

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON 23 Nov 1999 at the S.A.A.O.

1 PRESENT:

Mr P van Blommestein, (in the Chair), Drs A Mahomed and D Kilkenny, Ms P Booth & G Quick, Messrs, C Gray, B Skinner, R Hurly, M Christianson, G Bosch, MG Soltynski, M A Gray, C Turk, D Duprez

2 APOLOGIES:

Messrs C Rijdsdijk, C de Coning and all-up country members.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were read and corrected before being signed.

3.1 Award Certificates:

In hand.

3.2 Handbook:

The Editorial Committee who will endeavour to restructure the Handbook have to report progress to the next meeting of Council.

3.3 Web presence for A.S.S.A.

The Internet page for the ASSA will be checked. Members will report findings to next Council meeting. The ASSA Constitution will be made available on the web page.

3.4 Symposium 2001

The Harare Centre have offered to host the ASSA Symposium 2001 at a date to be confirmed. Council suggested June 2001 for Harare and possibly Dec 2002 in Pretoria.

3.5 Comet & Meteor Section Monogram

The Director is to submit a quotation with price to Council. It was suggested that the monogram be made available on the ASSA web page as a .pdf file.
Section Monogram
Proposed D Kilkenny and Seconded by D Duprez.

4 FINANCE

The final audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 1999 were tabled and signed. Funds left over from the ASSA Symposium at UNISA will be transferred to the ASSA account (see item 7.2). *see item 6.3*

5 NEW MEMBERS

Four new members' names read. All were accepted subject to their names being published in MNASSA. Proposed by C Turk and seconded by M Christianson. Membership is now 209.

6 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 6.1 Letters and email received since the last meeting were read.
- 6.2 Letter from D Overbeek read and discussed. See proposals below.
- 6.3 Letter from D Smits re: ASSA Symposium money in bank account found at UNISA.
- 6.4 Letter received from J Spencer-Jones (alt for Pretoria) resigning from Council due to his relocation to South America.
- 6.5 Letter received from C de Villiers regarding the viability of a "Double Star Observation Section". See below.

7 GENERAL:

- 7.1 Mr D Overbeek proposed that Council consider providing each Centre with a banner bearing the Society logo for display at Centre meetings and events. B Skinner obtained quotations from two suppliers and provided samples of banner material and a sample banner for consideration by Council. The idea was discussed and rejected because it was felt that Centres would not use the banners and around R3000 would have been wasted. Referred back so that it can be put to the Centres for their opinion.
- 7.2 Mr D Overbeek proposed that Council consider producing a brochure describing the Society for distribution to Centres. After discussion it was decided that the "Application for Membership" form is sufficient for the purpose.
- 7.3 Book Review Editor: The departure of Mr J Spencer-Jones means that a new review editor is required. Mr MG Soltynski volunteered to be Book Review Editor and will write to Mr J Spencer-Jones.
- 7.4 New Alternate for Pretoria Centre: Mr A Jones was proposed by C Turk and seconded by D Duprez.
- 7.5 Double Star Section: Mr Chris de Villiers of van Rynsdorp has offered to establish an Observing Section for double star enthusiasts. Proposal by C Turk and seconded by P van Blommestein that C de Villiers be the Director.
- 7.6 Harare Centre: Council regrets to hear of the passing of Mr Cees Mesu, the Council Representative of the Harare Centre.
- 7.7 Astronomical Society of Georgia (Russia): C Turk proposed that this society be sent our publications in return for theirs sent to us. Seconded by D Duprez.
- 7.8 Zambia: Council noted the interest in astronomy shown by people in Zambia and await direct contact with them. ^{Dr} Mr P Martinez of SAAO is in contact with the persons concerned.
- 7.9 Imaging Section: A photo competition was mooted to increase awareness of the fledgling section. D Duprez will solicit ideas and report back to Council.
- 7.10 Dark Sky Week: An annual Dark Sky Week was proposed by Cliff Turk and seconded by R Hurly. The following co-ordinators were elected: C Turk, R Hurly and A Jones.
- 7.11 Centres: Mr C Turk proposed that Centres each be given a subscription of MNASSA and the Annual Handbook. Seconded by M Christiansen.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15 February 2000.

P. van Blommestein

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Honorary Treasurer's Report to Council on Tuesday 23 November 1999.

The accounting surplus for the quarter of R28000 is derived mainly from the advance payments by members for their current subscriptions, as well as funds from Mnassa overseas subscribers for the balance of the 1999 calendar year.

Both these amounts, totalling R20000 have been brought to account this quarter.

The "reminder" letter sent out by the Membership Secretary in July has had the desired effect, so that more than 50 tardy members have paid up in response. It appears that members are over the 200 mark now, a healthier position on our way back to 400.

With a net asset worth in excess of R70000, the hon. auditor has commented to me on the likelihood of paying tax in the near future, something too ghastly to contemplate! But we start the millennium in good shape.



Colin Gray

Bergvliet

November 1999

BALANCE SHEET at 30 September 1999

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

30 Sept 1999

30 June 1999

Surplus at 1 July	42436	23286
Surplus for quarter	<u>28123</u>	<u>18895</u>
	70559	42181
Funds transferred from McIntyre	<u>-</u>	<u>255</u>
	<u>70559</u>	<u>42436</u>

REPRESENTED BY CURRENT ASSETS

Cash resources		
32 days notice account	53377	52063
Plusplan account	<u>20056</u>	<u>13391</u>
	73433	65454

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Owing to Asset	2874	2640
Subs received in advance	-	10720
Payments received in advance	<u>-</u>	<u>9658</u>
	<u>2874</u>	<u>23018</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS

R70559

R42436



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

INCOME STATEMENT for the Quarter ended 30 September 1999

INCOME

	This quarter	Year to date
Subscriptions	4320	15040
S&T subs	7845	7845
Interest	1466	1466
Entrance fees	120	120
Mnassa Sales	180	9838
Handbook Sales	495	495
Advertising	-	-
Donations	<u>1108</u>	<u>1108</u>
	15534	35912

EXPENDITURE

Sky & Telescope	277	277
Mnassa production	3631	3631
Handbook production	-	-
Postage on Mnassa	1913	1913
Postage on Handbook	-	-
Printing & Stationery	44	44
Bank charges	26	26
General postages	-	-
Honoraria	1500	1500
Section expenses	<u>398</u>	<u>398</u>
	<u>7789</u>	<u>7789</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>7745</u>	<u>28123</u>

CASH RECONCILIATION at 30 September 1999

Cash at 1 July		
32 day notice account	52063	
Plusplan account	<u>13391</u>	
		65454
Add		
Surplus for quarter	28123	
Owing to Asset	<u>2874</u>	
		<u>30997</u>
		96451
Less		
Owing to Asset	2640	
Mnassa payments in advance	9658	
Subs received in advance	<u>10720</u>	
		<u>23018</u>
		73433
Cash at 30 September		
32 day notice account	53377	
Plusplan account	<u>20056</u>	
		<u>73433</u>