

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1988 February 15 at 20h00 at S A A O
Cape Town

1. PRESENT

The President, Mr J H Spencer Jones, in the Chair.

Dr I S Glass, Miss P Booth, Mrs A Joubert, Mrs E Olsen (Hon. Treasurer), Messrs J Bondietti, J Churms, R Hurly, F N G Orpen (Membership Secretary), C R G Turk and the Hon. Secretary H E Krumm.

2. APCLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor A P Fairall, Professor Brian Warner, Dr T H H Lloyd Evans, Messrs P Briton, A D B Cameron and W L Combrinck (Business Manager).

3. PRINCIPALS AND ALTERNATES ON COUNCIL (see Min.No.3 of previous Council Meeting)

Mrs P A Ross of the Natal Centre had now joined the Society and was therefore eligible to represent that Centre on Council. Two members of the Society attached to the Cape Centre, Messrs M Lyons and H L N Scoble, were prepared to act as alternates.

Principal

Alternate

Mrs P A Ross (Natal Centre)

Mr M Lyons

Mr H P van der Walt (Bloemfontein Centre)

Mr H L N Scoble

Council confirmed these appointments.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of previous meeting of Council held on 1987 November 30, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read. Their adoption was proposed by Mr J Churms and seconded by Mr R Hurly. Confirmed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION (Minute No.5(ii))

(a) McIntyre Award

Council agreed that the Constitution be amended in accordance with Mr C R G Turk's recommendation.

(b) Long Service Award

Mr Turk agreed to draw up an addendum to the Constitution in connection with this Award.

A combined ballot paper would be sent to all full members of the Society, replies to be received by 1988 August 1. The ballot paper would accompany the usual subscription notice despatched to members.

(A copy of the ballot paper is attached to the minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book)

(ii) FORBES REQUEST: COMPETITION 1988 (Minute No.5(iii))

It was announced that the S A Museum News Letter and, hopefully, ARCHIMEDES would publicise the Competition.

It was noted with appreciation that the Trustees of ASSET would meet the cost of the copy of Norton's Star Atlas presented at last year's Competition.

(iii) NATIONAL ASTRONOMY WEEK . (Minute No.5(iv))

(a) FUTURE EVENTS

Council decided that a National Astronomy Week be held every three years, the next to take place in 1990.

It was also agreed to suggest to the Centres that they consider holding an Astronomical Week during each of the intervening years, it being left to the individual Centres to decide on the most suitable times when such an event might be held, depending on projected weather conditions etc.

(b) NATAL MUSEUM

Mr P F Tempest, Chief Exhibition Officer of the Natal Museum at Pietermaritzburg had written to say that the Museum would be interested in participating in the next National Astronomical Week. It was agreed to refer his letter to Mr J W Watson of Pietermaritzburg with a request that he take the matter further with Mr Tempest.

6. FINANCE

(1) FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs E Olsen, presented her Financial Statement dated 1988 February 11, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Its adoption was proposed by Mr R Hurly and seconded by Mr J Churms. All in favour. It was noted that an amount of R10626 would be required to balance the books as at 1988 June 30. The Hon. Treasurer expected a shortfall of R1600 of income over expenditure.

(2) INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION: R50 to R60 as from 1988 July 1

Five Centres replied. Four agreed to accept the increase as "...unfortunate but obviously necessary in the light of projected shortfall"; "...the benefits and periodicals received are well worth the value of the proposed increase"; "...the Society has no option other than to increase the subscription to at least R60 per annum"; "...feel that the majority of our members will understand the situation and will remain loyal to the Society". The fifth Centre mentioned that they gain very little benefit from SKY AND TELESCOPE and that the advantages gained from this periodical are not quite worth the money we have to pay for it. Their reply amounted to a negative vote.

(The above are abstracts from the replies received)

Two Centres did not reply.

After a brief discussion it was proposed from the Chair that the subscription be increased from R50.00 to R60.00 per annum as from 1988 July 1. It was clear that this step was unavoidable due to increasing costs and that it was supported by the majority of the Centres. The proposal was unanimously accepted and confirmed by the meeting.

7. NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected members of the Society in terms of Article 5(1) of the Constitution:-

MR. J. ANDERSON	3 Kingston Road, ROSEBANK (Cape) 7700
MR. L. M. C. de ALMEIDA	P.O. Box 256, EDENVALE 1610
MR. J. P. C. KNOX	No. 3 Roodezoo, Burmeister Circle, MILNERTON 7441
MR. K. A. L'AMOUR	40 Louw Avenue, GRASSY PARK 7945
MR. J. P. ROODT	16 Chrome Street, CARLETONVILLE 2500
MR. W. M. TROW	32 Churchhill Road, PLUMSTEAD 7800
MR. M. FULLER	17 Bowden Street, OBSERVATORY (Cape) 7935
MR. M. LYONS	3 Blue Waters, Arum Road, BLOUBERGGRANT 7443
DR. M. S. STEYN	15 Helderberg Road, SOMERSET WEST 7130
MR. N. B. WAKEFIELD	P.O. Box 843, WALKERVILLE 1876

7. NEW MEMBERS (contd.)

It came to light that the following persons were elected at the Council meeting held on 1986 November 10 but their names were omitted from the list submitted for publication:-

MR.N.T.HIGGS 20 Mkhula Road, WESTVILLE 3630
MRS.A.S.JOUBERT 15 Fairview, WYNBERG 7800

8. "SOUTHERN ASTRONOMY"

A communication dated 1988 January 13 was received from Mr J M Nally the Editor of a new journal called SOUTHERN ASTRONOMY which was shortly to be produced and published in Australia. It would be dedicated to reporting southern news and events to southern astronomers, both amateur and professional. The subscription would be 55 Australian dollars which is equivalent to R87 per annum, air mail postage included.

The publishers would like to send a free copy of the first issue to be published on 1988 March 24 to all members of ASSA. For this purpose they would require a copy of our mailing list. Council agreed to this request in the light of their assurances the names would not be given to third parties and that the list would be destroyed once this initial mail-out was complete.

9. HANDBOOK

The Editor, Mr R Hurly, reported that the information regarding occultations on pages 36 to 38 of the 1988 edition of the Handbook was incorrect. He would supply the correct data to interested persons on request. He mentioned that the S A Museum had taken 100 copies of the Handbook.

10. M.N.A.S.S.A.

Agreed to sell copies of ^{Handbook} ~~MNASSA~~ to Professor A H Jarrett of the Boyden Observatory at the University of the Orange Free State at R3.00 per copy. Dr I S Glass would determine the wholesale price of MNASSA.

11. NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

The Society's representative on this Committee, Mr D.Overbeek, reported that he had attended a meeting of the Committee on 1988 February 2. He mentioned that a new Committee will be formed during 1988 and that the Society would be invited to nominate a representative or to provide a short list of nominees who are members of the IAU. Mr Overbeek was in favour of rotating the post. Mr J C Bennett was his predecessor on the Committee. The matter to be discussed at next Council meeting.

12. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mr F N G Orpen was finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the duties of Membership Secretary and requested Council to relieve him of his duties by the latest 1988 June 30. There was a possibility that Mrs A Joubert would be prepared to take over from Mr Orpen with whom she would discuss the matter.

13. NEW ADDRESS LIST : Mrs E Olsen to discuss the matter with Mr W Hollenbach

14. PLASTIC ENVELOPES : Purchase of further 5000 was approved.

15. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 1988 April 11.

16. CLOSING : There being no further business the Chairman adjourned meeting at

DATE... 11.11.88

CHAIRMAN... 

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE : FEBRUARY 1988

Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

INCOME

SUBSCRIPTIONS 86/87	175.00	
87/88	17 967.30	
88/89	<u>150.00</u>	18 292.30
Donations to ASSET		879.00
Entrance Fees		310.00
Advertisements, ALB & Noyes		334.51
Interest Rec'd: Bank	94.59	
UBS	412.50	
Syfrets	<u>37.33</u>	544.42
Proceeds, S A Perm A/c		69.06
Sales: Mnassa		729.44
Handbook '88		840.54
Back No's Sky & Tel		10.40
1 Norton's, for Rattray		71.90
Subsidy, Dept Education		350.00
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INCOME 1/7/87 - 11/2/88	=	R22 431.57
Bal b/fwd from 86/87	=	1 834.06
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Cash Book at 11/2/88	=	<u><u>R24 265.63</u></u>

EXPENDITURE

ASSET transferred	879.00
Award, Forbes to F. Bryan	121.90
Purchase of Norton's for Rattray	68.60
Bank Charges	179.35
Afric Mail Add. Postage Mnassa	284.05
Postage Sky & Tel	1 027.34
Distr. Mnassa	39.85
Distr. Sky & Tel	231.79
Postage, late journals	40.18
Postage, general	29.16
Printing & Stationery	15.21
Photocopies, Mnassa	25.00
SKY & TELESCOPE: July to Dec 87	4 853.65
Space Clearing: Clearing	1 126.06
Import Surcharge	603.80
G S T	869.40
Subscr to Int. Comet Qtrly	18.00
UCT Printing MNASSA July to Dec 87	3 135.00
Printing Handbook 88	1 559.00
Subscr to A S & T S	10.50
Refund, prepayments	85.00
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	R15 201.84
BALANCE c/fwd:	9 063.79
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	<u><u>R24 265.63</u></u>