

Minutes of the ASSA Council meeting held on
9 September 1996 at the SAAO.

1 PRESENT: R S Stobie (in the Chair) P van Blommestein,
P Booth, R Hurly, C Gray, M A Gray, C Turk,
B Skinner.

2 APOLOGIES: D Smits, A Joubert, A Slotegraaf, T Cooper.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Read and approved.

4 MATTERS ARISING:

4.1 Handbook advertising rates: It was agreed that from
the 1997 issue the cost of an advertisement inside the
Handbook will be R120 per page. The cost of advertising
on the back cover will be R150 per page.

Proposed: C Turk Seconded C Gray

4.2 Donations to ASSA are yet to be acknowledged by letter.

5 ELECTION OF ALTERNATES:

The following were elected to speak for Members of
Council not residing in Cape Town:

MEMBER

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A Hilton (President)
D Overbeek (Vice President)
C Raubenheimer (V-President)
D Smits
T Budge
T Cooper
Jhb Centre
Natal Midlands
Harare Centre
Pretoria Centre

ALTERNATE

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Andrew Gray
Pat Booth
Rupert Hurly
Maciej Soltynski
Jack Bondietti
Cliff Turk
J Spencer Jones
Harold Krumm
Audrey Joubert
Charles Allen

Proposed by P van Blommestein Seconded by R Hurly

6 FINANCE:

The Hon Treasurer provided a status report showing that
the finances are in a healthy state - provided that the
Rand/Dollar exchange rate does not deteriorate much
further.

Dr Stobie proposed a vote of thanks to Colin Gray for
his dedication to the arduous business of keeping the
books properly. Seconded by P van Blommestein.

7 NEW MEMBERS:

The following new members were elected:

Messrs S L Brits, G C van Rooyen, and S J du Plooy.

Proposed by M A Gray Seconded by R Hurly.

8 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Natal Centre offering to host the 1997
Symposium was read. See item 9.

Correspondence (email) from Sky & Telescope expressing
concern about declining subscription renewals was read
to the meeting.

9 SYMPOSIUM 1997:
Council has welcomed the Natal Centre's offer to host the 1997 Symposium. Council approved of their organising this event and applauds their initiative. They are reminded that there can be no financial assistance from Council other than to offer to publish the Proceedings in the volume of MNASSA succeeding the Symposium (1998).

10 GENERAL:

- 10.1 MNASSA: South African professional Astronomers will be requested to consider publishing some of their research papers in MNASSA. This will increase local content; the real reason for having an ASSA Journal. R Stobie for action.
- 10.2 SAAO are hosting an open night at Sutherland on 21/9/96
- 10.3 SALT: A new opportunity for SALT has arisen through a collaboration between SA and the USA; namely to construct a 10-m class spectroscopic survey telescope and site it at Sutherland; this will be the largest optical/infrared telescope in the southern hemisphere and be built for less than the cost of a general purpose 4-m class telescope.
- 10.4 1998 has been designated Science & Technology Year.
- 10.5 Handbook: The possibility of distributing this to a wider public through retail Stationers or bookshops was discussed. C Turk to approach C.N.A.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5 November 1996.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:15

Signed: *P. B. Brouwerstein* Date: *5. 11. 96*