

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, K.Hampson, B.Lawrence, S.de Vos, J.Watson
P.Hawkins

Apsols: R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Most enjoyable Xmas Party at Victoria Club - pity, more members did not go.
- b) Sympathy card sent to family of P.Moore

3. Planning

February 14/2/96 - monthly meeting - plans for Observatory during 1996
- 'look around' the skies for 1996
- video 'Planet X' - BL to supply

March 13/3/96 - monthly meeting - constellation of Gemini

Future - TC prepared to talk on Winged Spaceflight

4. Membership

- a) New members - Lionel Hedder Prop: S.de Vos Sec: J.Watson
Peter Raftery Prop: M.Christianson Sec: P.Hawkins
- b) Marie Dyer died from cancer just before Christmas

5. Correspondence

- a) Newsletters etc from other Centres
- b) Council minutes - new Address and new Application form
- c) Izinkhanyezi application from Natal Centre - planned for 16-19/5/96.
- d) Dept of Educ & Culture - annual registration completed & posted
- JW to investigate an annual grant

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand as per previous meeting
- b) Account to be sent to E.Kleinmans re Xmas party - did not arrive as promised.

7. STARDUST

RJ has agreed to prepare next edition on his return from holiday

8. Library

- a) 'Ex Libris' labels have been prepared by TC
- b) PH made contact with collector of old Astro books in Florida USA - is keen to buy and/or exchange for other Astro material.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Natal Witness - no response to letter sent in November re observatory
- will send a further letter re observatory, and also to offer contributions to 'Dates in History' and a monthly astronomy feature
- b) Public lecture last week - poorly supported, but 7 prospective members
- c) Letter written to Howick 'Village Talk' & also to Mr Hanau (Sci & Tech)

- d) Radio interview arranged for MC on SAFM programme 'Lifestyle' - due for broadcast on 25/1/96 at 1.30pm - publicity for observatory.
- e) Observatory fundraising - plan an Astronomy Evening for 18/5/96

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Plans have been passed by Mzinduzi TLC
- b) Much fundraising effort required - estimated cost R 30 000.
- c) Telescope-making classes - PH to contact L.Barendse (Pretoria Centre)

11. Education

- a) Advanced Astro Course - TC to consider all the pros & cons & content.
- b) JW gave slide shows to Scouts and Cubs at their pre-Xmas camps at the World's View campsite.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 19 MARCH 1996