

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR & MRS P HAWKINS ON 21 JULY 1997**

PRESENT: K Hampson, P Hawkins, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. Meeting commenced at 19:55. Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.

Positions of committee members were delegated as follows:

J Watson - Chairman, Education
R Roth - Vice chairman, Stardust, Instruments
P Hawkins - Treasurer
K Hampson - Library, PRO, Council rep.
L Hearmon - Secretary

- Projects to be covered by all committee at this stage.
- Bianca Lawrence will help with setting up of functions.
- Chris Lake will help with the observatory.

2. **Matters Arising**

AGM was poorly attended & it was proposed that a mini AGM be held at the next monthly meeting - as 2 further committee members are needed. Thanks were expressed to A Dybwad for her hospitality at the AGM.

Report back: - Letters were received from Laddsworth school to J Watson thanking him for speaking to them on the 18 June 1997.
- 23 people are attending the course at the Umgeni Valley Project.

3. **Planning**

Next meeting on the 13 August - J Watson suggested a Mars evening incorporating a discussion on Mars & the pathfinder & possibly Mir. A Dybwad has a video to be shown on the subject.

Subjects for the September & October were also discussed these included:

- A talk about sundials etc. by Barry Lewis.
- J Watson will try to organise something with a certain Prof. of computer science from the University who is knowledgeable on astronomy.

4. **Membership**

3 new members: Mr K Schutz

Mr & Mrs Broli (Brian & Doreen)

- Dr D Grayson has moved & therefore been taken off the mailing list.
- It was agreed to stop sending news letters to Harare, Bloemfontein, Cape, Windhoek, Namibia & Rhodes.

5. **Correspondence**

Incoming Mail:

- Letter received from Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society thanking the society for the talk given on 23 June 1997.
- A Renfrew wrote thanking for correspondence & requesting a handbook.
- SA Astronomical Observatory annual report received.

- Letter from the Ladysmith Astronomical Society, which ceased to exist midnight 30th June 1997, was received. Their remaining funds of R250,87 will be donated to the ASSA Midlands Centre in Pietermaritzburg.

Outgoing Mail:

- Thank you letter sent to Frankpile SA (Pty) Ltd for concrete for the observatory.

6. Treasurers Report

General Fund R568,65

Observatory Fund R929,54

- An amount of R250,87 to still be donated from Ladysmith Astronomical Society.
- J Watson still to speak to Wykeham Collegiate about money still owing.

7. Stardust

Lead article under way by our new editor R Roth.

8. Library

S & T magazines have been sorted out by K Hampson, P Hawkins & R Roth & are in the process of being bound. R Roth is taping the series 'Cosmos' off the TV for the library. No S & T has yet been received for July.

9. PRO

K Hampson will liaise with The Natal Witness for advertising in the 'Friday' supplement etc.

10. Instruments & Observatory

The slab has been thrown & paid for at the observatory!

Possible sub-committee to be formed to help with organisation at observatory & keep growth of wattles under control.

11. Education

Talks at Laddsworth school & Model Engineers have been completed, & the astronomy course is on track.

- It has been decided to give the students on the course a certificate & this has been drawn up by R Jarman.
- J Watson has been approached by Beth McGladdery to possibly speak to 110 pupils of the University Science foundation bridging course.

12. General

R Roth suggested that the calender & sky maps he produces are embellished a bit to make them more attractive & easier to read. He will approach A Dybwad in connection with this & ask for ideas & express his at our next general meeting.

Meritorious Service award is to be presented to Mr I Schroeder.

Several ideas were discussed at AGM concerning a planetarium at the museum & this will remain on the agenda.

Meeting closed at 21:40. Next committee ^{meeting} to be held on 18 August 1997 at the home of L Hearmon (16 Holder Rd).