

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
Minutes of COUNCIL Meeting Held on 8 February 1994

1 PRESENT :

Prof W Wargau in the chair, M G Soltynski, H Krumm, A Joubert, J Spencer-Jones, J Churms, P Booth, B Skinner, D Duprez, C D Allen, J Bondietti, P van Blommestein, C Gray and A Slotegraaf.

2 APOLOGIES : None

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING : Accepted subject to addition of item 15 which had been omitted. (see 4.6 below)

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES :

4.1 HONORARIA SUB COMMITTEE: After due consideration it was proposed that the following Council members be given a R200.00 per annum allowance: Hon Secretary, Business Manager/Membership Secretary, Hon Treasurer, MNASSA Editor and Handbook Editor. This allowance is to be paid in advance at the start of the Society's book year every July. It was agreed that the date of implementation would be 1/1/1994.
Proposer : MG Soltynski Seconder : J Bondietti

4.2 HON TREASURER: Upon hearing of the vacancy, Colin Gray has volunteered his services to Council. He has been co-opted to the position of Hon Treasurer as from mid-January 1994. Council expressed its thanks to Mr Gray for his support in the Society's hour of need. Proposer : MG Soltynski
Seconded : D DuPrez

4.3 SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS: This will run to some 195 pages and 675 copies are required. The preferred size will be A4 provided the costs are subsidised by UNISA. Should no subsidy be forthcoming, it will be printed in A5 format. This publication will replace one issue of MNASSA.
Proposer : J Churms Seconder : A Joubert.

4.4 MNASSA FORMAT: Examples of the new format were presented and accepted with praise and thanks to the new Editor, Auke Slotegraaf. A full list of members is to be published soon. It was proposed that MNASSA be posted no later than a week after the publication date, and not wait for Sky & Telescope deliveries which are often late. Neither should Sky & Telescope wait more than a week for MNASSA.
Proposer : MJ Soltynski Seconder : J Churms.

- 4.5 TRANSFER OF CAPITAL MONIES TO THE TRUST: The proposal was voted on and defeated by nine votes to three. It was proposed by Mr D Overbeek that Council have but two bank accounts: a current account for day-to-day expenses and an investment account for accumulated monies that are kept for future use. The new Hon Treasurer, Colin Gray will see to the implementation of this proposal which was seconded by D DuPrez.
- 4.6 V.A.T. ON REVIEW BOOKS: Due to the efforts of J Spencer-Jones the Dept of Trade & Industries has amended its ruling, i.e. V.A.T. is now paid on books (received for purposes of revue) valued at over R100 only. (The limit used to be R40).
- 5 FINANCE: Council wish to express its thanks and appreciation to Danie Overbeek for his generous donations to the general fund of the Society over the past several years and regret not having been informed of this occurrence earlier. This was probably as a result of these donations having been classified as "unspecified" income.
- 6 NEW MEMBERS: The following were duly accepted by Council: Drs JM Jordaan, JH Pretorius and DP Smits, Mesdames F Hobson, JL Pieterse, Pepper and MS Brazelle, and Messrs LL Donlin, J Davidson, SC Stylli, DB Mann, AC Loubser, BB van Dam, N Meyer, CPG van Tonder, CP Skeen, G Pearce, E Resnik, PT Crook, AW van Winsen, J Whiteman, J Ashton, A Hari, PC Bosman, A Stander, and K Retief; as well as CL Rijdsdijk (on behalf of the Diocesan College, Rondebosch).
- 7 CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Mr Danie Overbeek read and evoked much discussion. Most points have been dealt with elsewhere in these minutes. He suggested inter alia that: (1) A membership list be published in MNASSA (2) A sub committee to allocate administrative tasks more efficiently be established. (This committee comprises: Colin Gray, Audrey Joubert and Brian Skinner) (3) That Council use the electronic media now available for communication. MNASSA to solicit E-Mail numbers from members and publish them.

Letter from Edward Carey on Astronomy Education read to Council. This is to be passed on to Cliff Turk for his consideration.

Letter from Mr Michael Poll read. He will receive a personal reply. Points raised: Explanation form letter re: Sky & Telescope to new members, publicising ASSA and sending excess Sky & Telescope to Centres.

Letter from Mr LJ Mwanjabala of Tanzania read. He will be sent membership details and asked to send research material to the MNASSA editor for publication.