

Minutes of the ASSA Council Meeting

held on
September 9 2003
in the
SAAO Lecture Hall
at 19h30.

1 Welcome.

The chairman, Case Rijdsdijk welcomed those present, and as there was a quorum, the meeting started at 19h30.

2 Present

Ian Glass, Auke Slotegraaf, Cliff Turk, Maciej Soltynski, Tony Jones, Laurie Simone, Peter van Blommestien, Pat Booth, Paul de Villiers and Case Rijdsdijk.

3 Apologies

Abe Mohamed.

4 Minutes of the Previous meeting

With a minor 'typo' in 9.3 these were accepted. Prop. P van Blommestein, Sec. Tony Jones.

5 Matters Arising

Cliff Turk, CT, had seen the Midlands banner and said it did have the required logos and that the R500 had now been paid. However CT would look into the fact that the original invoice had been for R170.

- 5.1 Case Rijdsdijk, CR, said that he had had a meeting with Dr Patricia Whitelock, acting director SAAO with regards to item 7 of the previous meeting and that a MoU would be drawn up between the SAAO and ASSA with regards the use of SAAO facilities.
- 5.2 Auke Slotegraaf, AS, told the council that the handbook was coming on well. A meeting had been held at SAAO to discuss various issues and Maciej Soltynski, MS, had minutes of that meeting. There was a problem with communications from the various centres and details of members etc were needed. He also mentioned that contributions from other observatories (HartRAO, Boyden, Potchefstroom) would be welcome for inclusion in the handbook. CR to contact Matie Hoffman and Mike Gaylard.
- 5.3 Transit of Venus. There were some inquiries and it was decided that whatever publicity ASSA generated would be passed by Willie Koorts (SAAO) as he had a great interest in this.
- 5.4 AS would liaise with Ian Glass, ISG, to 'fine tune' the website.

6 Treasurers Report

Colin Gray had had a minor problem with a few minor matter in the 3rd quarter 2002. CT said that he had been in contact with the auditors and that this was being sorted out. CT said that the ASSA would sound, that there were at present no problems and that he would present a full account at the next council meeting.

7 Timing of AGM's

CR asked if it was not possible to arrange the ASSA year so that the centre AGM,s could be held before the ASSA AGM. He felt that this was more logical and would enable the President to report on the ASSA year and be in a position to announce office bearers etc. There was support for this notion and it was decided to try it this year. As a result the time of the ASSA AGM would be on Wednesday, August 11, 2004 in Cape Town. CR would contact the various centres and ask if it would be possible for them to have their respective AGM's in July, and to forward details to the secretary before the ASSA AGM.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Letter from the SA Institute of Physics requesting the re-establishment of a MoU between the SAIP and ASSA. CR said that he had been unable to locate the previous one and CT, longest serving member of council, could not recall the MoU. Council had no objection to such an agreement, and CR would look into it and report back.
- 8.2 Copy of letter by ISG to the ISI re MNASSA. No reply yet but that if MNASSA was accepted it would eventually appear on their website.
- 8.3 AS would look into the matter of the certificates. CR said that he had a format, but that it would be better if there was an easily reproducible format within ASSA.

9 New Members

There were three new members and these were approved. Their names to appear in MNASSA as usual. CT had spoken to Abe Mohamed and said that the ASSA had 176 full members. This was slightly down, but that fees and renewals were being received and numbers would most likely be fairly constant.

10 Members of Council and alternatives.

Council members alternates were to be much the same as last year. Tony Jones would check on the Pretoria centre rep, Paul de Villiers pointed out that the secretary had the wrong address for the Zimbabwe rep (CR to correct this and at the same time check on Zim. Rep). CR would check with Peter Smits about the new Garden Route Rep. and if Peter Cramb was still Durban rep.

11 AOB

- 11.1 MS proposed that the matter of re-election/nomination of council members be looked into. There was discussion on this matter and CT and MS would draw up the proposal and the necessary amendment to the constitution and submit it at the next meeting.
- 11.2 ISG and CR both proposed that the letter be written to Berto Monard for his outstanding work in discovering several supernovae and the identification of a GRB. CR, as president would write a letter of congratulations.
- 11.3 Laurie Simone mentioned that Keith Gottschalk had asked about celebrating "Yuri Day" and "Astronomy Day". CR mentioned that World Space Week, WSW, seemed to be the celebratory event now, but would find out from SAASTA how they saw the future of WSW since the DST had made a substantial amount of money available, it would seem logical for ASSA to hold public functions (Scope-X etc?) at this time to tap into these funds.
- 11.4 Tim Cooper (via CT) had asked that reports be sent in on time. There was no excuse for these to be late. The council would endeavour to chase people up with timely reminders. CR apologized for his ignorance of procedures and expressed his gratitude to CT for working 'miracles'.
- 11.5 Jan Hers' presentation. CR said that he would not be going down that way in the near future, but that Jan's award must be made, if not by him, then another member of council who was going down. CT would write a citation and Peter Smits would be asked for Jan to select a book.
- 11.6 McIntyre Award. CR presented this to ISG and congratulated him. CR said that the award would have been made earlier, but ISG had been away and an appropriate time had been sought without success. CR said that hopefully a more formal presentation could be made at an appropriate time in the future.

12 Next Meeting

The next council meeting will be held on October 28, 2003 in the SAAO Lecture Hall at 19h30.