

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON 20 April 1999 at the S.A.A.O.

1 PRESENT:

Mr P van Blommestein, (in the Chair), Dr A Mahomed, Messrs C Turk, G Bosch, B Skinner, C Gray, M A Gray, C De Coning, M Christianson, C Rijdsijk, Mr Simon Walsh, chairman of the Harare Centre was welcomed to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES:

Drs R Stobie & D Kilkenny, Ms P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Messrs MG Soltynski, D Duprez, R Hurly, and all up country members. *J. Spencer-Somes.*

3 MINUTES OF MEETING held on **9 February 1999** were amended by adding Mr M Christianson to the list of those present, and signed.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 Symposium:

The Symposium was held on 29 & 30 March 1999 at the SA Museum and attended by 34 persons. Council expressed its disappointment at the low attendance due to the apathy of members. Dr T Lloyd-Evans will arrange the publication of the papers presented at the Symposium in MNASSA.

4.2 Award Certificates:

Hon Sec and Mr C Rijdsijk will complete the work on this issue. The Observing Sections who have not submitted award criteria will have generalised criteria assigned for the awarding of certificates to observers. 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.

4.3 Imaging Section:

Mr C Rijdsijk has offered to direct the Imaging Section in order to co-ordinate the photographic and CCD observations of members. As soon as an alternative person is found to serve as Director, he will stand down in favour of this person.

4.4 Herschel Medal:

The Royal Society of South Africa has undertaken to try and have the medal replaced.

4.5 Membership lists from Centres:

The following Centres have sent their membership lists as requested:

Natal Centre

Natal Midlands Centre

Council thanks these centres for their co-operation and request the other centres to kindly send their lists so that we can work out just how many people Council represents.

5 FINANCE:

5.1 Symposium:

Due to the low number of participants and low entrance fees, the Symposium made a loss of R3 300. After lengthy discussion, the Hon Treasurer proposed that the loss be accepted. Proposed by M A Gray and seconded by C Turk.

5.2 The financial report dated 31 March was tabled and discussed.

6 NEW MEMBERS:

None tabled but all new applicants will be accepted subject to their names being published in MNASSA. Proposed M A Gray, seconded by G Bosch.

7 CORRESPONDENCE:

7.1 Letters and email received since the last meeting were read.

There was a nomination for the Gill Medal which was invalidated for technical reasons. This will be held over until next year and the proposer is to be asked to re submit, following the rules as they appear in the Constitution.

Mr C Rijdsdijk objected to the objection by Mr C Turk and that the matter be discussed at the next meeting.

7.2 The Natal Centre has informed Council of the need to change its name. It is likely to become the Durban Centre. Their Representative will contact them in this regard.

7.3 Mr C de Villiers has offered to create a WWW site for the ASSA at a cost. This is not needed because the ASSA is represented on the MNASSA site.

8 GENERAL:

8.1 The Harare Centre chairman, Simon Walsh expressed the centre's gratitude for the free handbooks and mnassa sent to them. The Harare centre's email address is Zimbabweeclipse@hotmail.com

8.2 There have been small changes to the Harare Centre Rules.

8.3 The 2001 total solar eclipse will be used by the Harare Centre to raise public awareness of astronomy.

8.4 Membership Secretary: Dr Abe Mahomed has offered to do this job as from the next Annual General Meeting. Proposed by M A Gray and seconded by C Turk.

8.5 Annual Handbook: Ms Pat Booth is commended for her work on the Handbook and an Editorial sub committee was mooted to assist her in her work and to upgrade the Handbook. The sub committee proposed is: Case Rijdsdijk, Rupert Hurly, Pat Booth and Prof A P Fairall. [Note: Only C Rijdsdijk was present at the meeting.] Proposed by C Turk and seconded by P van Blommestein.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18 May 1999.

Pat Blommestein

20 Nerine Ave
Pinelands
7405, South Africa

Tel: (021) 531-5250

27th April 1999

The Secretary
ASSA
12 Redgum Avenue
THORNTON
7460

Dear Mr. Skinner

We wish to nominate the following persons for election to the offices as shown for the year 1999/2000.

President	Prof D. Smits
Vice Presidents	Mr. P. Von Blommestein Mr. M.D. Overbeek Dr. D.M. Kilkenny
Members of Council	Miss P. Booth Mr. T.W.E. Budge Mr. T.P. Cooper Mr. C. Rijsdijk
Secretary	B. Skinner
Treasurer	C.D. Gray

All the above have indicated their willingness to stand.

Yours faithfully


.....
C.R.G. Turk.


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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Honorary Treasurer's Report to Council on Tuesday 20 April 1999.

The third quarter of the financial year shows an operating surplus of R4000, mainly due to pleasing Handbook sales and bringing to account Mnassa receipts into the new calendar year. In addition, R1200 has been received (at last!) from Syfrets to close the McIntyre Award capital sum. Net assets are thus now up to R49000, but it must be remembered that little income will accrue in the last quarter. Nevertheless, a good position for us to be in.

As always, however, a cloud must appear, this time in the form of a letter from Sky and Telescope increasing the annual subscription by \$5, equivalent to R31. Fortunately, the letter they sent in early March went astray, so we have two months respite before the Rand subscription goes up to R310.

Members are being advised to send in their cheques by the end of May to avoid the increase!


Colin Gray

Bergvliet

April 1999

BALANCE SHEET at 31 March 1999

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

31 Mar 1999

30 June 1998

Surplus at 1 July	23286	5794
Surplus for 9 months	<u>24712</u>	<u>17346</u>
	47998	23140
Funds transferred from McIntyre	<u>1455</u>	<u>146</u>
	49453	23286

REPRESENTED BY CURRENT ASSETS

Cash resources		
32 days notice account	50546	33067
Plusplan account	8794	9159
Payments in advance	<u>719</u>	-
	60059	42226

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Owing to Asset	591	350
Fees received in advance	2920	10400
Payments received in advance	<u>7095</u>	<u>8190</u>
	10606	18940

NET CURRENT ASSETS

R49453 R23286

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE 9 MONTHS ENDED 31 March 1999

INCOME	This quarter	Year to date
Subscriptions	680	15500
S&T subs	3070	11390
Interest	1757	4954
Entrance fees	200	400
Mnassa Sales	7095	17416
Handbook Sales	8281	8401
Advertising	-	-
Donations	-	<u>1570</u>
	<u>21083</u>	59631
EXPENDITURE		
Sky & Telescope	3340	11063
Mnassa production	4122	9315
Handbook production	6063	6063
Postage on Mnassa	1879	4196
Postage on Handbook	526	526
Printing & Stationery	188	235
Bank charges	773	1650
General postages	205	371
Honoraria	-	1500
Section expenses	-	-
	<u>17096</u>	<u>34919</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>3987</u>	<u>24712</u>

CASH RECONCILIATION at 31 March 1999

Cash at 1 July		
32 day notice account	33067	
Plusplan account	<u>9159</u>	
		42226
Add		
Surplus for 9 months	6122	
Owing to Asset	591	
Transferred from McIntyre	1455	
Fees received in advance	2920	
Payments received in advance	<u>7095</u>	
		<u>18183</u>
		60409
Less		
Paid to Asset	350	
Paymnets in advance	<u>719</u>	
		<u>1069</u>
		59340
Cash at 31 March		
32 day notice account	50546	
Plusplan account	<u>8794</u>	
		<u>59340</u>