails to pay his subscription by August 1 shall cease to receive publications until the subscription is paid, when all publications so withheld shall, if available, be sent to him.

(b) It was proposed by the Hon. Treasurer and seconded by Mr M Soltynski that the Constitution be amended to read as follows:-

" If a members subscription remains unpaid for three months after due date he shall cease to be a member of the Society and shall be required to pay the new entrance fee should he wish to rejoin."

Council accepted the proposal; there was one abstention. In terms of the Constitution (Item 15) ballot papers would be sent to all members entitled to vote.

The reasons for (a) and (b) above were elaborated in MNASSA volume 49 Nos. 7 & ' 1990 August page 93 "Proposed Constitutional Amendment".

(iii) HONORARIA

Council appointed a committee consisting of Dr T Lloyd Evans, Mr A D B Cameron and Mr R Hurly to discuss to whom honoraria should be paid and whether the payments should equal the annual subscription. Out-of-pocket expenses would also be dealt with.

7. NEW MEMBERS

It was proposed by Mr D Duprez and seconded by Mrs Anne Strauss that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

MR A MCKINLEY	P.O. Box 2391, Cape Town 8000
MR T B NGHALALUMA	4999 Zone 5, Pimville 1808
MR R J TEEDE	P.O.Box BW 185, Borrowdale, Harare, ZIMBABWE

CONFIRMED

8. A.S.S.A. ENDOWMENT TRUST (ASSET) - APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE

The Secretary of the Trust, Mr C R G Turk, reported a vacancy on the Board of Trustees due to the loss of one of its members. He proposed that Mr Peter Cramb of Durban and a former President of the Society be appointed to fill the vacancy. All in favour.

9. NOMINATIONS 1990/1991 : OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The following nominations were received:-

- President: Mr Jose da Silva Campos
- Vice-Presidents: Dr I.S.Glass
Dr T.H.Lloyd Evans
Mr M.Soltynski
- Hon.Secretary: Mr H.E.Krumm
- Hon.Treasurer: Mr D.Duprez
- Members: Dr D.Block
Mr A. Hilton
Mr B.D.Fraser
Mr M.D.Overbeek
Professor W.Wargau

Members of Council. As there were five nominations for four vacancies it will be necessary to proceed to a ballot.

Business Manager: No nominations

Membership Secretary: Mrs A Joubert was elected by Council for another term of office.

10. Solar Observing Section

Mr Jim Knight was highly commended for his outstanding performance as Director of the Solar Observing Section.

11. NORTH TERMINAL POINTS OF MACLEAR'S AND ABBE DE LA CAILLE'S ARC OF MERIDIAN

In a letter to Council dated 1990 June 18 Mr A D B Cameron reported that he in conjunction with Mr Keith Graham of the Trigonometrical Survey had established the positions of the two terminal points to within 1 1/2 metres. In collaboration with the National Monuments Council in Cape Town and the Archeological Department of Stellenbosch University, it was proposed to excavate the site during the first week in July 1990, in an attempt to locate a quart bottle which Maclear buried 3 1/2 feet deep below his north terminal point. Whether they were successful in finding the bottle or not, it was proposed to erect two commemorative plaques; one at, or near, Maclear's terminal point and the other at de la Caille's.

12. Closing. There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting

Date...24.7.90. Chairman...I.S.Glass at 22h30

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING: julmay89-90

INCOME		EXPENSES	
OPENING BALANCE	R1,455.90	SKY & TELESCOPES	R13,796.51
SUBSCRIPTIONS	24,961.50	CLEARING+TAX	7,696.72
DONATIONS	2,107.50	POSTAGE: PUBLICATIONS	1,920.87
ENTRY FEES	400.00	PRINT & DISTR - MNASSA	5,490.79
MNASSA & HANDBOOK	4,257.61	BANK CHARGES	173.25
INTEREST	2,349.32	PRINTING & STATIONERY	3,481.60
LEVY	3,055.00	GENERAL POSTAGE	341.93
ASSETS - TRUST	725.00	ASSETS - TRUST	605.00
	0.00		0.00
	0.00		0.00
	0.00		0.00
SUNDRIES	1,122.47	SUNDRIES	240.59
		SURPLUS	6,687.04
	R40,434.30		R40,434.30