

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the home of Miss K.Hampson,
10A Abelia Rd, Cleland on Saturday 13 July 1996 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was attended by 16 members of the Centre.

3 apologies were received, and there were 4 visitors.

1. The Chairman, Mr M.Christianson, welcomed ev^erybody and thanked K.Hampson for her hospitality in providing a pleasant venue.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

A copy of these had been sent to each member of the Centre with the 'Stardust' newsletter for July 1996. It was therefore agreed unanimously to take them as read Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: B.Lawrence

3. Chairman's Report (M.Christianson)

Mr Christianson reviewed the activities of the Centre during the past year, and thanked all those members (committee & other) who had worked hard to make the year a successful one. He made special mention of the educational activities of the Centre, and also gave an extensive report on the excellent progress made in the building of an observatory at World's View.

Prop: R.Jarmain Sec: P.Hawkins

4. Treasurer's Report (H.Chance)

A Statement of Income and Expenditure was presented reflecting a closing balance for the year of R 677,36 (a shortfall of some R 139)

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: L.Christianson

A separate Observatory Fund had been established during the year, and this currently had an amount of approx R 3000 in it resulting from donations and special fund-raising event 'Journey to the Stars'. Proceeds from the Basic Astronomy training courses would also go to this fund.

5. Election of Office Bearers

The following members were nominated and elected:-

Messrs J.Watson, R.Jarmain, R.Roth, P.Hawkins, S.de Vos, A.Versfeld
Miss K.Hampson.

Mr P.Tarboton was also nominated, but subsequently withdrew.

6. Other Business

a) Increased subscriptions - it was agreed to revise these as follows:-

Members R 40,00 Family R 50,00 S/Citizens R 25,00
Students R 25,00

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: H.Chance

b) Observatory fund - it was agreed that an amount of R 400,00 be transferred from General Funds to this fund

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: H.Chance

c) Mrs L.Christianson - proposed that further public information and viewing evenings be held to raise funds for the observatory.

- new committee to consider this

d) Mr P.Tarboton - asked for an estimate of the amount needed to complete the observatory

- M.Christianson responded that an additional amount of approx R 5000 would be required to finish Phase I of the building.

e) Mr J.Watson - proposed a vote of thanks to Mr M.Christianson for his leadership over the past year, and wished him well for his retirement and move to Capetown.

7. Meeting closed at 8.50pm, after which all present enjoyed a curry supper together and some excellent viewing from K.Hampson's back garden.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 13 JULY 1996

MEMBERS

Jon & Bianca Lawrence
Annette Dybwad.
Hilary Chance
Philip Hawkins
Kerry Hampson
Jeff Ross.
Lorraine Christiansen
Rusty Jarman.
Alan Gifford
Roger Roth.
Jennifer McKenzie
John Watson.
Peter Tarboti
Steve de Vos
Mike Christiansen

(16)

VISITORS

Gill Watson.
Aurelia Hawkins
Anne Jarman
PAT MCKENZIE

(4)

APOLOGIES

MIKE IMBER
ARMINE' NORDIS
Tim Chance.

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE - ASSA
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 1996

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chairman's report for the year ended June 1996. It has been a successful year from many points of view thanks to the hard work and dedication of your committee members and some of the members of the Centre.

The year started with the running of an astronomy course at the Museum and is now ending with a new course starting at Umgeni Valley. These courses are a major source of new members and also bring in funds for the centre.

The other major event of the year, was the start that was made in building our own observatory. During October 1995 we signed a sublease with the Girl Guides in order to secure 1 hectare of their leased Municipal land for this purpose. In November the site was cleared of trees and in December the plans were submitted for approval which was finally received in February 1996. During March after an area had been cleared and the centre of the site marked by a group of members, the North/South line was established by Rusty finding Sigma Octantis for us and pointing out the direction of Celestial South. In April a start was made - we marked out the foundations position with help from Roger Clifford and then digging commenced. On 10 June the foundations were cast and we are now up to floor level and should be able to progress from here to roof height in a short while. With a bit of luck and some good support the observatory will be completed this year (financial) and I am confident it will be a real boon to the centre. In June a fund raising function was held at Midmar which brought in ± R2 000. More is needed however and further effort will be required. During the year regular monthly meetings were held and with the exception of May (20) and June (17) these were well attended.

In August a forum on Dark matter and video formed the topics. In September the meeting was at UNP and Dr Ilchev talked on "Particle Physics".

Also in September the ASSA Symposium was held in Bloemfontein and JW and MJC attended.

In October there was the symposium report back and a video.

In November a forum on Solar wind and Telescope display were featured.

In December the Christmas party was held at the Victoria Club and was well attended.

In February a look around for '96 and video were featured.

In March there was a discussion on the Constellation Gemini followed in April by Winged Space Flight by Tim Chance.

In May the topic was Virgo, Corvus and Crater. Also the Natal Centre Izinkhanyezi was held and several from our centre attended and participated. In June discussion on our fundraising programme and a video were featured. Also of course of "Journey to the Stars" was held at Midmar.

I shall be leaving Pietermaritzburg at the end of September. So I wish the centre well. I hope you make easy progress in completing the Observatory and I wish you clear skies.

M. CHRISTIANSON

13 JULY 1996

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1996

INCOME

Brought forward	Bank	800.80	
	Cash	15.36	
	Subscriptions	1785.00	
	Handbooks	210.00	
	Donations	50.00	
	Interest	43.99	
	TOTAL		2905.15

EXPENDITURE

Annual	ASSA Subs (St Charles)	200.00	
	Publicity Association	50.00	
	Post Box Rental	60.00	
	Purchase of Handbooks	150.00	
	Refreshments	116.46	
	Postage	588.79	
	Stationery	66.65	
	Photocopying	387.32	
	Film Dev & Print	43.48	
	Multi plug	39.84	
	Slide Tray	20.00	
	Purchase of Urn	150.00	
	Journey to the Stars	220.00	
	Christmas Party	135.25	
	Carried forward Bank	548.14	
	Cash	129.22	
	TOTAL		2905.15

H. CHANCE

13 JULY 1996.

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

1996/1997 COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr J.Watson
Vice-Chairman	Mr R.Roth
Secretary	Miss K.Hampson
Treasurer	Mr P.Hawkins
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarmain
Library	Mr S.de Vos
Education	Mr J.Watson
P.R.O.	Mr R.Jarmain
Instruments & Observatory	Mr R.Roth
Projects/Viewing	Mr A.Versfeld
Council Rep	Miss K.Hampson

Addresses & Telephone numbers

Mr J.Watson	P.O.Box 330,Hilton,3245	0331-433646 (h) 0331-452510 (w)
Mr R.Roth	P.O.Box 100210,Scottsville,3209	0331-442635 (h) 0331-2605130(w)
Miss K.Hampson	P.O.Box 101202,Scottsville,3209	0331-966772 (h) 0331-426773 (w)
Mr P.Hawkins	1 Ashbourne,Harwin Rd, Pmb 3201	0331-460303 (h)
Mr R.Jarmain	42 Mills Circle,Pmb 3201	0331-65455 (h)
Mr S.de Vos	P.O.Box 2468, Pmb 3200	0331-946724 (h) 0331- 554672 (w)
Mr A.Versfeld	62 Thornhurst Drive, Pmb 3201	0331-68684 (h)

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All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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