

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD ON 9 February 1999 at the S.A.A.O.

1 PRESENT:

Drs R Stobie (in the Chair), D Kilkenny and A Mahomed, Mrs A Joubert, Messrs J Spencer-Jones, P van Blommestein, C Turk, J Bondiotti, G Bosch, B Skinner.
M. Christiansen

2 APOLOGIES:

Ms P Booth, Messrs MG Soltynski, D Duprez, C Gray, M A Gray, R Hurly, C De Coning, C Rijdsdijk and all up country members.

3 MINUTES OF MEETING held on 9 November 1998 were corrected 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:

Hon Sec to write to all Centres to request their membership lists. It was proposed by C Rijdsdijk and seconded by P van Blommestein that these be used to establish true ASSA membership.

4.3 Award Certificates:

Hon Sec is to write to Directors of the Observing Sections to request that they re-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) All certificates will be numbered and Section Directors will keep a record of to whom certificates were awarded.

4.4 Imaging Section:

There was some discussion on the feasibility of establishing an Imaging Section to co-ordinate the photographic and CCD observations of members. As nobody present wanted to serve as Director, Hon Sec will approach certain Cape Centre members regarding directorship.

4.5 Herschel Medal:

Mr MG Soltynski's letter to the Royal Society the loss of the Herschel medal was read. The matter will be handled by the Royal Society of South Africa.

5 FINANCE:

The signed audited accounts for 1997/8 were tabled. These will be discussed at the next meeting. McIntyre Award: These funds were in danger of being lost by the investors. After investigation by Mr C Turk, Syfrets have agreed that the capital will be paid to ASSA at end February '99. It was proposed by Mr B Skinner and seconded by Mrs A Joubert that any money recovered from the McIntyre bequest be paid into the ASSA Endowment Trust. This proposal was adopted unopposed.

6 NEW MEMBERS:

There were eight new members names tabled. These were all accepted subject to publication in MNASSA.

7 CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters and email received since the last meeting were read.

8 GENERAL:

- 8.1 Honorary members: Current number is 9 of a possible 15.
- 8.2 Mr T Gould will represent the ASSA at the Meteoritical conference to be held later in 1999.
- 8.3 Minutes: Minutes of Council meetings will be sent to Directors of Sections.
- 8.4 Observing Section expenses: Directors need only write to the Hon Treasurer giving details of expenditure (and receipts where possible) in order to be reimbursed.
- 8.5 MNASSA: The erratic appearance was questioned. Mr C Turk explained the cause as the complicated procedures of publication, printing and distribution.
- 8.6 It was noted that the Review editor was having difficulty getting certain books from overseas because Customs are demanding VAT to be paid.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20 April 1999.

Peter van Brounswijk