MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF MISS L HEARMON ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1997

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: P Hawkins

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40. Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.

2. Matters Arising

Last meeting was discussed & it was agreed that it could have been better, & the video had not been arranged due to a communication breakdown.

- J Watson has got in touch with Wykeham Collegiate & cheque is to follow shortly.

3. Planning

J Watson has tried to get through to the University to confirm next month's meeting but has had no luck. He will continue to try.

- It was suggested for November's meeting that we have a video evening. K Hampson will contact A Dybwad for a video & J Watson will ask S de Vos for his videos, 'The Astronomers'.

- The Christmas meeting was also discussed and this will probably be in the afternoon, at the observatory, with a braai extending into an evening viewing session.

4. Membership

J Watson sent a letter to Dr D Grayson with her Stardust.

Mr D Gilman & Mr T Anderson also received their copies of Stardust.

- 5. Correspondence
 - Incoming Mail:

- MNASSA, September's S & T & newsletters from Durban, Johannesburg & Port Elizabeth were received.

- The 1997 Almanac from Zimbabwe was received from Mr K Curtis (this will go into the library) with copies of their newsletters; information on the new 'Working Group' along with their new newsletter 'African Skies' was sent to the society. The University sent a letter, with a donation to J Watson thanking him & R Roth, K Hampson & R Jarmain for speaking to the University bridging group. Outgoing Mail:

- Thank you notes were sent to those members who gave donations.

6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R3015,70
Observatory Fund	R 214,71

- Proposal From P Hawkings to transfer R1304,22 into Observatory fund.

- R200 is still to be cleared from Bulawayo.

- A reminder about payment of subs will be put in the Stardust. Those who have still not paid by next month will get a reminder with their Stardust, if still no payment is received no Stardust will be sent.

7. Stardust

R Roth was unsure about the enclosure on the observatory development, suggesting it was a bit expensive & extravagent, but was assured that there is no problem.

R Roth had the following suggestions to make:

- That we try to get better quality photocopies of the Stardust, or

- he will investigate the idea of having a firm advertise in Stardust & as payment, print the Stardust.

8. Library

K Hampson will include an article in next months Stardust about the library. She will also attempt to sort out all books & cards ect.

- It was discussed that we need to start building up the video section of the library.

9. <u>PRO</u>

K Hampson to liase with Mrs Matthewman of The Natal Witness.

10. Instruments & Observatory

R Clifford brought the minutes of their sub committee meeting & the enclosure for Stardust on the latest development of the ovservatory & asked what money is available to them.

- J Watson discussed the treasurers report which revealed an amount of R1518,93 in the Observatory fund.

- More bricks are still needed at the site. L Hedder will be available next week to transport bricks in his bakkie. Even with the bricks R Roth & J Watson have supplied, still more are needed & may need to be purchased.

- Cement needs to be bought & this was given the go ahead.

- R Clifford obtained a quote for the roof construction & this will be approx. R8000, he also suggested that a small generator is used for electricity.

- Negotiations are underway about spraying the area to keep the grounds under control, & wattles still need clearing.

- R Clifford said that to complete the entire project it will cost approx. R 10 000.

-J Watson commended the sub committee on their hard work.

11. Education

R Roth has been approached by a school group to see if the society would be interested in giving a talk to the pupils (approx. 11 years old). J Watson said he would be willing to do it & R Roth will also attend.

12. General

The trip to Pat Mitchell's is confirmed for the 28th September, a small group will be going to look at the equipment & have lunch then return later in the afternoon.

- J Watson spoke about the literature received on the United Nations Working Group for space science in Africa, he will read through it again to find out exactly what is is all about.

Meeting closed at 21:15. Next committee meeting to be held on 13 October 1997 at the home of R Roth.