

Minutes of AGM of the Opticometrical Society held at Haverlock College  
Haverlock Road P.W.B. on 16 July 1986 at 7.30 pm.

There were 19 members present and 1 visitor. Apologies were received from 4 members.

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of the 1985 AGM held on 24 July 1985 were read & Accepted.

Matters Arising - None

Chairman's Report: Mr Watson reviewed the activities of the centre during the year and said that 10 new members had joined. He thanked members for their participation & also thanked the rector of the college and the committee. Mr Watson mentioned in particular the highlight of the year which was the Holey Comet Walk held at Nottingham Road during April. The Report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Mr Coertze handed out a statement of Income and expenditure showing a balance of R476.09. The report was accepted.

Elections of 1986/1987 Committee

The following were nominated

Rudy Jermains

Brenda Kane

John Lawrence

Bianca Van Hoogdalem

John Watson

Tommy Coertze

Geoff Prosser.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.00pm and tea was served. This was followed by a talk by John Watson.

Chairman  
J. Jermains

Secretary  
B. Kane

A.S.S.A. - Natal Midlands Centre

Chairman's Report 16 July 1986

It again gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Centre of A.S.S.A. over the past year.

At the outset, I would like to thank all the members of the Centre for their support and enthusiasm during the year, especially my fellow committee members. There has been a pleasing increase in the willingness of many members to get involved and make a significant contribution to our various activities, and the resultant team-work has been most encouraging.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was the visit of Halley's Comet. Not only did this event give us plenty to do, but also provided the Centre with a great deal of publicity and attracted a considerable number of potential new members. Apart from our involvement in the Halley Watch Week at Nottingham Road during early April, many members were also engaged in giving talks to schools, clubs and societies, on comets and other aspects of astronomy.

At the same time, the somewhat more 'regular' activities of the Centre have continued, and mention must be made of all the members who have given talks and led discussions at our monthly meetings. It is also good to report some progress in the formation of smaller, localised groups getting together for informal viewing and discussion, and I hope that this will gather momentum in the coming year. Unfortunately there has been no activity related to the observation of occultations this year, and Dr. Geoff Prosser is the only member involved in regular observation of variable stars. Very few members have taken the opportunity to borrow the Centre's 6" telescope, and due to the uncertainty that has existed regarding a permanent venue, little use has been made of the Centre library. As a Centre we were well represented at Izinkanyezi 1986 at Bushman's Nek, and the venue for our Xmas party was a great improvement on the previous year.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the past year has been personally enjoyable and challenging, and I regret that due to business pressures and increased commitment to other activities, I am unable to continue as Chairman of the Centre, but am prepared to continue to serve on the committee in some small way if needed. I believe that as a Centre we must

- a. Find a permanent and more suitable venue as soon as possible
- b. Seriously consider changing the day of our monthly meetings
- c. Concentrate on the formation of small localised and/or special interest groups and embark on projects involving small teams
- d. Fully exploit local expertise, especially in terms of getting support from the University staff

J.W.Watson

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JULY 1986

INCOME

Brought forward from 1985	R231-58
Teas	20-07
Handbooks	32-00
Membership fees	290-00
Donation - Henley Midmar Yacht Club - Halley week	30-00
Interest Barc. Bank savings book	5-26
Sale of Ties	30-50
Proceeds from viewing Halley's comet - Nottingham	
Road function	<u>1192-35</u>
	R1831-76

EXPENDITURE

Tips - teas	3-60
Stamps and envelopes and printing	130-13
A.S.S.A. subs	45-00
P.O. Box rental	10-00
Tea, coffee, sugar and milk, cups and spoons	10-84
Christmas Dinner - guests	17-92
Nottingham Road function - Halley's comet	1117-18
Projector hire	15-00
Subs Publicity Association	<u>6-00</u>
	R1355-67

Cash on hand	R30-79	
Cash at Bank	R445-30	<u>476-09</u>
		R1831-76

*T. F. Boetzig.*  
*Treas. 14.7.86*