

Minutes of ASSA Council Meeting Tuesday 8 September 2009

The meeting was held in the SALT Boardroom, SAAO. Pat Booth took the Chair.

1. Welcome: Pat welcomed the new Membership Secretary, Maureen Rogers. Cliff proposed the formal acceptance of Maureen in this position. Carried by acclamation.

2. Register: Present: P. Booth, I.S. Glass, C. Hettlage (Webmaster), A. Jones, L. Labuschagne, M. Rogers, M. Soltynski, C. Turk.

3. Apologies: L. Cross, C. de Coning, L. Govender, P. Martinez, M. Poll, C. Rijsdijk.

4. Approval of the previous minutes (23 June 2009): Subject to the following amendment to item 5D, Awards It was resolved that three Honorary Members recently appointed (Mrs M Streicher, Mr M Soltynski and Mr C Rijsdijk) receive MNASSA and Sky & Telescope at the Society's expense while they reside in South Africa. Proposed by C Turk, seconded P Martinez and carried unanimously.
the acceptance was proposed by C Turk, Seconded by I.S. Glass.

5. Matters arising: Concerning request for R16K for MNASSA software(3 items): M. Soltynski explained that on investigation the cost of the Adobe Suite probably would be R5.8K if we can prove we are a non-profit organisation or can get an educational discount. Failing this, the cost would be approximately R10K. A.Jones said W. Koorts(editor) could have his copy of Guide 8 as he no longer used it. The program Ultra Edit 32 at US\$49 was approved.

6. Deepsky software. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, A. Slotegraaf gave a demonstration of what he had in mind and explained the need for professional programming help. There was some concern that only a small proportion of members might benefit. However the idea was attractive and Auke was asked to produce quotes and look into the possibility that the same approach would be useful to other Sections. Council agreed that a maximum of R10K might possibly be made available if the software was completed satisfactorily.

7. Editorial Board/ASSA website: The terms of reference of an ASSA subcommittee as suggested by C. Rijsdijk, to make recommendations concerning ASSA publications and its website, were approved. Council suggested that persons with knowledge of print and electronic media be included, such as M. Soltynski or Lia Labuschagne. It would be desirable to have a report or a progress report by the next Council meeting.

8. ASSA Starter Pack. Request from L. Govender (Durban Centre) approved. Proposer M. Soltynski, seconder, C. Turk. Unanimous.

9. Vacant positions on Council:
• Business Manager: Because of the considerable work associated especially with distribution of the Sky Guide, it has been tentatively

suggested that this be made a paid position. A. Jones, M. Soltynski and I.S. Glass have approached Mrs Isobel Bassett, a retired SAAO employee, and she has indicated interest. She will liaise with C.Turk, in order to find out what is involved. Hopefully by the next Council meeting a definite proposition will be tabled. The work also involves keeping track of MNASSA subscriptions and dispatching copies (excluding member copies) six times per year.

- Secretary: No appointment having been made, P. Booth is prepared to help with secretarial continuity so long as others help with taking minutes etc.

10 ASSA Symposium: It is not clear that the Cape Centre will be in a position to organise the 2010 Symposium but discussions are going on with persons who might be able to assist, such as L. Labuscagne. Plan B might be to approach another Centre to host it.

11. Alternates for Up-Country Council Members. I.S. Glass would be Alternate for Durban, C. Hettlage for Johannesburg. Cliff Turk for Natal Midlands and Maciej Soltynski for Garden Route Cebnter. M.Poll and M. Hoffmann to be asked if they have anybody in mind. Cape Centre to be approached to see if two volunteers can be found. Hermanus to be asked if they require an Alternate.

12. Natal Midlands Centre. Following an email from Don Slatter, concern was expressed at the decline in numbers at the Natal Midlands Centre.

13. New Members: The new Membership Secretary had not yet been briefed to produce a list for Council and to notify Editor, MNASSA.

14. Sky Guide: A.Jones reported that the 2010 Sky Guide was almost ready and mainly waiting for the advertisements to be finalised. The bookings for ad. space were good. Council appointed Wayne Trow as Editor from the 2011 issue and thanked him for volunteering for the job.

15. Correspondence: Emails to Secretary, ASSA, will be handled by C. Hettlage and L. Labuschagne.

16. Any Other Business: None

17. Next Meeting: 24 November 2009.

Notes taken by I.S. Glass

