

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL
Held on 11 April 2000 at the S.A.A.O.

1 PRESENT:

Mr P van Blommestein, (in the Chair), Dr A Mahomed & D Kilkenny, Ms P Booth, Messrs, C Gray, B Skinner, MG Soltynski, C Turk, G Bosch, and A Jones.

2 APOLOGIES:

Messrs M Christianson, D Duprez, M A Gray, C Rijdsdijk, R Hurly, C de Coning and all up country members.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved and taken as a true reflection of the business of the meeting. G Bosch proposed and A Mahomed seconded that these be signed.

3.1 Award Certificates:

A sub committee proposed the criteria, which was discussed (see attachment A). This will be sent to the Observing Section Directors for comment. Proposed C Turk & seconded by P van Blommestein.

3.2 Handbook:

The Editorial Committee has not met as intended. As there has been no movement on this issue for two years, it was decided that the Handbook Editor should continue her good work ~~unobstructed~~. Proposed C Turk & seconded by P van Blommestein.

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

The ASSA web site is to be discontinued until such time as a replacement can be found. The Hon Sec is to write to A Hilton to instruct him to decommission it. An alternative is to be sought. Proposed by C Turk and seconded by P van Blommestein.

3.4 Imaging Section Competition

The Director has requested funds to be used for prizes for the astrophoto competition as advertised in MNASSA. Further details will follow.

3.5 StarWeek 2000

The partnership with Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens proved successful and will be repeated.

3.6 Brochures

The membership application form has been reworked into brochure format. C Turk will arrange for 500 brochures to be printed ~~and distributed~~.

4 FINANCE

- 4.1 The income statement was tabled. This shows a healthy surplus over expenditure. Members of Council responded to the invitation for ideas on how to use some of the funds to benefit the members with the proposals following in 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, & 4.5.
- 4.2 Scholarship / Bursary:
Two proposals were received from Messrs MA Gray and MG Soltynski suggesting that Council establish a bursary for study at tertiary institutions. A sub-committee comprising Prof D Smits, Drs D Kilkenny & A Mahomed and Mr MG Soltynski who will research the issue and make detailed recommendations with costs to the next meeting was proposed by C Turk and seconded by G Bosch. *Max R4000*
- 4.3 Time signal:
Mr D Overbeek indicated the need for accurate and reliable time signals for astronomical timings. He will make a full proposal once he has established what it will cost to have an appropriate radio time signal.
- 4.4 Subscriptions to overseas publications:
Mr D Overbeek proposed that Observing Section Directors be allowed to subscribe to overseas publications pertinent to their Section's needs. Applications with costs are to be made to Council for consideration.
- 4.5 Memorabilia:
Mr B Skinner proposed that members be provided with either:
- Society ties @ R57.00 each
 - Society blazer badge @ R28.50 each
 - Lapel badge / brooch @ R10.00 each (+ R587.00 one-off cost)

After discussion it was proposed that 500 Lapel badges will be commissioned at the quoted price. These will be provided to new members and old members on renewal of their subscriptions.

Proposed by B Skinner and seconded by CD Gray.

5 NEW MEMBERS

One new members was accepted subject to his name being published in MNASSA. Proposed by A Mahomed and seconded by G Bosch.

6 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 6.1 Letter from D Overbeek read and discussed. See proposals 4.3 & 4.4 above.
- 6.2 Solar Section: This Observing Section has become dormant and will cease to be included in the Annual Handbook list of Sections until it becomes active again. Proposed by MG Soltynski and seconded by C Turk.

7 GENERAL:

- 7.1 It was proposed that Messrs M Begbie and M A Gray be elected as Honorary Members of the above Society. They will receive all publications and continued subscription to Sky & Telescope. This was adopted unanimously. Proposed by C Turk and seconded by P Booth.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20 June 2000.

Peter L. van Brouwerstein
20/6/2000

Guidelines for the awarding of Observing Certificates

1. General observer's certificate

Awarded to members reporting observations made during at least three observing sessions. The award will be made at the recipient's local Centre AGM if possible.

2. Director's Award certificate

Awarded to members making and reporting observations considered worthy of an advanced certificate of merit. The criteria are to be left to the discretion of the Section Director, but could include dedication, persistence despite physical disability, quantity, quality, value, uniqueness, and so on. This certificate may be awarded more than once to a member provided it is for a different reason each time. Council is to be informed of all recipients and their names will be published in MNASSA.

3. President's Award certificate

Awarded by Council - acting upon written motivations made by the Section Director - to a member making really exceptional multiple observations. The Section Director will write the citation to go with the award, which is to be presented at the Society's A.G.M.. The recipients names will be published in MNASSA and the Annual Handbook.