

Minutes of the A.G.M of The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (Natal Midland Centre) held at The Royal Hotel, 201 Burger St. P.M.Burg on Tuesday 24th July 1979 commencing 7.45pm

There were 12 members present plus 2 visitors
Apologies Mr. A. Cooper, Mrs. S. Dale, Mr. R. Dale,
Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. N. Prosser, Mrs. C. Mahon.

The Chairlady, Mrs. S. Dale was unable to attend so Dr. G. Prosser took the chair in her place.

Dr. Prosser declared the meeting open and welcomed all the members and visitors.

He extended the Centre's thanks to Mrs. Kuypers of The Natal Parks Board for coming to show the film.

The agenda was read and accepted by the members present. The film "Newton" was screened, after which Dr. Prosser again thanked Mrs Kuypers for presenting the film.

After tea break the minutes of the A.G.M held on the 26th July 1978 were read and confirmed by Mr. Allday.

Matters Arising

Mr. Lake said that we should consider the suggestion made at the previous A.G.M. to combine meetings with The Natal Centre, it was generally felt that the price of petrol would not permit this but if the possibility arose it would certainly be considered. Mr. Lake also enquired whether The Natal Centre had contemplated holding another symposium.

Mr. Barker replied that this was in fact being discussed at present by the Natal Centre Committee.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was read by Dr. Prosser and is attached herewith.

Treasurer's Report

As the treasurer was not present Dr. Prosser read the report which is attached herewith. Dr. Prosser proposed a vote of thanks for Mrs Dale's work for the Centre throughout the year.

Election of Committee Members

Dr. Prosser proposed that the election of office bearers be left to the incoming committee. This was seconded by Mr. Allday.

Committee Members

Mr. P. De Winnaar	proposed by M. Jackson
	seconded by G. Kay Hardo
Mrs. S. Dale	proposed by G. Kay Hardo
	seconded by G. Prosser
Mrs. D. Stielau	Proposed by G. Kay Hardo
	seconded by G. Prosser
Dr. G. Prosser	Proposed by C. Lake
	seconded by J. Watson
Mr. C. Lake	Proposed by G. Prosser
	seconded by G. Kay Hardo
Mr. J. Watson	Proposed by C. Lake
	seconded by G. Prosser
G. Kay Hardo	Proposed by G. Prosser
	seconded by C. Lake

Mr. Lake proposed that we close the nominations as we had enough nominees to form a committee. Mr. Lake proposed a vote of thanks to the past secretary for all his time spent during the year keeping members informed of celestial events.

General

Mr. J. Watson brought up the matter of our constitution. He mentioned that a new constitution had been proposed by A.S.S.A. and if this constitution was accepted there are various rules that our centre will have to conform to. Mr. Watson suggested that if our centre cannot, or will not follow the constitution then it should disband, and those people interested should form a club which would then not be connected to A.S.S.A. in any way. Mr. Lake felt that it would be difficult to find speakers for the monthly meetings if the centre disbanded, but it was pointed out that the centre rarely has speakers that are not committee members. It was felt that this was due to the low membership and general lack of enthusiasm amongst members.

Mr. Allday said that the new committee should discuss this at their first meeting and if necessary call a special general meeting to hear member's views on the subject. Several members brought up points for and against

Being affiliated to A.S.S.A. and after some discussion it was decided to leave the matter to the new committee. It was agreed that the majority of members wish to remain as a recognised body. Mr. Watson asked if the minutes of each committee meeting could be circularised to all members, Dr. Prosser felt that this would be too expensive, but both Mr. Watson and Mr. Jackson answered him that photo copying could be done at a very reasonable rate.

Mr. Barker suggested that the committee ask for more participation from members of the centre, he said that members should not expect the committee to do all the work.

Dr. Prosser proposed that we change our constitution so that we can elect fewer members on to the committee. Mr Kay-Hards seconded this. It was proposed that the constitution be posted to all the members of the centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Col. Ross