

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR R ROTH ON 13 OCTOBER 1997

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

APOLOGIES: None

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40.
2. Matters Arising

Some corrections were made to last month's minutes, they are:

 - 'quote' in item 10, changed to 'estimate'.
 - 'cash' from Wykeham Collegiate, not a 'cheque'.
3. Planning
 - Next meeting is on 12 November 1997. A video evening is arranged.
 - We have received 'The Astronomers' from S de Vos for the next meeting, L Hearmon will watch the tape & choose 1 episode to watch at the meeting.
 - K Hampson spoke to A Dybwad about obtaining a video from her & this is arranged, but will be confirmed.
 - K Hampson has been in contact with Michealhouse & they have offered us the use of their computer department & software. It was suggested by them that it not be our Christmas meeting but perhaps January 1998. They will provide food, & a donation will be required, but this will be generously donated to our observatory fund. Robin Hall will get in touch with J Watson about this.
 - Our Christmas meeting was discussed & it will probably be on the 13th December, however, this is not confirmed as yet.
4. Membership

No new members.
However, application forms were given to 2 interested people at the last meeting.
5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

 - MNASSA, October's S & T & newsletters from Durban, Johannesburg & Bulawayo received.
 - A letter, with a donation, was received from Mr A Gray.

Outgoing Mail:

 - Thank you notes were sent to members who gave donations.
6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R1711,48
Observatory Fund	R 912,92

 - P Hawkins to give money to R Clifford of the sub-committee on receipt of proper documentation.
 - J Watson handed in money for the sale of handbooks.
 - The R200 from Bulawayo has been cleared.
 - The amount in the observatory fund includes a donation from Mr A Gray.
 - Those members who have not as yet paid subs will be sent a reminder next month with no Stardust.
7. Stardust

Lead article is finished.

 - B Lawrence would like a regular column, & this was agreed upon.
 - So far there has been no success in finding better photocopiers or firms willing to print Stardust in return for advertising space, but will continue to try.
 - R Roth suggested that P Hawkins' name be on the front page of Stardust instead of his, it was also suggested that just the committee's names, position & phone numbers be printed - this will be looked into.
8. Library

Several donations have been made to the library, they are as follows:
The Astronomers - a video from S de Vos.
Cosmos - a video from R Roth.

Field Astronomy - a text book from R Clifford.

The Illustrated A Brief History of Time - book from R Roth

- K Hampson to start sorting library cards & making new ones.

9. PRO

- K Hampson has been in touch with Michealhouse about their offer (mentioned above).

- The fundraising event for next year was discussed & K Hampson will speak with B Lawrence about it

10. Instruments & Observatory

Progress is being made, bricks are being laid - R Roth's bricks have been delivered to the site & sand has been delivered. J Loughlin is doing a tremendous job at the observatory.

- Some problems with the cement delivery has been experienced but hopefully this will sort itself out.

- So far no news has been heard about the spraying of the area but R Clifford will try to contact Mondri again.

- R Clifford has been in contact with S Mills about the steel, Mr Mills already has the drawings & has estimated R15 000 for the supply & erection of it. P Hawkins has offered to investigate a cheaper price for the steel. Some steel should be delivered next week.

- In addition timber, water, fibre glass ect is still needed.

- R Clifford will arrange another meeting with the sub-committee.

- R Clifford had some suggestions to make about the observatory - he suggested that the outside walls have panels of mosaic depicting some constellations & the centres logo. A Dybwad does mosaic & could possibly be interested in this.

- On the inside walls, paintings could be hung - R Clifford has some of his own paintings showing the Hubble pictures. The committee were very enthusiastic about his ideas.

- R Jarman has donated an armillary sphere to the observatory which he made himself.

11. Education

- R Roth & J Watson went to K Kay's for the evening - they spoke & showed slides to the children & managed to see quite a bit through the telescopes.

- J Watson went for an evening with the Brownies - an astronomy theme was arranged by them which was very well organised & the children were able to look through the telescope.

- K Kay has approached R Roth saying she is willing to try to arrange more group talks for us with other groups of children. This will certainly be very greatly appreciated.

12. General

A small group of people (approx. 5) went to P Mitchel's on the 28 September to see the equipment, unfortunately some of it was not in very good condition, however, J Watson has made an inventory list & this will be sent out with Stardust at a later date for interested buyers.

- Mr Tumner is interested in the old S & T magazines & an equatorial mount, these will be given to him at no charge in light of his recent generous donation.

Meeting closed at 21:25. Next committee meeting to be held on 17 November 1997 at the home of P Hawkins.