

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, J.Watson

Apols: P.Hawkins, H.Chance, S.de Vos, M.Christiansen.

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

2. Matters arising

- a) Letter written to Natal Witness re UFO Society
- b) JW still to make contact with A.Scafturis re missing telescope parts - has tried a couple of times without success.
- c) Defaulters not yet culled - JW to meet with HC to finalise list
- d) Nothing further from University re 'Roseveare' telescope - C.Lake confirms that the 'Roberts' refractor came from Durban (Natal Centre).
- e) Talk at last meeting excellent - well done Tim Chance!

3. Planning

- May 8/5/96 - monthly meeting - News/Forum/Astro Evening in June  
- Constellations of Virgo, Corvus & Crater  
16-19/5/96 - IZINKHANYEZI at Everglades
- June 15/6/96 - Astro Evening at Worlds View - observatory publicity and fundraising
- July Basic Astro course at Umgeni Valley  
A.G.M. - never too early to start thinking about this ?

4. Membership

- a) New member - Charles Pert Prop: R.Jarman Sec: K.Hampson
- b) Prospects - Dr Gerald Baldrey, Graham Barratt, Duncan Blackhurst

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from A.Arnold re lack of interest in Izinkhanyezi, and also a further appeal for lecturers.
- b) Chatty note from Bulawayo Astro Soc - obviously not aware that TC is leaving S.Africa - JW to write and tell them.

6. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1665-19 Observatory fund R 713-13
- b) Secretarial expenses claim R 363-24.

7. STARDUST

- a) May 96 edition well in hand
- b) RJ will be away in June - TC has agreed to prepare June issue before he leaves at end of May.

8. Library

- a) Not possible for A.Jarman to sell old duplicate copies of S&T - suggest advert in Natal Witness 'Under R100' column - KH to let RJ know the dates of the S&T that are available.
- b) TC's planetray slides have been copied - no charge, as they were included in the same film used for talk on Winged Spaceflight

- c) 'Journey through Time' too expensive at this stage - all resources going towards building of observatory.
- d) R.Ginslove has borrowed books etc from library, but has not yet become a member of the Society - must only lend out to ratified members - JW to write him a stern letter.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Sub-committee for Astro Evening/'Star Party' in June was elected at last monthly meeting (10/4/96) - will meet on Sunday 21/4/96.
- b) Letter from BL to be printed in May edition of STARDUST re fundraising for the observatory, together with a sheet of raffle entries to each member.
- c) Letters written to
  - i) SABC asking for TV coverage
  - ii) Radio Maritzburg for publicity
  - iii) Corobrick, asking for materials
- d) Letters to be written to other Pietermaritzburg companies/businesses ? - refer to Observatory sub-committee.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) RJ looking at 3" reflector - P.Tarboton also interested.
- b) G.Prosser may be interested in 16"/17" mirror
- c) PH has contacted surveyor Ricard<sup>h</sup> Boote (w-453520,h-460988) who is willing to assist.
- d) TRUE North/South line has been set as planned - group to meet at site on 20/4/96 to mark out foundations - thereafter the digging starts !!
- e) Good work done on 13/4/96 by volunteers clearing the young wattle/gums.
- f) JW has arranged for a man from Sweetwaters to take away firewood, but he doesn't appear to have done much yet ?

11. Education

- a) RJ to contact/set up meeting with J.Stewart (Wildlife Soc) re Astro course in July.
- b) Advanced Astro Course - TC and JW to draw up list of topics.
- c) JW to give illustrated talk to Henley Midmar Yacht Club on 4/5/96 on the topic 'On a clear night you can see forever' - also include some tips on astro navigation.

12. General

Cutting from Natal Witness re "Bird House" to be sent to Andrew Gray.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING  
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WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 1996  
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NB - NB - NB - NB ----->

By special request of the Chairman  
& other committee members who cannot  
meet on Tuesday as usual.