

**ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
HELD ON 16 March 1998 at the S.A.A.O.

**1 PRESENT:**

Drs R Stobie (in the Chair) and D Kilkenny, Ms P Booth, Messrs R Hurly, C Turk, B Skinner, MA Gray, C Rijdsdijk, C De Coning, J Spencer-Jones, P van Blommestein, D Duprez and J Bondietti.

**2 APOLOGIES:**

Dr D Smits and Messrs, D Overbeek, T Budge, A Hilton, T Cooper, C Gray, MG Soltynski, J Hers, and CD Allen,

**3 MINUTES OF MEETING held on 19 January 1998:**

These were accepted as a true record and signed.

**4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**4.1 Symposium:**

There was much discussion after which it was moved that the Symposium be held over until 1999 to allow the organisers more time to prepare for the event. A volunteer convenor is to be sought.

**4.2 Council Alternates:**

The Harare Centre Representative proves not to have renewed his membership. C Turk will contact the Centre to arrange for them to appoint an alternative representative to Council.

**4.3 Award Certificates:**

All Section Directors are to be asked to send their Section's award earning criteria to Council for ratification. The Comet & Meteor and DeepSky Sections have already submitted their criteria. **The other Directors are requested to respond before the next Council meeting.**

Once all criteria has been submitted and agreed upon, the design of the certificates can be finalised and arrangements made for printing.

**5 FINANCE:**

No report tabled by the Hon Treasurer; since accounts are presented quarterly.

**6 NEW MEMBERS:**

All new membership applications received since the last Council meeting were accepted as members.

Proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Mr MA Gray.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 7.1 Mr Jan Hers reports that a new Garden Route Centre has been established in the Knysna / Sedgefield area. C Turk attended the inaugural meeting on behalf of Council and reported that there were 28 founder members including two former ASSA Presidents, namely Mr P Smits and Mr J Hers. The names of the committee were provided but the Centre is yet to appoint a Council Representative.
- 7.2 The Natal Midlands Centre has requested that their AGM be brought forward to June in an effort to avoid the holiday season which causes a poor turn-out at meetings held in July. Approved unanimously.
- 7.3 The Director of the Solar Observation Section has agreed to resume paying his own subscriptions.

**8 GENERAL:**

- 8.1 Historical Section: The Director has expressed his intention to create a database of all South African astronomical sites, persons and artefacts. C Rijdsijk provided him with a letter from Trevor Gould which will start his collection of facts.
- 8.2 After some discussion it was decided to review membership criteria and the nomenclature used to differentiate between Centre members and other members of the Society. Messrs C Turk and J Bondietti will submit proposals to the next meeting. The feasibility of having a central register of all ASSA and Centre members will be examined.
- 8.3 It was reported by C Rijdsijk that a new Centre could soon be established in the Northern Province.
- 8.4 S.A.L.T.: Dr R Stobie reported that the concept of SALT has been approved in principle by a Committee of Ministers; but has still to achieve Cabinet approval before it can become reality. Poland has shown a willingness to become a partner in the project.

**9 A.G.M.:**

The AGM is to be held on July 22 in Cape Town. \*\* Note the change \*\*

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22 June 1998.**