

## **MINUTES OF ASSA COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009**

Held in the Auditorium, SAAO, at 8.00

1. Welcome:  
President Peter Martinez opened the meeting and welcomed all present. Council stood for a minute silence to pay their respects to Tony Fairall and Anthony Hilton who had both recently passed away. Tony Fairall was President of ASSA in 1983-1984 and Anthony Hilton was President in 1996-1997
2. Present:  
Peter Martinez, Patricia Booth, Chris de Coning, Laurie Simone, Maciej Soltynski, Christian Hettlage and Lia Labuschagne.
3. Apologies:  
We received apologies from Willie Koorts, Cliff Turk and Kevin Govender. Apologies from all up country members are automatically accepted.
4. Ratify Previous Minutes:  
Council ratified the minutes of the previous Council meeting of the 3rd February. No corrections were required.
5. Matters Arising:
  - A) The Cape Centre is waiting for a formal invitation from Peter Martinez to hold the 9<sup>th</sup> ASSA symposium.
  - B) Parallax Campaign: A letter from Peter Martinez to congratulate the contributors to the campaign is pending.
  - C) Starwise: Laurie Simone has contacted all the Centre Representatives to encourage them to participate with the Starwise project.
  - D) Web Master: Christian Hettlage has been confirmed and is active in this position.
  - E) The line - Oleg: Discussion between Peter Martinez and Christian Hettlage to resolve this issue is pending
  - F) Reminder to Members: Laurie Simone has circulated reminders to ASSA members with due dates as per the constitution and the AGM
6. IYA 2009:  
The only item to report where ASSA is involved is the pending visit of Professor Francesco Piro from Italy who will deliver a lecture on Galileo. He will be in Cape Town and deliver his lecture on Galileo in the auditorium at SAAO on the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 pm, hosted by the Cape Centre. He will also be visiting Johannesburg and Kwa-Zulu Natal.  
  
This visit was made possible through Alberto Manai of the Cultural Attaché of Italy and Brian Fraser of the Johannesburg Centre. The Cape Centre has thanked them both for making Professor Piro's visit possible.
7. Friends of the Observatory:  
Chris de Coning has now confirmed to Council that this not an ASSA initiative and we need no longer be concerned.
8. Double Star Section - Nominations for new Director:  
Correspondence was received from Case Rijdsdijk recommending that we accommodate both Lucas Ferreira and Miss A.K. Hampson for the above position. Though Council reached a consensus that we accommodate both nominees, Peter

Martinez wanted to investigate this further and suggested that he would contact Miss A.K. Hampson.

9. Deep Sky Software:

We received correspondence from Auke Slotegraaf with description, details and a request for R 10,000.00 to create a web site dedicated to Deep Sky Astronomy. Auke has the data. What is required is software or a web page designer to assimilate the data to make it functional when the web site is accessed by members of ASSA. Council felt that not enough detail was supplied to warrant the expense and requested that Auke advise Council the scope and goal of the web site, a breakdown of expenses and how it would benefit ASSA members.

Action: Laurie Simone is to correspond with Auke and submit the response from Council as above.

10. Professor Anthony P. Fairall:

The Obituary for Tony Fairall will appear in the April issue of MNASSA

11. Hermanus Astronomy Club:

Laurie Simone indicated to Council that the above have met all the criteria required to become a Centre of ASSA and that all the documentation is available to substantiate their acceptance. All that was required to do is for Council to accept their application. The application was unanimously approved by all and is tabled in the minutes herewith. Their designation hereafter will be "Hermanus Centre, ASSA" as per correspondence received from Cliff Turk

Lia Labuschagne and Anthony Jones were appointed by Council to facilitate the transition of the above club to ASSA.

Action: Laurie Simone is to advise Willie Koorts to publish an announcement in MNASSA

Action: Peter Martinez undertook to correspond with John Saunders to welcome the Hermanus Centre to ASSA.

12. MNASSA:

There was a discussion amongst Council members present regarding the posting of MNASSA on the ASSA web site. The issue was that any one who enters the site can download a free issue, whereas ASSA members would only receive a printed copy of MNASSA once they have paid their annual subscription. It was decided that this issue be dealt with by the Editorial board.

Action: Maciej Soltynski

Further, correspondence was received from Willie Koorts concerning extended deadlines for printing and Willie suggested a replacement for his position. Council was unanimous that they are very happy with Willie in his present position and would like him to continue.

Action: Laurie Simone is to correspond with Willie Koorts to confirm the above.

13. Awards:

We received nominations from Lerika Cross for Honorary Membership for Magda Streicher and Case Rijdsdijk. Cliff Turk seconded both nominations which were unanimously approved by Council and tabled in the minutes herewith.

Magda Streicher nominated Pat Booth for the Long Service award. The nomination was seconded by Chris de Coning and unanimously approved by Council and tabled in the minutes herewith.

Action: Peter Martinez undertook to write to the above award recipients as well as to Maciej Soltynski (awarded Honorary Membership at the end of 2008) to inform them of, and to congratulate them on the awards.

14. Starter Pack: Due to pressure of work Gerrit Penning has suggested an alternative to carry on with the production and distribution of the Astronomy Starter Pack.

Action: Laurie Simone is to forward all email correspondence received from Gerrit Penning regarding the above, to Peter Martinez to make a decision.

15. Sky Guide: Maciej Soltynski suggested to Council that the Council Members may want to propose astronomical images for the front and back covers of *Sky Guide Africa South 2010*. URL addresses of such proposed images (and not the images themselves!) may be submitted for consideration to [Maciej@telkomsa.net](mailto:Maciej@telkomsa.net) before the end of May 2009.

16. Treasurer's Report:  
No report was submitted.

17. New Members:  
The membership database was updated by Lerika Cross and a copy is with Peter's secretary Margaret Kumalo. Together they will monitor and keep the database up to date until we have a Membership Secretary. Peter Martinez had emailed Lerika to thank her for carrying out this task.

18. Correspondence:  
There was no correspondence that has not been dealt with in the minutes.

19. Any other business:  
Scholarships for 2009: A report was submitted to Council by Maciej Soltynski and reads as follows;

SAAO generously made funds available for a third SAAO-ASSA Scholarship in 2009. There were 5 applicants for the 4 Scholarships, three of whom were Scholarship holders in 2008. After due deliberation, the Scholarship Committee (M G Soltynski, K Govender, A Gray, I S Glass) re-awarded one SAAO-ASSA Scholarship, and awarded another to a new applicant. The third was not awarded. The ASSA Scholarship was not awarded. Thus one new applicant, and two 2008 holders who reapplied, were unsuccessful. Full details will appear in MNASSA.

Lerika Cross advised Council by correspondence that Scopex will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May again at the War Museum.

It was decided by Council that the next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. This is to finalise nominations for Council and prepare for the AGM. The dead-line for nominations is the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

It was decided that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July in Cape Town.

20. Date of the next Council meeting:  
The next Council meeting is on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.