

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Astronomical Society of South Africa

Held at Mount Edmund Christian Brothers College, Pretoria, August 4th 2010

1. Notice of Meeting

The President , Michael Poll, welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and passed around a register.

2 Present: Michael Poll, Lerika Cross, Chris Stewart, Rynhardt van Rooyen, Johan Smit, Percy Jacobs, Michael Neale, A.J Nel, Tony Viljoen

Apologies: Tim Cooper, Maciej Soltynski, Christian Hettlage, Chris Middleton, Case Rijdsdijk.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no minutes of the last AGM available, but a report of the July 29th 2009 AGM can be found in MNASSA for October 2009 page173.

4 Matters Arising

None.

5 Council Report

President read the Report of Council: The full report will be published in MNASSA.

Chris Stewart proposed that this report be accepted.

This was seconded by Lerika Cross.

6 Observing Section Reports

President read out the reports of the sections: each report submitted will be published in MNASSA

- a. Comet and Meteor Section : report submitted by Tim Cooper
- b. Deep Sky section – no report
- c. Double Star section – no report
- d. Imaging section – no report
- e. Occultation section: report submitted by Brian Fraser
- f. Solar section: no report
- g. Variable star section: report submitted by Chris Middleton
- h. Cosmology section: report submitted by Frikkie de Bruyn

7 Reports of other sections

- a. Dark Sky section – no report
- b. Education and Public Communication: report submitted by Case Rijdsdijk
- c. Historical Section : report submitted by Chris de Coning

8 ASSA Scholarships Report

The report was submitted by Maciej Soltynski, and will be published in full in MNASSA.

An appreciation to Dr Abe Mohamed was recorded in the report.

9 Financial Report

President said that no financial report was available. The latest information to hand was extracted from the Council minutes of May 4th 2010

2006 – audited and signed

2007 – audited and ready to be signed

2008 – almost complete

Assets - R164000

Surplus - R99000

R63000 in Scholarship Fund

2009 - still to be done

2010 - still to be done

- Lerika Cross asked about auditor, and said the whole issue is a big risk to the society
- President noted that only a summary financial report was presented at the last AGM, there was no balance sheet or income and expenditure statements.
- Lerika Cross commented that the amount in the Scholarship fund seemed small.
- Percy Jacobs said that it is a priority to get the accounts up to date, Rynhardt van Rooyen (Treasurer elect) agreed. The matter was referred to the next Council meeting.

10 ASSA Endowment Trust Report

- No report

11 Election of Auditor

- Referred to next Council meeting.
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12 a. Election of Office Bearers

There was an query about how to elect people who were not seconded. It was decided to accept the nominations as automatic, as there was no opposition.

Johan Smit offered to take over as Membership Secretary, to be ratified at first Council meeting following the AGM.

- Rynhardt van Rooyen provisionally accepted the post of Treasurer, depending on the state of affairs to be uncovered. The first Council meeting will try to sort this out.
- Lerika asked that Cliff Turk be asked to try to bring up accounts up to date, and arrange a handover.
- A J Nel offered to be co-opted to position of Secretary. This was provisionally accepted, ratify at first council meeting. No duplicate nominations. (*** But see note below*).

b. Section Directors

There were no seconders for the Double Star and Solar sections.

13 ASSA Symposium

Johan Smit noted that one presenter was present (Michael Neale).

Johan gave comments on preparations so far, but more attendees were required.

14 Awards

The list of people to receive ASSA Annual Awards was read out. The full list, with citations where relevant, will be published in MNASSA. The Awards made include:

- Observing certificates
- Presidents Award - to be presented to Auke Slotegraaf.
- Gill Medal – presented to Lerika Cross for her longstanding hard work and commitment to Scopex.

15 Any Other Business

None

The next Council meeting will be held on Saturday 21st August, 10 am, at the Military Museum in Johannesburg

Council wishes to thank Michael Poll for his efforts and trials as President in 2009/10, and wished him well for the next year.

President's Address: Michael Poll then delivered the President's Address on Astrobiology. This talk was very interesting and well received by the attendees.

The meeting ended at 21h30

** Note – concerning this matter, the President, who was chairing the meeting, omitted to mention the fact that Lerika Cross had also offered her services as Secretary. The omission is regretted and apologies are made. (Michael Poll).