

**Minutes of the ASSA Council meeting held at 19h30 on August 31, 2004
in the
SAAO Lecture Hall**

1 Welcome

The President welcomed all present.

2 Register

Present at the meeting: C Turk, M G Soltynski, P de Villiers, C de Coning, A Mahomed, A Slotegraaf, A McConnel, A Jones, P van Blommestein, P Booth and C Rijsdijk.

3 Apologies

I S Glass, A Gray, all up country ,members.

4 Minutes of the meeting held on August 31, 2004

The minutes were accepted. Prop. C Turk, Sec. C de Coning.

5 Matters arising

- 5.1 It appears that the change of date/order of the Centre AGMs and the ASSA AGM has worked. With few exceptions, Computing, reports were received from the Sections.
- 5.2 CR would ask Dave Kilkenny the present status.
- 5.3 The secretary would contact the new director at SAAO w.r.t a MoU between ASSA and the SAAO.
- 5.4 C Turk supplied a breakdown of the costs for the production of MNASSA. There was some discussion on this. MS asked how things had changed during the last year. CT replied that the principal cost increases were in printing and mailing. CR asked what the role of MNASSA was since ASSA members were subsidizing MNASSA to the tune of R135 pa. There was further discussion around this, centred mainly around the fact that professionals were not contributing, and couldn't be expected to, since MNASSA was a highly rated journal. MS suggested that an electronic edition be looked at and would discuss this with the editorial board.
- 5.5 AJ's proposal – it was generally agreed that council should take a lead here and that something be submitted from council. It was also generally accepted that part of the problem lay with the directors of sections, and T Cooper suggested that council take a firmer stand. CR suggested that a letter to section Directors asking for progress reports to be submitted to Council meetings. There was some discussion on this. CR pointed out that the idea was not to treat directors as “naughty schoolboys”, but that in the normal course of events in any business, managers would be expected to deliver progress reports – CR saw these as polite reminders that things needed to be done. CT mentioned that there would be a problem in letting directors know the dates of council meetings. This is not really a problem – an e-mail to them would immediately resolve that. AJ mentioned the successful w/s run by T Cooper and asked if something along those lines could be done by the local centres, coordinated by section Directors. There would need to be further input into this and it was agreed that the President would need to take a hand in the by suggesting that centres start training w/s.
- 5.6 Ballots had been received for the Constitutional Amendments. With no objections, these were thus accepted
- 5.7 Sky Guide. Progress was good. SAAO/NASSP had made a most generous contribution. At a meeting of a sub-committee consisting of CT, AS, MS, ISG and CR it was decided that 4 000 would be printed.

6 Alternates

CT and CR would get together and generate the new list as done previously and submitted to Council.

7 Financial Matters

Attached (to original minutes). The Hon. Treasurer mentioned that D Overbeek had bequeathed R4 000 to the ASSA and that he would look into where it would be best placed. Financial Statements

8 Astronomy Month

CR mentioned that since DST had announced this and had asked for proposals from those seeking money, that individuals should do so ASAP, but that as usual these announcements were too late to be really effective. The ASSA needed an e-mail address and CR would look into this.

9 Membership

A. Mahomed presented the list of new members. These were accepted were accepted, Prop. A. Mahomed, Sec. CT. and their names would appear in MNASSA.

CR noted that if new members were constantly joining and membership numbers were dropping, where were these members going. It was stated that members often didn't re-join. CR suggested that reminders be sent.

10 AOB

10.1 Time of meeting! CR asked that the time be changed since 19h30 was too early for him and asked that the time revert to 20h00. This was accepted. Maybe another look should be taken at a late afternoon/early evening slot.

10.2 There was a letter from Braam van Zyl announcing he resignation of the Solar Section. He regretted that he had to take this decision, but that the pressure of work had forced him into this decision. Council accepted his resignation with regret and thanked him for his efforts over the years. J Van Delft would take over as director. This was proposed by CT and sec. by AS.

10.3 CR to approach to new director and welcome him to SA on behalf of ASSA and generally inform him of the ASSA's activities etc.

11 Next Meeting

October 19, 2004 at the SAAO Lecture Hall at 20h00.

13 Date of next meeting.

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