

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA - NATAL
MIDLANDS CENTRE HELD AT THE COLLEGE FOR FURTHER
EDUCATION AND TRAINING, HAUGLOEK ROAD, PIETERMARITZBURG
ON WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 1984

There were 15 members present and 1 visitor
Apologies were received from 6 members.

Mr Lake declared the meeting open and welcomed everyone present.

Minutes of 1983 AGM held on 27th July were read and accepted (Proposed L. Hunt Seconded T. Coertze).

Matters arising - none.

Chairman's Report - Mr Lake reviewed the milestones in the life of the Centre over the past 5 to 6 years, before reading his report. In his report, Mr Lake reviewed the activities of the past year, and thanked the College of Education, the Committee and members for their participation.

The report was accepted (Proposed A. Weller, Seconded T. Brophy)

Treasurer's Report - Mrs Carling distributed a statement of Income and Expenditure reflecting a balance of 289-92 (Bank 274-05, Cash 15-87).

The report was accepted (Proposed T. Brophy, Seconded W. de Lange)

Presentation - Mr Lake presented the outgoing Secretary (Mr J Watson) with a book token.

Message from Andrew Gray - the surprise of the evening was a taped message from Mr M.A. Gray who was responsible for the founding of the Centre 10 years ago. He recalled the initial get-together in the Bar at the Royal Hotel on 15/2/74, followed by a Public Meeting on 28/3/74 at the Royal Hotel, which was attended by some 200 people. He also reminded us of the farewell presentation made to him by the Centre when he left Natal to move to Johannesburg in 1981. Congratulations and best wishes were followed by "Sands of the Giant Planets".

Election of 1984/85 Committee

The following were nominated and elected "en bloc".

Mesdames C. Cuthing, A. Weller

Messrs J. Watson, C. Lake, P. Moore, R. Jarman,
J. Strauss, T. Coertze

(Proposed R. Dale, Seconded R. Frost)

Other Business

Mr L. Hunt proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

10th Anniversary

A small social with snacks and other refreshments followed the formal business of the evening.

J. Watson
CHAIRMAN

Ann Weller
SECRETARY.

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE 1983/4 REPORT

It gives me pleasure to be able to report a satisfactory year for the centre. 10 meetings were held during the year and I must at the outset voice thanks to the Natal Education Department and the Rector for allowing us to hold our meetings here. (Also to Mrs. Farr, the Collage secretary who arranges the cups and key).

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the committee for their valued support during the past 12 months. Everyone at one time or other has stepped forward and contributed towards the success of the various meetings in particular our Durban members like Mr. Ray Field and Jose Campos. In particular I would like to single out our efficient and hard working secretary who for the past two years has produced, compiled and printed our monthly newsletter at very little cost to the society. I would also like to thank particularly our lady treasurer, Carol Couling, who has handled our finances so well for the last two years.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

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|----------|---|
| 8/8/83 | Visit to Umgeni Valley Ranch |
| 14/9/83 | Open discussion
"Galaxies" (C. Lake) |
| 12/10/83 | "Astronomical Terms" - short talk by Members, topics drawn from hat.
Sounds of the giant planets.. |
| 9/11/83 | Non-geoid Earth (P. Moore)
"Hang ups in the running down of the Universe" - (Mr. B. Eagle) |
| 7/12/83 | Christmas dinner at Crossways. |
| 8/2/84 | Contributions from members - "A Dobsonian Saga" (C. Lake)
The Moon and phases (P. Moore) |
| 14/3/84 | Forum - "Mars 1" - (R. Jarman)
"Norton Comes Alive" (R. Field) |
| 11/4/84 | Viewing at Julian and Frank Kiepiel's home |
| 9/5/84 | Izinkanyezi Report back
Plans for occultation
Astrophotography (G. Prosser) |
| 13/6/84 | "Schoolchildrens Eclipse" (C. Lake)
"Aberration" (J. Watson)
Mars 2 (R. Jarman) |

The highlight of the year in my considered opinion was the display at the Y.M.C.A. which not only informed the general public about ourselves but made us the recipients of the "Best Society" exhibit and we thank all contributors for that.

Viewing has been beset by numerous problems. I am convinced that there must be some strong correlation between weather and occultations, however we do have a number of enthusiastic viewers and of late have had in monitoring the recent occultation of Saturn by the moon on Saturday 14th followed by a miss of Star 14957.

Some of our members have continued to disseminate information to various societies and schools.

In conclusion I would like to wish members, sister centres and all amateurs good skies and a successful year ahead.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JULY 1984

INCOME

Brought forward from 1983	R174-99
Teas	15-33
Handbooks	14-00
Membership fees	222-00
Update Barc. Bank savings book - interest	40-43
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	R466-75

EXPENDITURE

Tips - teas	2-50
Stamps, envelopes and printing	62-32
Advert Natal Witness	14-40
A.S.S.A. Subs	25-00
Hobbies Fair	9-00
Wardkiss - repairs telescope	15-11
Subs - International Timing Ass.	16-00
Tea, milk and sugar	10-00
Handbooks	22-50
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	R176-83

Cash on hand	R15-87	
Cash at Bank	274-05	R289-92
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		R466-75