

**Minutes of the ASSA Council Meeting held at 20h00 on January 24, 2006  
in the  
SAAO Lecture Hall.**

**1 Welcome**

The chair, Ms Pat Booth, welcomed everybody, thanked them for coming.

**2 Register**

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

Cliff Turk, Pat Booth, A Slotegraaf, Maciej Soltynski , Keith Gottschalk, M Streicher, Chris de Coning  
Dave Laney and Case Rijdsdijk.

**3 Apologies**

Peter Martinez, Andrew McConnel, Dudley Field, I Glass and out of town members.

**4 Minutes of the Previous meeting – November 01, 2005**

Proposed by Auke Slotegraaf  
Seconded by Keith Gottschalk

**5 Matters Arising**

- 5.1 Mr Keith Gottschalk's letter. The Cape Observer had carried letters from Mr M Soltynski and Ms P Booth responding to Mr Gottschalk's letter. Mr M Soltynski then addressed this matter by proposing that Mr Gottschalk give a formal apology, failing which he should resign or face a disciplinary hearing. Mr Gottschalk responded by saying that he had sent a letter to the Cape Observer and a personal e-mail to Mr Soltynski. Mr Soltynski replied that he felt the apology should appear in the same place, the Cape Observer, in which Mr Gottschalk's original letter had appeared and would be prepared to let the matter rest should this be the case. There was some further discussion after which Mr Soltynski withdrew his proposal, subject to such a letter appearing in the Cape Observer.
- 5.2 History Symposium. This had gone off very well and council was referred MNASSA for details. C Rijdsdijk thanked all involved on behalf of council. R Hurly was pleased that the initiative had been taken and that it was a great achievement.
- 5.3 Ms M Streicher had been in contact with Mr G Penning and reported that the Bloemfontein Symposium would focus on Practical Astronomy.
- 5.4 Sky Guide Africa South. Negotiations were ongoing. Mr M Soltynski and Mr C Rijdsdijk pleaded with Mr Slotegraaf to continue.
- 5.5 Webmaster. Mr G Penning was the new webmaster.
- 5.6 MNASSA. Possibility of sending out 1 year's volumes was considered. Mr C de Coning was in favour of the electronic version, but suggested that council keeps its options open. SAAO had offered to host MNASSA. Sabinet would make MNASSA available with a password and user code. It also sells journals for world wide distribution. The next issue of MNASSA would give all details of procedures.

**6 Scope – X**

Organizers had suggested that ASSA Section Directors attend Scope-X to promote their activity. Council questioned whether it wouldn't be better to send them to the Symposium. More information needed: like what's in it for ASSA, how many etc.? It was mentioned that Section Directors are allowed to claim reasonable expenses. Those wishing to attend could ask ASSA for support. Minutes to be distributed to Section Directors.

## **7 Membership Proposal – Keith Gottschalk.**

A proposal was tabled and discussed. There was a similar proposal from Mr de Coning and it was decided that both should be forwarded to the website, so that they could be included in the discussions on the future of the ASSA.

## **8 Treasurers Report**

Mr C Turk said that the current balance showed a net loss, due mainly to the Sky Guide expenses. However the trend was similar to last year's and money would soon start coming in from sales. He reported that he was happy with the financial status of the ASSA and would be able to show this at the next meeting.

## **9 Correspondence**

In addition to the usual periodicals there was a proposal from the Johannesburg Centre (Ms L Cross, Mr C Stewart and Mr B Fraser). This was forwarded to Mr C de Coning for inclusion on the website and would be tabled at the appropriate time when the future of the ASSA was discussed, cf. 7 above.

## **10 New Members**

Mr D Field, membership secretary had tendered his apologies, but had sent the following to the secretary.

New members:

Mr E Barr, Lambton, Ms A J Bigge, Plumstead, Ms C Botha, Bellville, Mr H Daehne, Prins Albert  
Dr W de Villiers, Louis Trichardt, Mr J F Jansa van Vuuren, Ulundi, Mr N M Lane, Albermarle  
Mr R Meyer, Auckland Park, Mr R Nanni, Benmore, Mr R O Donnell, Aston Manor  
Dr W Orchiston, Australia, Mr S Satyadeva, Northdale, Mr A Theart, Wierda Park  
Mr J P Thursh, Nelspruit

Membership stats:

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Members | 230 |
| Full    | 103 |
| Hon     | 11  |
| Limited | 102 |
| New     | 14  |

As usual these would be posted in MNASSA.

## **11 AOB**

- 11.1 Fish Hoek Group. There was some discussion and it was generally felt that they were entirely free to do what they wanted and that it was great that the group had remained active.
- 11.2 Mr M Soltynski the "Way forward" should be a standard item on future agendas.
- 11.3 Mr C Turk reported that there had been no variable star report from Jan Hers. There was some doubt about his activities and Ms M Streicher said that she would investigate. The same applied to Mr C de Villiers: there had been no response and no report for three years.
- 11.4 ASSA Scholarships. Mr M Soltynski said the Ms Renee Holzek had graduated with distinction from UNISA and was now enrolled for the honours course with NASSP.
- 11.5 Mr A Slotegraaf said the certificates were ready for finalization and would be sent around.

## **12 Next meeting**

This would be held on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2006 in the SAAO Lecture Hall at 20h00.