

**Minutes of the ASSA Council meeting held at 20h00 on June 21, 2005
in the SAAO Admin. Lecture Room**

1 Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 20h03 welcomed all members a present especially Magda Streicher from the Pretoria Centre a special welcome.

2 Register

Present were: A Jones, M Soltynski, P Martinez, C de Coning, P Booth, M Streicher, Cliff Turk, Dudley Field, A McConnell, and C Rijdsdijk.

3 Apologies

P van Blommestein, A Slotegraaf, A Gray, Ian Glass and all up-country members except M Streicher.

4 Minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2005

There was a request from Maciej Soltynski that under "matters arising" there be a short introduction from the previous minutes indicating the subject matter raised. This was noted the minutes were approved. Prop. C de Coning, Sec. A Slotegraaf.

5 Matters Arising

- 5.1 Progress on A Jones' proposal re observing. Case Rijdsdijk to contact Maciej Soltynski. This had not been done and is carried forward to the next meeting.
- 5.2 MNASSA. Cliff Turk said that two editins had been mailed together. He mentioned that the printing was unsatisfactory: there was a colour cover and others problems with printing including the stapling. ASSA had received half back. There were problems with UDMS (University Document Management Services) and the printing was to be done by SANLAM for the June edition.
- 5.3 Certificates – Magda Streicher's generous offer. Magda was thanked for her generosity. Auke Slotegraaf was top help Magda with the design. Case Rijdsdijk suggested that ASSA buy a reasonable stock of three different types of card for printing the three types of certificate on.
- 5.4 Overbeek Money. Cliff Turk suggested that the funds be equally divided between the Trust and the Scholarship Fund.
- 5.5 Museum matters as brought up by Andrew Gray. This was carried forward as Andrew Gray had sent apologies.
- 5.6 Membership secretary. Dudley Field was proposed as the new membership secretary. Proposed by Cliff Turk and seconded by Pat Booth.
There had been some problems with S&T delivery. Cliff Turk had been trying to establish what the problem was and found that it was probably at Cape Mail.. Maciej Soltynski uggested that S&T be approached via the President. Cliff Turk agreed to draft a letter for the President to sign.
- 5.7 Sky Guide Africa South. Cliff Turk said that in 2005, 4 000 copies were printed. Of these 3 000 had been supplied and delivered. Bookshops need top be sourced in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria/Johannesburg.. But a good profit had be realized. Auke Slotegraaf suggested that the balance of the 2005 edition be distributed to schools. Cliff Turk, Auke Slotegraaf and Case Rijdsdijk would look into this, but if it was to be done it would need to be done quickly. The 2006 edition would be printed by SANLAM with the pages sewn to improve the quality of the binding, which had shown problems in the 2005 edition. This edition would hopefully be out by August, but more likely September. Auke Slotegraaf said that all was well and in hand.

6 Treasurers Report

This was complete, but the treasurer Cliff Turk said that all was well and that a full report would be presented. The ASSA was R9 000 better of than the previous year. He also mentioned that about R10 000 had been spent on software and reference books for the Shy Guide Africa South. Thuis money had already be recovered. Cliff Turk further requested council to approve the spending of R500 to John Skinner for software support. This was approved.

7 Nominations for Council for 2005/2006

Several nominations were received, but after some discussion it was decided that most of these were invalid for a number of reasons, namely late submission and improper procedure. No constitution was available, but the recent amendment to Section 10 of the constitution indicated that the existing council would therefore be in office for another year and that office bearers would be appointed after the AGM.

The secretary, Case Rijdsdijk, pointed out that this situation had arisen out of apathy on the part of the ASSA and suggested that the role of ASSA in the modern context be looked into, as had been pointed out by him in his presidential address at the 2004 AGM.

8 CPUT Astro-Tourism Course

Case Rijdsdijk informed Council that the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, CPUT, had started a course on Astro-Tourism, and that the ASSA would make a significant contribution to this.

9 Symposium – Progress Report

The Bloemfontein Centre had offered to host the 2006 Symposium and that an LOC had been set up. The Historical Symposium scheduled for November 2005 was progressing well. The call for papers had gone out and there had been a positive response.

10 Correspondence

- 10.1 A letter requesting further information on the ASSA had been received and attended to.
- 10.2 A letter from Magda Streicher offering to sponsor the ASSA certificates, see 5.3 above
- 10.3 The usual Newsletters that had been forwarded to Auke Slotegraaf.

11 New Members

A new membership secretary had been appointed, see 5.6 above. Membership was at present 233 with 10 new members. Names were read out and these would be published in MNASSA as usual.

12 AOB

- 12.1 The old S&T had all been satisfactorily given away, but the bound copies were kept.
- 12.2 Chris de Coning reported that he had received a large quantity of historical material from Rupert Hurly including Space Science Material which had been forwarded to the Johannesburg Centre.
- 12.3 Case Rijdsdijk would give the old Minute Book to Chris de Coning.
- 12.4 Dave Kilkenny to be spoken to about the Cousins Scholarship.

13 Next Meeting

The next meeting would be on Tuesday August 30, 2005 in the SAAO lecture Hall at 20h00.