

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1992 January 27 at 20h00 at S.A.A.O.
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr T H H Lloyd Evans, President, in the Chair.
Dr I S Glass, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs A Strauss, Messrs J Bondiotti, J. Churms, D Duprez, R Hurly, B Skinner, M G Soltynski, J Spencer Jones, C F G Turk and the Hon Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs E Willis and Mr A D B Cameron.

3. PRINCIPALS AND ALTERNATES

Refer Minute No.3 of previous Council Meeting.
Mr R Hurly and Mrs Anne Strauss were appointed alternates for Mr M D Overbeek and Mr K Wade-Lehman (Natal Centre) respectively.

4. Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1991 November 4, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. Mr D Duprez proposed and Dr I Glass seconded that they be accepted as a reliable record of the proceedings. confirmed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) CONSTITUTION : ITEM 12 - CENTRES : Minute No.5

Ballot papers to be circulated to all members of the Society. Ballot papers to be returned by 1992 March 31. The change in the Constitution would become effective from 1992 April 1 if two thirds of the members voted in favour of the change.

(ii) NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ASTRONOMY : Minute NO 6(i)

The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Dr T H H Lloyd Evans, reported that he was satisfied with the progress of the arrangements. He anticipated an attendance of 80 to 100. Name tags were being sponsored by the insurance brokers of the S.A.Museum.

Local funding was satisfactory but it was uncertain whether enough funds would be forthcoming to bring Janet Mattei to this country.

(iii) DISTRIBUTION OF SPARE COPIES OF SKY AND TELESCOPE TO CENTRES : min 6(iii)

According to a letter dated 1991 December 29 from the secretary of the Pretoria Centre, Mr Mike Haslam, they were actively promoting among the local members of their Centre the advantages of becoming full members of the Society. To this end he enquired whether Council would be prepared to him some old copies of Sky and Telescope for judicious distribution at their monthly meetings and especially at their planned public open-day in March 1992. In complimenting the Pretoria Centre on their initiative it was agreed to send Mr Haslam 30 backnumbers of Sky and Telescope.

It was decided to send other Centres small packages of the periodical to assist them in their membership drive.

It was left to Mrs A Joubert to implement Council's decision.

6. FINANCE

(i) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon Treasurer, Mr D Duprez, presented his financial statement for the period 1991 July 1 to 1991 December 31, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Proposed by Mr J Churms and seconded that it be accepted. Confirmed. With a vote of thanks to the Hon Treasurer.

(ii) REMARKS BY HON TREASURER ON FINANCIAL POSITION

The Financial Statement for 1990/1991 reflected a deficit of R3607. The Society has continued to operate at a loss which has placed a severe strain on its financial resources. Within two years our surplus funds would be reduced to zero unless the subscription were increased.

(iii) INCREASE IN THE SUBSCRIPTION

In the circumstances, Council had no option but reluctantly to agree to an increase in the subscription. After a debate it was decided to raise the annual subscription from R75 to R85 as from 1992 July 1. Members would be given three months notice in terms of Article 6 of the Constitution.

(iv) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE-HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY : GRANT-IN-AID

The Hon Treasurer reported that R350 had been received for the 1991/1992 financial year. The sum received for 1990/1991 was R500.

(v) DATE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As it was being found impossible to finalise the annual statement in time for the AGM, it was suggested by the Hon Treasurer that the date be changed to August or September. Council felt that it was not desirable to make the change and that the 4th Wednesday in July should be retained. The Hon Treasurer could give a brief survey of the Society's finances at this meeting.

(vi) SUBSIDISATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

At a meeting of Council held on 1987 April 27 it was agreed to accept a proposal by Professor M W Feast that the interest accruing from a legacy left to the Society by the late Mr I R H Brickett be used to subsidise the subscriptions of elderly members of the Society who could no longer afford to pay the full rate.

The reduced subscription originally decided upon by Council was R40 per annum. It was agreed that this now be changed to "one half of the annual subscription."

