

MINUTES OF ASSA COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 3rd June, 2008

Held in the Auditorium, SAAO, at 8.00

1. Welcome:
President Magda Streicher opened the meeting and welcomed all present
2. Present:
Magda Streicher, Patricia Booth, Atze Herder, Dave Laney, Maciej Soltynski, Chris de Coning, Lia Labuschagne and Laurie Simone.
3. Apologies:
Apologies were received from Dudley Field, Peter Martinez and Cliff Turk. Apologies from all up country members are automatically accepted.
4. Ratify Previous Minutes:
The minutes of Council meeting of the Tuesday 5th February were ratified by Magda Streicher. No corrections were required.
5. Matters Arising:
Further to what was discussed at the previous meeting, Pat Booth proposed that the air fare for the Secretary to fly to Johannesburg for the AGM be paid by ASSA. Dave Laney seconded the proposal and the resolution was passed by Council.

AGM:

5. Report on Council - Secretary:
Laurie Simone will be in Johannesburg and will give the report on Council.
6. Directors Reports:
Laurie Simone is to email all Directors who may not make it to the AGM in Johannesburg, to confirm their absence, and that they submit their reports by email to the Secretary. Magda Streicher said that all directors based locally will be at the AGM to read their reports. They are Tim Cooper, Atze Herder, Oleg Toumilovitch, Chris Middleton and Brian Fraser.
7. Financial Report:
Cliff Turk is our Business Manager and he has confirmed that he will not be at the AGM. He will submit a report.
8. ASSA Scholarship:
Maciej Soltynski confirmed to Council at this meeting that he will not be at the AGM and will submit a report.
9. ASSA Endowment Trust:
Cliff Turk will submit a report.

AGM Interval:

10. Election of Auditor:
11. Election of office Bearers:

12. Awards:
All Directors are to contact Magda Streicher as soon as possible, to advise if there are any recipients of awards in their section. These awards, together with any other awards will be awarded at the AGM by Magda Streicher.

13. Presidential Address:
Magda Streicher

AGM End

14. Astronomy Starter Pack:
Gerrit Penning thanked Council for the refund of R 966.00 towards distribution fees.

The latest feedback from Gerrit regarding the ASP is that Since 1 March up to 25 May (about 3 months), 143 CDs have been sold. Largest 3 orders included 30x, 25x and 10x items, with the rest consisting mostly of individual sales or orders of 2 to 5. Compare the above to sales for the December 2007 to February 2008 when 166 CDs were sold.

No negative feedback has yet been received on the CD, but attempts will be made to contact buyers to hear what they think of the product.

Very little sales go to ASSA Centres, although all are aware of the product. Due to small member bases, this is expected. It seems that the target market of the CD is the general public with a passing or starting interest in astronomy, and then also new members joining astronomy clubs. Marketing has been done to virtually all astronomy institutions in the country, but no response has been received.

15. Independent Clubs:
Laurie Simone will correspond with the Hermanus and West Rand Clubs to determine if they wish to remain independent. Should they want to be ASSA affiliates, the terms of reference as per the ASSA Constitution will be pointed out to them

16. New Members:
Dudley Field submitted his last report prior to the AGM. On behalf of Council, he congratulated Magda for a wonderful year and that she will be a hard act to follow. He further added that it is a long time since a President has been so committed and giving of their time and thanked Magda.

The application of 3 new members was approved by Council. The total membership for April now stands at 252 compared to last year at 245. Full members at 80 compared to 89, Honorary Members up to 13 compared to 10. Limited members up to 155 compared to 129 members.

17. Correspondence:
Kos from the Bloemfontein Centre made a request in writing to Council for a donation of occultation equipment. The request was read out in full to Council outlining the reason for the donation. The request was accepted by Council with a limit of R3000.00 for the equipment. Dave Laney made a firm proposal to grant the request and it was seconded by Pat Booth and the resolution was passed by Council.

Magda Streicher will liaise with Kos for further details.

18. The next meeting is the AGM on the 26th July in Johannesburg.

