

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1992 April 22 at 20H00 at S.A.A.O.  
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

Dr T H H Lloyd Evans, President, in the Chair.

Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs A Strauss, Mrs E Willis, Messrs J Churms, R Hurly, B Skinner, M G Soltynski, J Spencer Jones, and the Hon Secretary H E Krumm.

The following up-country members of Council who were attending the Symposium were also present:-

Mr Jose Campos (Natal)

Mr Jim Knight (Transvaal)

Mr Danie Overbeek (Transvaal)

Professor W Wargau (Pretoria)

Mr B D Fraser (Transvaal)

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Dr I S Glass, Messrs J Bondietti and D Duprez (Hon. Treasurer). Mr C F G Turk informed the Hon. Secretary that he had every intention of attending the meeting but was taken ill at his office on the day of the meeting and he was taken home to see his doctor. He required total rest.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of previous Council Meeting held on 1992 January 27, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. Proposed by Mr Rupert Hurly and seconded by Mrs Anne Strauss that they be accepted as a reliable record of the proceedings. Confirmed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Of the 68 Ballot papers returned, 65 were in favour of the number being reduced from 10 to 5, while 2 were against and 1 who could not make up his mind. Those who voted yes were definitely in the majority. The change will therefore be written into the Constitution. It was suggested that the attention of Port Elizabeth should be drawn to the change.

(ii) NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF ASTRONOMY : Minute No 5 (ii)

Dr Lloyd Evans reported that so far at least 74 persons would be attending the Symposium. It was clear that it would not be possible to bring Janet Mattei to this country due to lack of funds.

Comments and suggestions put forward by Mr Jan Hers on how funds might be raised to bring Janet Mattei to South Africa, led Council to suggest that consideration might be given to the establishment of a special fund within the Society to cover future projects.

(iii) DISTRIBUTION OF SPARE COPIES OF S & T TO CENTRES : Min.5 (iii)

Mrs A Joubert reported that she had a visit from Mr Le Roux of Pretoria to whom she had given the 30 copies of S & T for that centre. Mr M D Overbeek went on to suggest that copies of S & T be handed to representatives of centres present at the meeting.

A letter from a Mr Kuhn was read to the meeting regarding the distribution of back numbers of S & T to schools. Dr Ian Glass would handle the matter and act accordingly.

(iv) ASTROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA : Minute No 8

A letter couched in the spirit of the above minute was sent to Mrs Heather Anderson. To date no reply has been received.

(v) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE -  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY: GRANT IN AID : Minute No 6 (iv)

The Hon. secretary completed the application form and handed it to the Official concerned in person as the closing date had already long expired. The Hon. Secretary explained the reason for the delay which the Official listened to with courtesy and sympathy. The impression gained was that all was well.

(vi) A.S & T.S. AND TRANSVAAL CENTRE : Minute No 9

Mr M D Overbeek replied to the effect that he had consulted the Committee of the Transvaal Centre and had been informed by the Chairman that the Centre had won a temporary reprieve and could continue to use the Sir Herbert Baker Building for the time being. Negotiations were in process regarding the permanent occupation of the building and other facilities on the site. The Committee felt that their bargaining position would be strengthened by A S S A continued membership of A S & T S and asked Mr Overbeek to convey this to Council. It was agreed to accede to the Transvaal Centre's request.

5. FINANCE

In the absence of the Hon Treasurer no Finance Statement was available. The Membership Secretary reported that 440 members had paid their subscriptions.

6. NEW MEMBERS

It was proposed and seconded that the following applicants be elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

1. MR C BEKKER 82 Melville Ave. Ontdekkerspark 1710.
2. MR P GEORGIODAKIS P O Box 784845, Sandton 2146.
3. MR B MAGUIRE P O Box 356, Constantia.
4. MR L A G MONARD P O Box 70284, Die Wilgers, 0041.
5. MR S PATHER P O Box 10772, Vorna Valley, 1686.
6. MR A L VILJOEN 1022 Koos Smal Road, Eldoraigne, 0157.
7. MISS M WALTMAN Portofinia 42, Catalinia Street, Rhodesfield, Kempton Park, 1620.

CONFIRMED.

7. A S & T S TRUST APPEAL

The Manager, Mrs J A Nel of AS & T S had sent a memorandum to all the Secretaries of their Associated and Affiliated Societies in connection the A S & T S Trust Appeal. The Chairman, Dr H I Schwartz, had drawn up a letter which it was their intention should be sent to all members of the above Societies. Council agreed to inform the members of our Society by including copies of the letter in MNASSA at a fee of 10 cents per insertion, 460 would be required. The letters to be sent to the Membership Secretary.

8. RHODES UNIVERSITY: ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Students at Rhodes University had formed an Astronomical Society and wished to become affiliated with A S S A as a Centre. Although they could muster 5 members (see change in Constitution) none was unfortunately a member of our Society. Arising out of further correspondence it was now decided to suggest to them that they join A S S A as a "Society" member in terms of Article 5 (1) of the Constitution. Being a body consisting of students, fluidity was another aspect which had to be considered.

9. NATURE

A circular letter was received from the International Marketing Manager of NATURE to the effect that they were offering a special subscription rate to South African scientists. He would like to circularise our members and asked for our help. It was agreed that he should send us 460 leaflets for insertion in the MNASSA or a half of a full page advertisement.

10. THANKS

Fraser

Mr Brian/thanked Council for their efforts on behalf of the Society. He singled out Mr Churms as Editor of MNASSA and Miss Pat Booth for the compilation of the Handbook.

11. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mr R Hurly asked the up country members to let us know whether they had any nominations for members of Council.

12. NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

Agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday 22 June 1992.

3. CLOSING

There being no further business the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 22H26.

DATE:

22 June 1992

CHAIRMAN:

1. [Signature]