7. NEW MEMBERS

It was proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Miss P Booth that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms Article 5(1) of the Constitution-

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------|
| MR B DAVIDOW | 40 - 6th Street, Houghton | 2198 |
| MR I ESSACK | P.P.Box 3274, Durban | 4000 |
| MR M LYONS | P.O.Box 1883, Somerset West | 7130 |
| MR M J MCDONALD | 3 Tiverton Road, Plumstead | 7800 |
| MR W NEILSON | P.O.Box 945, Cape Town | 8000 |
| MR R Q ODENDAAL | Glentui Flats 56, Arcadia Street, Arcadia | 0083 |
| MR M STONK | 7 Wellington Mansions, Wellington Road, Wynberg | 7800 |

CONFIRMED

It was agreed that orders for SKY&Telescope be faxed in future to expedite distribution to new members.

8. ASTROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (ASSA)

Mr M D Overbeek informed Council that according to an article in THE STAR of 1992 January 13 a lady by the name of Mrs Heather Anderson of the Centre for Continuing Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, had formed the Astrological Society of South Africa using the Society's acronym ASSA. Agreed to adopt Mr Overbeek's suggestion asking Mrs Anderson to change the name of her group and to refrain from using the Society's acronym. There was already enough confusion in the mind of the public of the difference between "astronomy" and "astrology".

9. AS & TS AND TRANSVAAL CENTRE - VACATION OF PREMISES

Mr m d Ovebeek informed Council that the Transvaal Centre had received advance warning that they would have to vacate the Sir Herbert Baker Building on Observatory Ridge as AS & TS had found a prospective tenant who could pay a much higher rental.

In the circumstances, it was agreed to ask Mr Overbeek for his opinion on whether the Society should renew its subscription to AS & TS.

10. REPRESENTATIVE ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF I.A.U.

Foundation for Research/Development had informed Dr T.H.Lloyd Evans that his nomination as the Society's representative on the National Committee had been accepted.

Mr C R G Turk strongly recommended that an article on the I.A.U. should appear in MNASSA as very little was known about this body.

11. TELESCOPES

Mr C F G Turk reported that/^{he} was now in possession of the Lawrence 4 inch refractor which had been used by the late Mr Peter Briton. He recommended that a list of the telescopes available to members of the Society.

be published in MNASSA. In the absence of any applications the Lawrence telescope would be sent to the Cedarberg. Agreed.

12. GILL MEDAL

The Gill Medal was discussed.

13. NEXT MEETING: Agreed to hold the next meeting 1992 April Wednesday 22.

14. CLOSING: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting 22h50.

Date. *22. Jan. 1992*

Chairman. *Thomas H. H. ...*

| ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | AND | EXPENDITURE | JUL-DEC 1991 |
| INCOME | | EXPENDITURE | |
| OPENING BALANCE | (R474.30) | SKY & TELESCOPE | 11869.72 |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS | 33,169.00 | IMPORT DUTY | 1251.00 |
| SOCCDN | 1,265.00 | CLEARING | 2987.44 |
| ENTRY FEES | 310.00 | POSTAGE ON PUBLICATIONS | 2602.08 |
| MNASSA | 325.13 | PRINT&DISTR.MNASSA | 3699.00 |
| HANDBOOK | 400.00 | PRINTING HANDBOOKS | 0.00 |
| INTEREST | 1,291.32 | GENERAL POSTAGE | 94.00 |
| TRUSTDON | 615.00 | PRINT&STATIONARY | 485.23 |
| ADVERTISING | 1.60 | TRUSTDON | 0.00 |
| BANK-32-DAY ACCOUNT | 0.00 | BANK CHARGES | 87.03 |
| SUNDRIES | 350.00 | BANK-32-DAY ACCOUNT | 6000.00 |
| | 0.00 | SUNDRIES | 316.96 |
| | | SURPLUS-(SHORTFALL) | 7862.29 |
| | <u>R37,252.75</u> | | <u>37252.75</u> |