

**Minutes of the ASSA Council meeting held at 19h30 on June 08, 2004
in the
SAAO Lecture Hall**

1 Welcome

The President welcomed all present.

2 Register

Present were: C Turk, I S Glass, M G Soltynski, C de Coning, A Mahomed, A Slotegraaf, L Simone, A McConnel, A Jones, P van Blommestein, P Booth and C Rijdsdijk.

3 Apologies

P Martinez, A Gray, D Laney and all up country ,members.

4 Minutes of the meeting held on March 30, 2004

With corrections as follows:

- 6.3 Second sentence to start; Case Rijdsdijk was
11 change *non-subscribing* to *S&T* and *there were 12 honorary members*

the minutes were accepted. Prop. A Jones, Sec. C de Coning.

5 Matters arising

- 5.1 The President had attended Scope-X in Johannesburg and was very impressed with the attendance, structure and venue. All activities were well attended, especially the lectures. The venue had a capacity of 200 and at all lectures there were people standing and sitting in the aisles! There was also a wide variety of activities for the public to attend and other centres wanting to hold similar expos would do well do consult with the JHB Centre.
- 5.2 There was only one nomination for the Gill Medal and this was approved by Council. I S Glass would prepare a citation and get the medal engraved. The President would contact the nominee.
- 5.3 The cost of MNASSA: the business manager would present a detailed breakdown of these by the next council meeting. M Soltynski said that costs would rise, whereas income was likely to remain unchanged and that these cost were of some concern.

6 Awards

This had been discussed under matters arising.

7 Treasurers report

The treasurer presented the interim accounts for the period July 2003 to March 2004 and that these were with the auditors. The year end statement would be available in two weeks time. The presented accounts were accepted, Prop. P van Blommestein, Sec. I S Glass.

The handbook had shown a profit, but there had been distribution problems. The treasurer would produce accounting details at the next meeting. C Turk also suggested an editorial board meeting in the near future to discuss the 2005 handbook. M Soltynski would arrange this.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 A Jones submitted a proposal improve the observing aspects of the ASSA by setting out a set of guidelines for observing. The proposal had been circulated. In its simplest form he

suggested a pyramid structure of reporting that would eventually end up with the relevant section director. The JHB centre had initiated something similar called "Special Interest Groups", SIGs and it was expected that these would gain momentum. There followed some discussion on this, principally regarding the lack of communication between section directors, observers and the international body to whom the director reports as being the main problem. P van Blommestein expressed dissatisfaction with B Fraser as Director of the Variables and Occultations Section in that the results of his observations were never forwarded. The President would write to Brian and get him to explain what happens to observations he receives. A Jones would contact D Gordon of the JHB Centre to seek further details of the SIGs.

- 8.2 The President had answered to a query from the JHB Tourism Company
- 8.3 Some correspondence relating to 8.1 was received and used in the discussion above.
- 8.4 Letter from Mr. de Bruyn thanking the President for his suggestion, see 10 below.
- 8.5 Dr A Mahomed had written to Council announcing that he was retiring from the position as Membership Secretary after four years. Council expressed their disappointment, but understood, accepted his decision and thanked him for his efforts.

9 New Members

There were four new members, their names were read out and accepted. The numbers to date were thus:

Members	241
S&T subscribers	99
Non S&T	126
Honourary	12
New	4

10 New Section

A Mr Frikkie de Bruyn had suggested the formation of a new section within the ASSA: "Cosmology and Astrophysics" since he was a regular publisher in this field. There had been some discussion on this at the previous meeting and the President had suggested that Mr. F de Bruyn that he submit his papers to the SA Institute of Physics, SAIP, rather than form a new section within the ASSA. This fell in line with the recent MoU between the ASSA and the SAIP. In subsequent correspondence between the President and Mr. De Bruyn the latter had agreed that this was the best course of action for him and would be writing to council accordingly.

11 AGM

The President would circulate his address to council before the AGM on August 11, 2004.

12 AOB

There was some discussion on the forthcoming symposium on "The History of Astronomy in South Africa"

13 Date of next meeting.

The next Council meeting would be held at the same venue at 19h30 on August 31, 2004.