

**ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 1997 at the S.A.A.O.**

**1 PRESENT:**

Dr R Stobie(in the Chair), Ms P Booth, Messrs C Gray, C Turk, B Skinner, MA Gray, MG Soltynski, R Hurly J Bondietti and C Rijdsdijk,

**2 APOLOGIES:**

Drs D Smits and D Kilkenny, Mrs A Joubert, Messrs D Overbeek, H Krumm, J Spencer-Jones, T Cooper, J Hers, CD Allen, P van Blommestein and D Duprez.

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING held on 9 September 1997:**

These were corrected and signed. (Corrected version attached hereto).

**4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**4.1 Symposium:** The Johannesburg Centre has not responded to item 4.4 in the minutes of the Council meeting of 9 Sept. (See item 8.4 below)

**4.2 Council Alternates:** Mr R Hurly will discuss further participation with Mr H Krumm.

**5 FINANCE:**

Report tabled by the Hon Treasurer. Mr C Rijdsdijk will investigate the viability of adding the ASP publication *Mercury* and their *Newsletter* to the list of options for ASSA members.

**6 NEW MEMBERS:**

All new membership applications were accepted in abstentia because of the absence of the Membership Secretary.  
Proposed by Mr MA Gray and seconded by Mr C Gray.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**7.1** Correspondence presenting opposing views on the subject of a format change were received by the MNASSA Editor as a result of his request for comments in three issues of Vol 56. The letters from Messrs A Hilton and Cooper was read to the meeting.

It was noted that it had earlier been agreed by the Publications Sub-Committee that there would be no format change to either MNASSA or the Handbook.

**7.2** Electronic communication with Sky & Telescope re: delivery problems, was read to the meeting.

**8 GENERAL:**

**8.1 1998 YEAR OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:**

Dr R Stobie explained the Government's proposal and Mr C Rijdsdijk described his work on detailed proposals on how Astronomy would be popularised during 1998. He has requested that all the ASSA Centres become involved in this project to increase public awareness of science in general and astronomy in particular. Enquiries should be sent to C Rijdsdijk at the SAAO P O Box 9 Observatory 7935.

**8.2 ASSA CERTIFICATES:**

It was proposed by Mr A Slotegraaf (Director, Deep Sky Observing Section) that Sections be allowed to award certificates of achievement to observers to further encourage participation by ASSA members.

After discussion it was decided that Council would institute three certificates:

- (1) ASSA Order of Merit - Issued by Director of Observing Section
- (2) ASSA President's Award - Issued by the President of Council at the A.G.M..
- (3) ASSA Membership Certificate - Issued to all members

The exact titles of the certificates is still to be agreed upon.

Sections are invited to submit to Council a list of reasonable criteria for which certificates (1) and (2) will be awarded to observers in their Section.

Rules for the issue of these certificates will be ratified by Council.

Mr C Rijdsdijk has agreed to design the certificates on Council's behalf.

Proposed by C Turk and Seconded by MA Gray.

**8.3 MNASSA**

Requests for advertising space have been received.

**8.4 SYMPOSIUM:**

It was proposed that the ASSA Symposium be held in Cape Town on Mon 6 and Tues 7 July 1998 because there are numerous members who would like to attend the ASSA Symposium and the South African Institute of Physics Annual Conference which is to be held at UCT from 8-10 July 1998. (See 8.5 below)

The SA Museum is to be approached by Dr R Stobie for the use of their venue.

Drs Ian Glass and Tom Lloyd Evans have agreed to being conveners for the ASSA Symposium 1998. They are both willing to do this provided this involves just the scientific aspects of the meeting and that someone else is responsible for the administrative aspects.

Proposed by C Rijdsdijk and Seconded by R Hurly.

**8.5 A.G.M.:**

It was proposed that the ASSA AGM be held on 8 July 1988 so that members who come to Cape Town to attend the ASSA Symposium or SAIP Conference can attend this during their visit.

Proposed by C Turk and seconded by M Soltynski.

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19 January 1998.**

*Robert S. Stobie*

19/1/98