

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
Minutes of COUNCIL Meeting Held on 1 February 1993

- 1 PRESENT :
M G Soltynski, W Wargau, H Krumm, A Joubert, J Spencer-Jones,
J Churms, P Booth, B Skinner, A Cameron, R Hurly
D Duprez, C D Allen, J Bondiotti, C Turk.
- 2 APOLOGIES : T Lloyd-Evans and I Glass
- 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : Accepted subject to a
correction to item 5.
- 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :
 - 4.1 STATIONERY : C Turk has agreed to provide letterhead
stationery in A4 and A5 size. Master copies to be
provided.
 - 4.2 SYMPOSIUM : Prof W Wargau discussed having the 1993
A.S.S.A. symposium at UNISA in Pretoria on 27 & 28 Sept
1993. He will finalise cost, venue etc and report back to
Council at the next meeting. MG Soltynski to organise a
preliminary announcement to go out with the next mailing to
members.
 - 4.3 HELDERBERG CENTRE : Bill Hollenbach or their Centre Rep to
be invited to the next Council meeting.
- 5 FINANCE : Income and expenditure statement presented.
No increase in subscriptions likely in the
immediate future.
- 6 NEW MEMBERS : List of new members provided by Ms A Joubert.
Mr C Turk proposed that they be accepted
pending publication of their names in MNASSA.
- 7 ROYAL SOCIETY :
Request for ASSA's views on Science Policy by the Royal
Society of South Africa. Council felt that Science was very
necessary and that Standards in Science had to be maintained.
It was suggested that Astronomy be taught as a school subject.
MG Soltynski to reply to Royal Society.

- 7.1 SCIENCE POLICY : Mr K Gottschalk provided a set of guidelines for the "popularising" of astronomy. This he regarded as vital in order to ensure the continued funding of scientific research in the new South Africa.

Points made were:

- * ASSA should establish a committee for formulating a strategy with respect to Astronomy policy. This should have a five year plan and a ten year goal. It should have access to government and the Science establishment.
 - * ASSA should establish a projects and fund raising committee.
 - * ASSA should make contact with Association of Scientific and Technical Societies.
 - * Each Centre should have a membership secretary and have a membership drive aimed at schools and Technical Colleges.
 - * A library of Astronomy related videos should be established. Videos could be made by Centres and the SAAO.
 - * Groups should be brought in from the Townships and be given an interesting Astronomical evening.
 - * A star party on a large scale could be arranged regularly at the various Centres.
- Mr Gottschalk referred to his presentation given at the ASSA Symposium in April 1992 (MNASSA vol 51 Nos 7 & 8 August 1992).

- 8 MACLEAR'S ARC OF THE MERIDIAN : In Progress under the guidance of Messrs R Hurly and ADB Cameron.

9 GENERAL :

9.1 Mr T Cooper thanked for his accepting of the portfolio of Director: Comet & Meteor Section.
Mr A Slotegraaf is congratulated on the quality of the first Deepsky section newsletter.

9.2 A list to be drawn up containing the following data:
The names of all office-bearers; The names of all Honorary members and holders of the various awards; what publications these persons are entitled to; who is sent minutes of proceedings of Council. This list to be placed in the Minute book as a permanent record, and updated annually.

9.3 Brochure to be revised by M Soltynski & A Joubert and copies to be provided to the SAAO, SA Planetarium and Cedarberg Observatory.

9.4 Messrs W Hirst and Dr Fuhr have requested that Sky & Telescope not be sent to them. Mr J Da S Campos would not be sent Sky & Telescope because he now lives in Portugal.

- 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING : 29th March 1993 at 19H30.

