

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR J WATSON ON 19 JANUARY 1998

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 20:05.

2. Matters Arising

Our December 1997 meeting was mentioned & although not a lot of members attended it was an enjoyable evening.

3. Planning

The February meeting was discussed & it was decided that R Roth & P Hawkins will give a talk, on telescopes ect, like that of the one they gave at Model Engineers.

- J Watson will speak of any new matters arising as well as give a preview of the year.

The March meeting was also discussed & it was decided to devote the evening to talking about the life cycle of stars including our Sun, however, this will be confirmed.

4. Membership

No new members but newsletters will be sent to 2 interested people this month.

- P Hawkins gave the committee the list of defaulters who have not paid their subs.

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

Mnassa, handbooks, S & T's up to February, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb & Zim have been received; as well as the Izinkanyezi notice.

Outgoing Mail:

Letter to St Charles school, J Watson wrote to the PMB Msunduzi TLC & Operation jump start asking for funds for the society. K Hampson also sent a Christmas card to Hilary & Tim Chance.

6. Treasurers Report

General Fund R1151,96

Observatory Fund R 400,11

- R623,97 was given to R Clifford for funds for the observatory.

- A total of R320 has been paid to Assa for the handbooks.

- P Hawkins has transferred the society's money into an NBS savings account (opened on 10 Dec 1997). The government levy on this account is costing a bit so he suggested that should anyone need money to let him know in advance so he can make one withdrawal.

- J Watson has sorted out the rent for the observatory with the Girl Guides & this is paid up.

- The costs of the course at Umgeni were discussed & as it proved to not be very profitable, this will be looked into.

- P Hawkins gave notice that he will not be available for reelection as treasurer as from the next financial year but will be willing to stay on the committee.

7. Stardust

P Hawkins has spoken to Minolta & they are willing to print Stardust at only the price of the paper & a small advertisement. R Roth is going to contact them.

8. Library

Two video tapes have been submitted by R Roth, they are: Reality on the Rocks & Cosmos.

R Clifford has also donated 2 books: Black Holes by J Taylor & The concise Planetary Ephemeris for 1950 to 2000 AD at noon.

- P Hawkins is also going to donate some books in the near future.

9. PRO

K Hampson pointed out an article in the new Mnassa as 1998 being the year of science and technology & that an organisation has been formed to promote this. Astronomy has been chosen as one of the so called thrust areas & she suggested that we write to them to ask for funds for our society. This will definitely be looked into.

10. Instruments & Observatory

R Clifford brought the minutes of their sub-committee meeting & the following topics were discussed:

- Electra Manufacturing have been chosen to do the roof as they quoted the lowest price.
- To get the ball rolling on the roof R Clifford has generously offered to sponsor it.
 - Also mentioned was the still further costs involved at the observatory eg. gable end enclosure with clear perspex, painting & telescope mounts etc. P Hawkins suggested that we should approach H Buchler to help with the telescope mountings. The matter of the mountings will be pursued.
- R Clifford suggested that a further sub-committee is formed to deal with the instruments.
- Sand & stone is at the site for the basis & a mixer is hopefully going to be obtained. The weekend of the 31st Jan & 1 Feb from 9am has been set aside to mix the concrete. The committee will try to get a hold of as many members as possible to come & assist.
- The constellations that will be depicted on the observatory walls have been decided, they are as follows:
Taurus, Orion, Gemini, Southern Cross (gable wall south), Sagittarius, Scorpio, Virgo, Leo & the Solar System (gable wall north).

11. Education

P Hawkins is an acquaintance of the PRO of the museum, & they are interested in acquiring a Planetarium.

- J Watson is in the process of considering the astronomy course for this year.
- J Watson is to give a talk to the Minerva club at Golden Pond on the 17 June 1998.

12. General

R Roth brought examples of badges that could be worn by society members. These will be shown at our monthly meeting next month to get the members opinions. They will be sold eventually for R4 each.

- K Hampson will look into arranging something for the members to see the planetary occultation on the 14 feb.

Meeting closed at 21:45. Next committee meeting to be held at the home of Miss K Hampson on 16 February 1998.