

**Minutes of the ASSA Council Meeting held at 20h00 on April 11, 2006  
in the  
SAAO Lecture Hall.**

**1 Welcome**

The chair, Ms Pat Booth, welcomed everybody, thanked them for attending. Ruprt Hurly's health was of concern and C Rijdsdijk and C Turk informed council of his latest status.

**2 Register**

This was passed around and signed. The following were present:

Cliff Turk, Ian Glass, Pat Booth, Keith Gottschalk, Maciej Soltynski, Chris de Coning, Peter Martinez and Case Rijdsdijk.

**3 Apologies**

Andrew Gray, Dave Laney, Rupert Hurly and out of town members.

**4 Minutes of the Previous meeting – January 24, 2006**

Proposed by Keith Gottschalk  
Seconded by Maciej Soltynski

**5 Matters Arising**

- 5.1 The matter of Keith Gottschalk's letter was now closed to all parties satisfaction.
- 5.2 MNASSA. Auke Slotegraaf has officially resigned as editor. Ian Glass and Willie Koorts (SAAO staff) are the interim editors and Maciej Soltynski congratulated them on a fine edition. A new editor needs to be found.
- 5.3 SCOPE-X. The matter of funding and sending of Section Directors. See #8
- 5.4 Magda Streicher reported that Chris de Villiers would continue as Section Director of the Double Star section for another year. Cliff Turk had enquired about Jan Hers (Variable Star section) but had had no response. Chris de Coning said he was going to Sedgefield and would try and see Jan Hers. (At the time of writing the minutes, April 14, Chris de Coning reported by telephone that he had spoken to Jan Hers and it appears best to find a new Director of the section).

**6 The Way Forward**

Chris de Coning reported that e-mails had been sent out to all members, but that many addresses were wrong. There was a need to contact members and that a notice would be put into the June edition of MNASSA with a deadline for response on July 15. He also requested sections to submit material.

He further suggested that the webmaster puts links to the various centres on the website. There was some discussion on advertisements on the website. Peter Martinez said that SAAO policy was no advertisements. Council would advise the webmaster of this since SAAO hosted the site. Case Rijdsdijk also mentioned that the advertisements were paid to for sop that they would appear in MNASSA, not money had been for placing them on the website anyway.

**7 Scholarship update**

Wendy Williams had been awarded an ASSA Scholarship for 2006 after an outstanding first year at UCT. Renée Hlozek, the 2005 holder has graduated with a B.Sc with distinction from the University of Pretoria and she has registered for an Hons. Degree in Astrophysics at UCT.

There was also another unsuccessful applicant who was referred to the ASSA Trust for support.

## 8 Grants to Centres

The President, Pat Booth, was unhappy about the granting of R5 000 to the JHB Centre for bringing Dr David Malin to Cape Town as it set a dangerous precedent. She submitted a formal proposal, see below.

The secretary, Case Rijdsdijk, said that he would edit it and enter it into the minutes. He further added that he had gone an unorthodox route by consulting council via e-mail as there was some urgency in reaching a decision to help the JHB Centre with the funding of R5 000 and this should **not** be seen as setting a precedent. There was no mechanism in place to address such a situation and had there been more than two or three objections, he would have dropped the issue. However, with the exception of one member, all those who responded were in agreement, some had reservations which fell away on further explanation. Hence the decision was taken to grant R5 000 to the JHB centre. He welcomed the submission of the Presidents proposal.

Case Rijdsdijk also suggested that the cape Centre take charge of coordinating Dr David Malin's visit but that he would set-up the venue and liaise with the Cape Centre.

### President's Proposal

*Noting that ASSA is a not-for-profit organization with limited financial resources, and that there are a number of organizations that are able to sponsor astronomy/science projects financially:*

0. *Centres and Section Directors are encouraged to approach such other organisations directly, or through ASSA Council.*

*Otherwise:*

1. *Financial grants from ASSA for projects may be applied for by Centres and Section Directors*
2. *Grants should be submitted at least 3 months before the intended project or activity so as to allow planning and equitable allocation of available monies by Council. Grants received outside of this time frame may risk non-consideration.*
3. *Applications must provide a brief description of the project together with benefits accruing and a budget of projected expenses and income. A statement whether or not another organization (DST, DoE, NRF, SAASTA, business etc) has been approached for support should be included, and reasons for the outcome must be provided.*
4. *A brief financial report is to be provided to Council on completion of the project or by the end of the ASSA financial year, whichever is earlier.*
5. *Grant monies not expended in the same financial year as they were allocated are to be returned to ASSA before the end of the financial year.*
6. *Requests for travel and accommodation will only be considered for the lowest available cost economy class airfare such as Kulula.com, or possibly the equivalent amount for travel by car. Accommodation costs, if necessary (applicants are encouraged to make arrangements for hosting visitors in their members' private homes) will be at average prevailing bed and breakfast rates, and a daily allowance if required, will be a maximum of one third of the prevailing bed and breakfast rate. ASSA will not provide support for car hire or travel by taxi expenses.*
7. *Grants from ASSA may not be used to upgrade travel or accommodation ratings from economy class or bed and breakfast rates.*
8. *The above guidelines also apply to Council members making formal requests for financial support for projects.*

Proposed: Pat Booth

Seconded: Ian Glass.

## 9 Sky Guide

There was an extended discussion on this issue and the following points arose:

- who will continue this process – Auke Slotegraaf set a high standard that was to be maintained if at all possible, and whoever took on the task would need a good knowledge of astronomy,

- the 2007 edition might well need to be “scaled down” a little to meet publishing deadlines,
- Cliff Turk suggested that someone might well need to be paid a retainer; the amount of ~R10K was mentioned,
- Ian Glass suggested that tasks be divided and added that he would speak to Willie Koorts,
- Cliff Turk said that he would approach Tony Jones (ex council member) who had the ability and possibly the desire to be involved,
- Maciej Soltynski said that a sort of “project manager” was needed to coordinate the process.

It was agreed that council would try and address the issue with the above in mind.

## **10 Treasurers Report**

There was no formal report. The treasurer, Cliff Turk, said that the ASSA was in good shape and he expected it to be a good year financially. There was a substantial amount of money due from the sale of the 2005 Sky Guide. He would produce a full report by the next council meeting. There was a surplus from the Historical Symposium and these funds had been placed in a special account and that this would be available to the Historical Section.

## **11 New Members**

Dudley Field was not present and the secretary had not received any information. Carried forward.

## **12 Correspondence**

- 12.1 An e-mail was received from Auke Slotegraaf officially resigning as editor of MNASSA
- 12.2 Magda Streicher in dealing with Chris de Villiers and the certificates,

## **13 AOB.**

- 13.1 K Gottschalk announced that Yuri Night (to commemorate Yuri Gagarin’s first space flight) would be held at SAAO on Wednesday, April 12.
- 13.2 P Booth wanted Gerrit Penning to get council minutes as well.
- 13.3 It was noticed that Braam van Zyl was not on the council list – secretary to add his name.

## **14 Next meeting**

This would be on Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at the same place and time as usual.