

Minutes of ASSA Council Meeting Tuesday 24 November 2009

The meeting was held in the SALT Boardroom, SAAO. Dr Peter Martinez took the Chair.

1. Welcome: The Chairman opened the meeting at 2000h and welcomed those present.
2. Register: Present I.S. Bassett (by invitation), P. Booth, I.S. Glass, C. Hettlage, P. Martinez, M.A. Rogers, M.G. Soltynski & C. Turk.
3. Apologies: A. Jones, L. Labuschagne (out-of-town members' apologies accepted automatically).
4. The minutes of the Sept 8 meeting, as amended by P. Booth and circulated on 12 Nov, were accepted
5. Matters arising:
 - 5.1 MNASSA Software: No word received from W. Koorts regarding software purchases for MNASSA. P. Martinez to get status and quotations from W. Koorts.
 - 5.2 Deepsky Software: No quotation or documentation received from A. Slotegraaf .
 - 5.3 Editorial Board: A report from Case was circulated by P. Booth before the meeting and was summarized by M. Soltynski.

C, Turk proposed a resolution as follows: "Council thanks the convenor and members of the sub-committee on the functions of the Editorial Board and congratulates them on a very clear presentation. Council confirms its intention to adopt the policy suggested and will proceed along the lines laid out in this report. Individual items to be dealt with in future will be handled in terms of this policy."

This was seconded by I.S. Glass and passed unanimously.

5.4 Starter Pack: C. Turk reported that he had been informed by Logan Govender (Natal Ctr) that there has been a delay due to packaging questions but that steady progress has been made and it should be ready in January.

6. Vacant Council positions: Following some discussions, Cliff suggested that more effort should be put into persuading Cape Centre members to act as alternates and that this might lead to an interest in becoming office bearers in due course.
7. ASSA Symposium 2010. Noted that Pretoria Centre has offered to host this. They are to be thanked officially by Council. M. Poll requested to write to them.
8. Alternates (again): Cliff proposes to give an explanatory talk to the Cape Centre to encourage its members to take an interest in becoming Alternates.
9. Finances: Cliff had nothing specific to report except that in general the finances are in good shape.

Cliff proposed that "A further sum of R10,000 be transferred from the General Fund to the Scholarship Fund.". Seconded by Pat Booth. Passed unanimously.

10. New Members: The new Membership Sec. reported some confusion in record keeping. It was clarified that only new members who had filled in the

application form and had paid were to be brought before the meeting. No new members had been entered for four months.

11. Sky Guide: The printers (Koerikai) had not delivered and are 2 weeks late. Situation almost intolerable since distribution to shops for Christmas is overdue. C. Turk to talk to Managing Director.
12. Correspondence: W. Trow requesting formal appointment as Editor, Handbook, with conditions, dates etc. M. Soltynski reported that W. Trow has negotiated this matter with A. Jones . To be referred to Editorial Board. W. Trow to be told he will receive a letter shortly.

Midlands Centre declining membership matter: I.S. Glass reported on correspondence received from P. Cramb (Durban), indicating that things were on the mend and outlining improvements that have already taken place or will shortly be made.

13. Any other business:

S&T: Cliff reported that Sky and Telescope for Hon members had only started from December this year, implying previous 6 months' copies unsent to the 7 or 8 people involved. Peter Martinez to follow this up with S&T's subscription agency.

M. Soltynski requested that it be made clear who (in absence of an elected Secretary) was responsible for reading/writing the Society's correspondence. It was pointed out that Pat Booth was acting Secretary.

C.Turk mentioned the high price of suitable books and proposed that: "The amounts of the Long Service Awards made recently to Mr T P Cooper and Ms P J Booth be the sum of R750 each." (NB Booth was previously set at R500 which is now increased to R750).

This was passed.

14. Next Meeting: set for 2 February 2010.

The meeting concluded at 2115.