

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL  
Held on 2000 September 5 at the SAAD

Tues. 13 Feb.

1. PRESENT:

Dr A Mahomed, Miss P Booth, Messrs G Bosch, M Christianson, D Duprez, D Field, C Gray, M Soltynski and C Turk (in the chair).

2. APOLOGIES:

Messrs P Van Blommestein and B Skinner and all out of Town members.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes which had been circulated prior to the meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the previous meeting subject to one minor change. M Christianson proposed and M Soltynski seconded that these be signed by the chairman as soon as the original copy in the Secretary's records is to hand.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 Award Certificates:

In the absence of Mr C Rijdsdijk there was no report. Held over to next meeting.

4.2 Internet Web Page:

Messrs Bosch and Soltynski reported considerable progress and had a disc available for display after the meeting on Mr D Duprez's laptop computer. Council members were pleased with the results and arrangements were made for missing email addresses etc to be supplied to Mr Bosch for insertion in the appropriate places. Once the project is completed, Mr Soltynski will make arrangements with Dr L Balona for the page to be hosted by SAAD.

4.3 Comet & Meteor Section Monogram:

No report back available. Held over to next meeting.

4.4 Imaging Section Competition:

Mr D Duprez reported very little interest - only 5 pictures had been received - and suggested that it may be better to persuade local Centres to hold their own competitions to get members into the swing of things.

In the past this has worked well in the Cape with probably about 70 entries from one Centre alone. Once similar interest has been engendered in other areas, a Society-wide competition will be more acceptable. Perhaps winning entries from Centre competitions could automatically be entered for the Society competition.

4.4 Scholarship Sub Committee - report back

Mr M Soltynski laid before Council a written proposal for a scholarship which received full support and the following resolution was carried unanimously on a proposition by Mr M Soltynski and seconded by Mr D Duprez:

Council resolves to set up a Scholarship on the basis of the document presented to it, a copy of which is appended to these minutes and has decided that:

- 1) A suitable notice informing all members be published in MNASSA
- 2) The relevant Sub-committee be appointed by Council annually at its first meeting after the AGM

- 3) The Treasurer be authorised to set aside the sum of R40000.00 for this purpose *in an interest bearing account* ✓  
4) That names of recipients be published in MNASSA

#### 4.6 Time Signal provision

There was no further information available. Held over until next meeting.

#### 4.7 Dark Sky Section

Still awaiting the appointment of a Director, but Mr Turk reported that the International Dark Sky Association have advised they intend to publish our present progress world-wide as encouragement to others.

#### 4.8 Banners

Two Centres - Cape and Natal Midlands - have indicated they would like to have banners to display'

#### 4.9 Lapel Badges

These have been received and distribution has started. If Centre members who are not Full members of the Society would like a badge, they can order them at a cost including postage of R15.00 each from the Membership Secretary.

#### 4.10 Solar Section Director - vacancy

No proposals to fill this post have yet been received. Held over to next meeting.

### 5. FINANCE

The Treasurer, Mr C D Gray presented the unaudited accounts up to the end of June and was thanked for all his efforts. The Society has clearly turned the corner financially and Council looks forward to considerable progress in the future.

### 6. NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were accepted subject to their names appearing in MNASSA on a proposal by Dr A Mahomed seconded by Miss P Booth.

### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

In the absence of the Hon Secretary due to sickness, there was no correspondence other than that already on the agenda under General. It was however noted that this was the first meeting which the Secretary had missed since taking office in 1992.

### 8. GENERAL

8.1 Arrangements were made as far as possible for Alternates for out of town members of Council, but this could not be fully completed. Mr Duprez indicated he did not wish to continue as an alternate and as there are now more out of town members, some more alternates must be found. Already we have three Council members acting for others for whom new alternates should be found. A list of Council Members and Alternates where appropriate is appended to these minutes.

#### 8.2 Overseas Visitors:

Overseas visitors for a special function are expected to visit Johannesburg and Cape Town during November and Council was requested to try to find funding assistance plus arrange for them to present "educational" talks. It was decided to refer this to SAAO's Education Officer, Mr C Rijdsdijk, and to Prof A Fairall of UCT and the

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8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2000 at 20h00 at SAAO

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*Peter van Gommestein*  
 13 / 2 / 2001