

MINUTES OF ASSA COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 4th September, 2007

Held in the Auditorium, SAAO, at 20.00

- 1) Welcome: Patricia Booth on behalf of the President, Magda Streicher
- 2) Present:
P.Booth, A. Herder, C. de Coning, D. Field, L. Simone, M. G. Soltynski, A. Jones, C. Turk
- 3) Apologies:
D. Laney, L. Labuschagne, W. Koorts, I. Glass. Apologies from all up country members are automatically accepted.
- 4) Members of Council in attendance ratified the previous meeting of the 19th of June as there was no quorum.
- 5) Matters Arising:
 - A) A. Herder said he knows of someone who can fix and complete the membership data base.
 - B) The Astronomy Starter Pack:
Two packaged samples of the Astronomy Starter Pack were submitted by Gerrit Penning via A. Herder to Council for viewing, together with correspondence received by L. Simone and C. Turk. L. Simone read G. Penning's email to Council as was requested. C. Turk added to the debate with further information that he had received from G. Penning. Though it was decided not to view the CD because of time restraint, the ASP was discussed at length. A sub committee was proposed by M. Soltynski for an in depth look at commercialising the ASP because of its obvious merits. The sub committee was approved by Council and M. Soltynski and C. Turk were appointed to this committee.
- 6) Appointing Alternates:
We are still waiting for Durban Centre and Harare to appoint a Council Representative. It was decided to appoint Alternates for members on Council only at this stage. They are as follows;

Pat Booth for Magda Streicher	President
Anthony Jones for Michael Poll	Vice president
Laurie Simone for Atze Herder	Council Member
Chris de Coning for Matie Hoffman	Council Member
- 7) The 8th ASSA Symposium:
Correspondence was read by L. Simone from F.de Bruyn confirming that both the Durban and Midlands Centres have agreed to hold the 8th ASSA Symposium. The date and the venue have to still be determined by the two Centres. L. Simone was requested to correspond with the two above Centres to thank them for agreeing to hold the ASSA Symposium and to notify them that an application for funds is acceptable.
- 8) Audio Conferencing / Skype:
Council confirmed that there is a broadband connection in the Auditorium. L. Simone to circulate correspondence to determine if up country members would be happy to be contacted while the Council meeting is in progress. This would only be done on a one on one basis as required. If up country members are in agreement to be contacted then their Skype addresses will have to be submitted to L. Simone.

9) The next Astronomy Month. October 2007:
No submission of any project for the above event was submitted to Council. C. Turk pointed out to Council that P. Martinez duties with SAAO have changed and the Kevin Govender will be more involved. It was further suggested that the Centres should contact the individuals involved with education and outreach well in advance of the due date if they have any projects in mind. In this case it would be Kevin Govender and Case Risjdijk.

10) SAASTA: 11) Astronomy 2009
The above should have been tabled as one item. L. Simone to correspond with Magda Streicher and Tim Cooper regarding a conference for Astronomy Year 2009 as tabled in previous minutes.

12) MNASSA:
W. Koorts will be working on the next publication while he is at Sutherland.

C.Turk advised Council that he had received an amount of R 4,032.00 from Sabinet for the electronic publication of MNASSA.

13) Sky Guide:
C. Turk pointed out to Council that despite all his correspondence with the Game Parks he has yet to receive an order from them to place Sky Guide in their book shops and that he will follow this up.

A. Jones said that he was still waiting for Directors Reports and committee information from some of the Centres. This is required by the 20th of September to complete Sky Guide at the end of September so that it can be ready for printing in October/November. L. Simone pointed out to A. Jones that numerous requests were circulated for the above information and that some of it was available and that he should try and contact the Centres himself for the outstanding information.

14) Certificates:
A merit certificate was awarded to Richard Ford for 20 Deep Sky observations from the ASSA top 100 list on the 14th August 2007 by Auke Slotegraaf.

Council has also indicated that it has no objection if the Sectional Directors award certificates to non members for observations as this will help to motivate amateurs to continue observing. The certificates could be handed out on an annual basis at the ASSA AGM.

15) Sky and Space magazine - Australia:
Correspondence was received by Magda Streicher. She has been in contact with the editor of the above magazine in view of sharing experience in Astronomy with South Africa. She has requested that all our Sectional Directors submit a 20 line essay on their different fields of astronomy. Jacques van Delft, Director of the Solar Section has already done so.

16) Treasurers Report:
Cliff Turk advised Council that ASSA's financial affairs are in very good health and proposed an amount of R 10,000.00 be allocated to the Scholarship fund. The proposal was seconded by A. Jones and P. Booth and was well received by all attendees. Presently there is R 88,500.00 in the Plus Plan account and R 65,000.00 on call. L. Simone enquired if Council was prepared to set aside funds for any project that may be initiated by the Centres? The reply from Cliff Turk was that the Centres are welcome to submit an application if this is the case.

- !7) New Members:
Dudley Field submitted a report. The application of 18 new members was approved. Total membership now stands at 263 of which 100 are full members, 10 honorary members, 135 limited members and 18 new members. We are running out of Lapel Badges. Pat Booth and Cliff Turk are to make enquiries with Brian Skinner regarding availability.
- 18) Correspondence:
All correspondence received has been dealt with in the above minutes.
- 19) Any other business:
There was no other business to discuss.
- 20) Date of the next meeting:
Tuesday November 6th, 2007

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm