

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 15/5/96

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

Apols: M.Christianson, H.Chance

Visitor: L.Christiansen

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted after the inclusion of M.Christianson's apologies.

2. Matters arising

- a) A.Scafturis contacted - he still has the telescope parts, and would like to renew his membership.
- b) Defaulters culled from mailing list.
- c) Letter to Natal Witness re UFO Society published
- d) Last monthly meeting went O.K. - minimal participation from the floor ?

3. Planning

- June 12/6/96 - monthly meeting - finalise last minute details of the Astro evening on 15/6/96
 - video from BL's collection
- 15/6/96 - Astro evening - to be held at Midmar Historical Village
 - to be called 'A Journey to the Stars'
- July Basic Astro course at Umgeni Valley - 2/7/96 to 25/7/96
- 13/7/96 - Annual General meeting - at the home of MC or KH
 - braai etc ? - viewing ?

4. Membership

Good to see G.Gopaul at last meeting - A.Scafturis to rejoin.

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from A.Gray re Council Meeting on 22/4/96 and also news of coming events, plus good wishes for Izinkhanyezi.
- b) A.Gray also phoned RJ to thank us for sending cutting about the renovation of 'Bird House' in Loop St.
- c) Diskette and note from D.Overbeek - good occultation on 21/9/96 - possibly involve the Natal Centre
- d) Ask the Natal Witness to publish notice of our monthly meetings as the 'Astronomical Society' rather than 'ASSA'.

6. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1243-06 Observatory fund R 963-13
- b) Secretarial expenses of R 563-24 paid (extra R 200 being St Charles subs)
- c) Raffle sheets starting to come in.

7. STARDUST

RJ not away in June as anticipated, so June edition will be a combined effort with guest article by TC.

8. Library

- a) Video and copies of S&T retrieved from R.Ginslove
- b) Bound copies of S&T to be split and sold at Astro evening in June.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Astro Evening - logistics under way - posters to be put up.
 - next meeting of sub-committee on 23/5/96 at home of BL
 - inspect site at Midmar Historical Village at 5.00pm on Friday 17/5/96
 - computer 'shareware' for sale ? (C.Collingwood to assist)
 - telescopes, mini-planetarium, slides, videos, displays.
 - raffle to be drawn - prizes from sponsors.
- b) No response to letters written to Pmb businesses - more to go out
 - building suppliers etc.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Foundations have been dug and approved by Municipal inspector
- b) Mr Webb has agreed to set steel pins to indicate depth of concrete.
- c) Approx 7 cubic metres of concrete required - this will cost approx R 2500 from READIMIX
- d) Clearing & de-stumping continues - roadway to site cleared.
- e) G.Prösser has bought 16"/17" mirror from TC, and is thinking about the 12" telescope (for the observatory) again !

11. Education

- a) Basic Astro Course - agreed to go ahead with plans to run it at Umgeni Valley (Wildlife Soc) each Tues & Thurs from 2/7/96 to 25/7/96
 - JW agreed to co-ordinate and liaise with J.Stewart
 - proposed advert/handbill drawn up by W/L Soc needs a more appropriate title and higher charge
 - agreed to ask for a donation of R 100 per session
- b) Amangintoti Rotary - will run leadership course at Umgeni Valley from 8/7/96 to 12/7/96 (contact: Yvonne Williams via RJ)
 - should they join the course for one evening ?
- c) TC & MC gave talk to Brownies on 12/5/96
- d) TC to also give talks to Epworth Primary, Settlers Park Pre-primary and Cindy's play-school before he leaves.
- e) JW to address St Annes Forum (Std 9 students) on 25/5/96

12. General

- a) A.Dybwad has painted a pen-and-ink sketch of the Observatory surmounted by a collage depicting the 9 planets, and has asked for a title. Committee agreed to suggesting "First Light"