

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON 9 November 1998 at the S.A.A.O.

All present marked the passing of Mr WC Bentley, ASSA President in 1970/1, by observing a minute's silence before the meeting commenced.

1 PRESENT:

P van Blommestein (in the Chair), Drs D Kilkenny and A Mahomed, Ms P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Messrs MG Soltynski, C Gray, J Bondietti, D Duprez, G Bosch, B Skinner and C Rijdsdijk.

2 APOLOGIES:

Drs R Stobie and, Messrs J Spencer-Jones, MA Gray, R Hurly, C Turk, C De Coning and all up country members.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING held on **21 September 1998** were approved and signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 Symposium:

The Symposium is to be held on 29 & 30 March 1999 at the SA Museum.

4.2 Membership Nomenclature:

C Turk and J Bondietti are still to meet to discuss changes in the classes of membership.

4.3 Award Certificates:

C Rijdsdijk tabled the proposed documents and requested that the Observing Sections submit reasonable award criteria. The three certificates will be: 1. Certificate of Merit (for encouraging new observers) 2. Advanced Observer's Award (for more experienced amateur observers) and 3. The President's Award (for specific achievements, to be specified in a citation printed on the certificate) The final certificates will be chosen from a selection to be tabled at the next meeting of Council. All certificates will be numbered and Section Directors will keep a record of to whom certificates were awarded.

4.4 Council Alternates:

Dr Abe Mahomed and Mr Gordon Bosch were welcomed to the meeting and elected as alternates for the Pretoria and Johannesburg Centre Representatives respectively. Mr Mike Christianson was also approached and accepted the invitation to act as the Alternate for the Natal Midlands Centre representative. Proposed D Kilkenny and Seconded by P van Blommestein.

It was decided that the names of all Council members and Alternates would be published in MNASSA so that members would become aware of who their representatives are on Council.

4.5 Herschel Medal:

Mr MG Soltynski has communicated with the SA Cultural History Museum and the loss of the medal will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Royal Society of South Africa.

5 FINANCE:

The Hon Treasurer presented the audited accounts for 1997/8 for signature. These were duly signed by Mr P van Blommestein who proposed a vote of thanks to Mr R Glass of Zeller Karro for auditing the books. The Treasurer's quarterly report was tabled and discussed.

6 NEW MEMBERS:

There were ten new members names tabled. All were accepted subject to their names being published in MNASSA.

7 CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters received from Johannesburg and Harare centres informing Council of the names of their Committees and Council Representatives. This information was given to the Handbook Editor for publication.

8 GENERAL:

8.1 It was proposed that an Imaging Section be established. The intention is to have a section which will cater for the interests members working in both photographic and electronic imaging disciplines. A call for a Director for this Section is to be published in MNASSA. Proposer: C Rijsdijk Seconded by: G Bosch.

8.2 Mr J Bondiotti has documentation pertaining to the SA Museum Planetarium which is to be donated to the Historical Section.

8.3 Mrs A Joubert has given notice of her intention to vacate the position of Membership Secretary as from the end of the current Society year. A suitable replacement needs to be found. B Skinner proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Joubert for her efforts on behalf of members.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9 February 1999.