

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at City Computers on 13 July 1994 at 7.30pm

1. The meeting was attended by 13 members, with 3 apologies.
2. The Chairman, Mr T.Chance, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and thanked City Computers for the use of their premises.
3. Due to the Centre's minute book having been temporarily mislaid, it was not possible for the Minutes of the 1993 Annual General Meeting held on 14 July 1993 to be read or distributed. It was therefore agreed to accept the verbal report of Mr J.Watson as being correct.

4. Matters Arising

The only matter raised was Instrumentation - Mr T.Chance responded by informing the meeting that this would be discussed later on the agenda.

5. Chairman's Report (Prop: R.Jarmain Sec: B.Lawrence )

Mr T.Chance summarised the programme of activities of the Centre during the year. In particular, he made mention of:-

- a) The Centre's 20th Anniversary celebrations in April 1994
- b) Various educational endeavours, including the Adult Education course currently in progress at the University of Natal
- c) The donation of the 5" Dancer refracting telescope by Mr A.Gray, and the now urgent need to control the Centre's instruments and plan for a permanent Observatory.

He thanked the Committee and all others for their support.

6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: B.Lawrence Sec: A.Norris )

Mrs H.Chance presented the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the previous year, which reflected a closing balance of R 481-71, a loss of some R 1000.

By way of explanation it was noted that:-

- a) The previous year's closing balance had been inflated due to payment of fees in advance for the Amateur Astronomy course.
- b) Unusual expenditure had been incurred in respect of the Anniversary celebrations.

A proposal was put to the meeting (Prop: R.Joubert, Sec: M.Christianson) that annual membership subscriptions be increased by R 5-00 in each category. This was agreed to unanimously after a short discussion. The revised annual subscriptions will therefore be:-

<u>Members</u>	R 30-00	<u>Couples</u>	R 40-00	<u>Pensioners &amp; Students</u>	R 20-00
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7. Election of New Committee

The following members were nominated and elected :-

Mesdames S.Dale, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson and H.Chance

Messrs R.Jarmain, T.Chance, M.Christianson, S.de Vos and J.Watson

## 8. Instruments

Mr J.Watson reported that he had collected all the Centre's instruments (other than those under construction) for the 20th Anniversary gathering, and they were now cluttering up his caravan.

It was agreed that the new Committee would:-

- a) Appoint a Curator of Instruments who would find a more suitable storage place.
- b) Form a sub-committee to seriously explore the possibilities of erecting an observatory, and also to complete the construction of the 12" reflector with the help of Dr G.Prosser.

## 9. Other business

- a) Links with the local University of Natal have been established, and it is hoped to strengthen these in the future.
  - b) The upcoming Jupiter 'event' has been widely publicised - the Centre will host a 'public' viewing at Worlds View on 16/7/94 (10.00 pm)
  - c) Natal Centre are planning IZINKHANYEZI 1994 in August.
10. The meeting closed at 8.45pm, after which coffee and snacks were enjoyed by all present.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



# ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — 13/7/94.

### MEMBERS

TIM + HILARY CHANCE.

MIKE + LORRAINE CHRISTIANSON

ARMINE' NORRIS

Rusty Jarmain.

Rogan Roth.

Jon and Bianca LAWRENCE

Allen Verfeld

ROY JOUBERT

John Watson.

Steve de Vos

### VISITORS

### APOLOGIES

S. DALE

P. HAWKINS

G. PROSSER



It is once again my pleasure to report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Centre for the past year namely 1993/94.

The Society has had a busy year, with the following activities at scheduled monthly meetings.

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|--------------|---|
| August 93    | A presentation on gravity given by John Watson.   |
| September 93 | A bring and share evening on the Electromagnetic Spectrum - co-chaired by John Watson and myself.   |
| October 93   | A talk on SETI - the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence by Bianca Lawrence.  |
| November 93  | Sheila Dale discussed the library, and this was followed by a video "Cosmos" kindly loaned by Ivan Schroeder.   |
| December 93  | Our annual Christmas party took the form of a dinner at Fernhill. There was a disappointing turnout, and also a few upset tummies later.  |
| February 94  | A presentation on Space Stations given by myself, and followed by a brief look at astronomical events in the year ahead by John Watson.   |
| March 94     | A double feature - with an in depth look at the Constellation Crux by the committee members, followed by a video of the Voyager encounter with Miranda, kindly lent by Ray Forder.  |
| April 94     | The highlight of the past year was our 20th anniversary. We held a cheese and wine party in the library auditorium, at which the guest of honour was our founder, Andrew Gray. Attendance was once again poor, although the Durban centre was well represented. |
| May 94       | A planned viewing evening at Chris and Veronica Collingwood's house was thwarted by inclement weather, but the second half of Ray Forder's voyager tape was a most informative substitute.  |
| June 94      | We had a look at the Constellation Scorpius, preceded by a library report by Sheila Dale and a report back by John Watson and Sheila Dale on the possibilities of greater co-operation between the University and ourselves.                                    |

Despite the poor attendance figures at the monthly meetings, membership has grown slightly during the course of the year as we welcomed Steve de Vos, Ivan Schroeder, Michael and Lorraine Christianson to our ranks, while sadly we lost Ann Turton who emigrated to the United Kingdom.

Apart from the monthly meetings, the Society's committee has been very active with various viewing sessions, talks and Adult Education Courses.

Talks have been presented to the Philatelic Society, the Land Service Camp, ITC, Settler's Park Preprimary, the National Women's Register, the Girl Guides, The Probiz Club, the Museum and the Boy Scouts; While viewing evenings have been held with the Guides (clouded out), the Ladysmith Centre, the Land Service Camp, the Saint Charles Boys (at Boston) and the Astrology Society - at Midmar (clouded over - supposed to be a braai - left us standing in the car park with a bag of charcoal and they went to dinner at the hotel).

Two Education Courses have been/are being run with the University Adult Education Centre - this year low turnout.

Public meeting on the Jupiter impact was held at the Museum was well attended by the public, with not much support from members. Planned viewing session this Saturday at the car park of the Girl Guides Camp at World's View.

The society has welcomed the donation of the Dancer telescope, a 5" Reflector, by instruments remain a problem. With the Society's 12" gathering dust. There is a need for an observatory, possibility of a site at World's View Girl Guides camp.

Kerry Hampson in the USA will be arranging to have a star named after the Natal Midlands Centre, but although we suggested renaming Alpha Crux, I don't think we'll get our way.

It now just remains for me to thank the members of my committee, especially my wife, without whose support I wouldn't have been able to be as involved as I have been, and also you the members of the Society for your continued support during the past year.



R.T. CHANCE.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1994

INCOME

Brought forward 92/93	Bank	1200.42	
	Cash	287.07	
Subscriptions		931.23	
Handbooks		110.00	
Donations		4.00	
20th Anniversary Party		150.00	
Interest		27.97	
Astronomical Course		<u>273.74</u>	
	TOTAL		2984.43

EXPENDITURE

Annual Payments			
ASSA Subscription		85.00	
PMB Publicity Association		30.00	
Post Box Rental		33.00	
Purchase of Handbooks		80.00	
Refreshments		63.78	
Stationery/Photocopying		449.90	
Postage		367.20	
Christmas Party		-	
AGM 92/93		100.99	
Films/Slides/Transparencies		104.76	
20th Anniversary Party		340.82	
Astronomical Course		645.83	
Cheque returned		45.00	
Book - Library		17.50	
Cards, Gifts etc		38.94	
Donation Andrew Gray		100.00	
Carried Forward	Bank	373.58	
	Cash	<u>108.13</u>	
	TOTAL		2984.43