

DRAFT

MINUTES OF ASSA CUNCIL MEETING – 20TH JUNE 2006

1 Welcome by president and a moments silence for David S Evans and Rupert Hurly.

2 Present : Pat Booth, Cliff Turk, Tony Jones, Chris de Coning, Maciej Soltynski, Keith Gottschalk and Dudley Field.

3 Apologies : Andrew Gray, Dave Laney, Peter Martinez, Case Rijdsdijk.

4 Minutes of meeting 11th April 2006

Item 9 – SKYGUIDE

Mr Turk requested that in the last line, the word ' council' should rather be replaced by 'Editorial Board'

Minutes of previous meeting accepted. Proposed by Maciej Soltynski, seconded by Cliff Turk.

5 Matters arising

5.1 Scopex

Scopex was once again a huge success and is popular with members and visitors alike. The keynote speaker this year was internationally acclaimed astrophotographer David Malin, all the way from Australia. He presented two excellent talks to the society and went on to visit other centers in Southern Africa. Special thanks is due to ASSA Council who contributed to the expenses. We also had the privilege of other top speakers from around the country. Case Rijdsdijk from Cape Town and Dr Matie Hoffman from Bloemfontein gave talks and there was an interesting presentation by Tony Voorveldt and his team on light and electricity. Many members assisted in making the day such a wonderful success.

5.2 Variable star section.

Jan Hers has agreed that we need a new Director, no section report for the last 2 years. Chris de Coning to approach Jan to obtain the name of possible candidate.

5.3 The Way forward

Chris de Coning reported that website is up and running, the cut-off date for submissions is 16 July.

Pat Booth suggested that Chris de Coning does a report back instead of President's address at the AGM. It was felt that it would be better to hold a ½ day meeting, preferably with a facilitator – Patricia Whitlock was suggested to be approached to facilitate.

Chris de Coning to collate submissions for a meeting of council, then a general meeting, together with a report at AGM as well as the Symposium.

5.4 Skyguide

Editorial work is about 6 months. Suggest an editorial fee of R20 000 to be paid, and for the current year an additional R10 000, which will cover a computer as well as any other costs ie travel, stationery, postage ,etc

Cliff Turk presented various options cost vs sales vs revenue.

Need to increase sales volume
Need Centre members to promote Skyguide around the country.

Skyguide agreement. Proposed Cliff Turk, seconded : Pat Booth. Accepted and signed. The agreement was signed by the President and Treasurer for the Society and by Tony Jones as Editor. Copies were handed to the Editor and Treasurer for safekeeping.

Price and Quantity to be determined by Editorial Board.

Proposal – Editor becomes Council appointee, after much discussion this proposal was dropped.

5.5 Observing Certificates

Pat Booth talking to Auke re Design and Award list.

There are also other Certificates eg Honorary, Long service, etc Auke had done a lot of work already.

Pat Booth to work with Magda Streicher as well as Auke to get this finalised.

5.6 Correction to Grant's proposal. In Par 5 add on . . . in which the supported event takes place, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

Proposed by Cliff Turk, seconded by Chris de Coning

6 Resignation of Secretary.

Cliff Turk will act as AGM secretary – section reports.

A Cape Centre member was mentioned as a possible candidate.

7 Nominations

Pat Booth proposed that e-mails become an authorized method.

'Council will accept emails, indicating the names of nominee, proposer and seconder and the nominee's consent to stand for office, as well as in the form specified by the constitution.'

This sentence needs to be included in the constitution.

Pat Booth read the list of nominations received.

Cliff Turk nominations not received – to be resent to Pat Booth.

8 AGM

8.1 Report of Council.

All Council members to please read the report and forward any changes to Pat Booth .

8.2 Venue – Lecture hall, SAAO.

9.1 Treasurers Report

Cliff Turk proposed that an additional R10 000 be allocated to scholarship fund.

Cliff Turk proposed that the excess from the History Symposium be allocated to the Historical Section. This was countered by Maciej Soltynski rather to wait a year and monitor further progress.

Maciej Soltynski requested that Grants be shown as payments in the accounts of the scholarship fund.

The money in Standard Bank would be better for Society in the link account

The treasurers report was accepted. Proposed Maciej Soltynski, seconded **???(help)**

9.2 Authorisation of small amount spending

Proposed by Maciej Soltynski

To avoid delays when deciding on 'not regular expenditure' in future, I propose that any two of three Council members, say President, Treasurer and Secretary be given blanket authority to authorize expenditure up to R1500 per item. Agreement by any 2 of the three members shall be adequate.

10 New Members

Membership	237
Full	102
Hon	11
Limited	118
New	6

Dudley Field raised the point that the database is out-of date and not at all user-friendly and that it needs to be updated into windows format.

Cliff Turk to email files to Maciej Soltynski who will look at ways of converting it to excel.

11 Correspondence

None

12.1 Long Service Award

Discussion was around naming the long service award after either Joe Churms or Rupert Hurly. It was felt rather to honour these gentlemen via a scholarship or possibly an annual commemorative lecture/ Star Party, which would rotate through the Centres. To be investigated further.

12.2 Skyguide

Tony Jones reported that there is progress, new program and all. Confident that printing deadlines will be met.

12.3 Moneys from David Malin lecture Cape Town.

To be followed up.

12.4 Minutes

Maciej Soltynski requested 'Can we return to Council members reading the minutes in advance and advising secretary of changes – prior to the council meeting.

12.5 Cliff Turk wants to record our thanks to Tony for taking over as Skyguide Editor.

12.6 Hobby-X

The result of the e-mail vote concerning the Society's expenditure was 11 replies, 9 voted in favour, 2 didn't indicate their view regarding the R 513.00 including VAT that was paid to Cape Centre

13 Next meeting 29 August 2006

Covering Letter

-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Booth [mailto:PBOOTH@sli.wcape.gov.za]
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2006 12:15 PM
To: cliffturk@absamail.co.za; dudley.f@absamail.co.za;
siriusa@absamail.co.za; abjones@iafrica.com; lerika@icon.co.za;
pollmnj@icon.co.za; Maciej@ifr.sun.ac.za; jalvzyl@mweb.co.za;
peter.h@mweb.co.za; peter2c@mweb.co.za; songbird@mweb.co.zw;
magda@pixie.co.za; cdl@saa.ac.za; isg@saa.ac.za; peter@saa.ac.za;
Willie Koorts <wpk@saa.ac.za; Patricia Booth; debryun1@telkomsa.net;
kgottschalk@uwc.ac.za; gpenning@webmail.co.za; A.W. Herder;
magray@xsinet.co.za; xpaddingospace@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Next Meeting 29 Aug

Dear All

I am circulating a preliminary Agenda and the Minutes of the 20th June as corrected so far. There are still some seconders of proposals missing.

In the absence of a Secretary, I feel that we will have to divide the job out amongst ourselves. I am prepared to help out by doing the following:

1. Organising an Agenda for Council Meetings.
2. Circulating the Notice of the Meeting with Agenda and the Minutes of the last Meeting and corrections of these.

To keep the secretarial service going we are going to need people to take turns in taking the Minutes for each Meeting. Please tell me if you are prepared to volunteer to do this.

Another problem is that I am not yet in possession of a complete list of new Centre Representatives so this circulation list contains last year's Representatives. If you are no longer your Centre's Representative, please inform me who is.

The first order of business is to appoint Alternates for all upcountry Members so I would also like to know who on this circulation list was an Alternate for whom and whether you are still available as an Alternate.

Regards
Pat

