

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE	14 May 2011	TIME	10:00	VENUE	Ward Room - Military History Museum, Johannesburg
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ATTENDANCE

Present

Role

Michael Poll	President (Chair)
Chris Stewart	Council Member
Lerika Cross	Secretary

Via Skype

Ian Glass	Vice President and Membership Secretary
Auke Slotegraaf	Council Member and Sky Guide Editor
Christian Hettlage	Web Master
Lia Labuschagne	Cape Town Centre Rep

Apologies (a) and not present

Adv AJ Nel (a)	Council Member and Treasurer
Matie Hoffman	Vice President
Maciej Soltynski (a)	Council Member, Convenor of Scholarship Committee
Case Rijdsdijk (a)	Vice President, Garden Route Centre Rep, MNASSA Editor
Chris de Coning	Bloemfontein Centre Rep
Constant Volschenk	Johannesburg Centre Rep
John Saunders	Hermanus Centre Rep
Peter Cramb	Durban Centre Rep

NOTE: Names responsible for progressing key actions are in bold

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
1	Welcome	M Poll welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.
2	Acceptance of Minutes Matters arising from the minutes of 2 April 2011	The minutes of 2 April 2011 were accepted. Matters arising from the previous meeting are covered in the agenda items covered below. Agenda items tabled were accepted
3	Financial matters	<p>3.1 Update from Cliff Turk on the financial statements and audit.</p> <p>L Cross had asked C Turk for an update for the meeting but had not received an update. M Poll expressed his dissatisfaction over the fact that Council still has not had sight of the financial statements since 2008. He indicated that Council should receive at least a provisional copy of the documents so that we have some idea of what the state actually is. The last update from C Turk is as recorded in the minutes of 2 April:</p> <p>“I have received the 2008/2009 Accounts from the Auditors and have been trying to get them signed by any of the then Council Members who are in Cape Town before sending them on to you for signature by you and Michael Poll. They will then have to be returned to</p>

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		<p>the Auditors for them to sign their final certificate before they can be published in MNASSA.</p> <p>The 2009/2010 Accounts were completed by me and passed to the Auditors on 11 February 2011. I have not had any phone calls for clarification etc as usually happens if the clerk doing most of the work does not understand something, so there may be a delay in allocating time for the audit. At this stage I do not know.”</p> <p>L Cross and AJ Nel to follow up with C Turk and report back. (L Cross sent email on 15 May). AJ Nel is to ask about the documents relating to the trust.</p> <p>3.2 Tax Implications on ASSA of the new arrangements around the Sky Guide. This item is pending the receipt and publication of the financial statements as recorded in the minutes of 2 April.</p> <p>3.3 ASSET. Council requires more information about the entity ASSET and its relationship – if any – with ASSA. The explanation received from C Turk and recorded in the minutes of 2 April is not satisfactory. P Cramb advised that he, T Cooper and C Turk are jointly in contact about ASSET and are the Trustees. L Cross and AJ Nel to progress</p> <p>3.4 Financial system: AJ Nel to put a proposal to Council about a simple accounting / invoicing system if he deems it necessary.</p> <p>3.5. Royalties: R51076.20 was received from Struik in respect of royalties from the sales of the 2011 Sky Guide.</p>
4	Membership	<p>4.1 New Members</p> <p>Council ratified these proposed members (provided by I Glass) who have sent in their application forms and are listed as having paid:</p> <p>Miss G. Brown, Featherbrook Estate 1746 Mr G. Eva, Benoni Small Farms 1501 Mr C. Ganten-Bein, Randpark Ridge 2169 Mr P.N. Grobler, Scottsville 3209 Mr L. Leeuw, Mill Street Post Office 8010 Mr G.A. Myburgh, Emmarentia Ext 2195 Mr R. Rath, Richmond Hill 6013 Mr M.F. Stroebel, Claremont 7708 Mr P.J. Tosen, Vanderbijlpark 1911</p> <p>4.2 I Glass reported the number of members as 230 at the moment (previous 2 months: 221 and 156 respectively) including the 13 honorary members.</p> <p>4.3 ASSA Honorary Members: Cliff Turk kindly provided this information about ASSA Honorary Members as at 7 May 2011:</p> <p>16 Nov 1992 J da S Campos 11 Apr 2000 M A Gray 11 Apr 2000 M Begbie 8 May 2001 M W Feast 8 May 2001 T Lloyd Evans 8 May 2001 C R G Turk 3 Sep 2002 A Slotegraaf 1 Nov 2005 T P Cooper</p>

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		<p>8 Apr 2008 P Booth 8 Apr 2008 J P G Cramb 27 Aug 2008 M G Soltynski 21 Apr 2009 C Rijdsdijk 21 Apr 2009 M Streicher</p>
5	Scholarships	<p>Scholarships 5.1 M Soltynski advised that there is nothing to report at this stage – only later in the year.</p>
6	Editorial Board Matters	<p>Sky Guide matters</p> <p>6.1 Sky Guide Editor Contract: Contract with the Sky Guide Editor 2012 - Auke Slotegraaf – was signed by M Poll and still needs to be signed by AJ Nel.</p> <p>6.2 Number of Sky Guide 2012 for ASSA: Ian calculated the minimum run on would be 250 copies, in the case of keeping the present constitution allowing for some people leaving and others joining. The maximum could be about 600, i.e., present members + such extra Centre members as want the Sky Guide.</p> <p>MNASSA matters:</p> <p>6.3 MNASSA April Edition: L Cross sent mail to Willie Koorts on 15 May to get confirmation if he has been paid for the cost of the stamps.</p> <p>6.4 The April edition is the second last edition that will be mailed and the June/July edition the last.</p> <p>6.5 MNASSA: fees for receiving paper MNASSA. Pending finalisation of Constitution. An estimate from Ian: About R50 a head if we do it all ourselves.</p>
7	Website	<p>7.1 Website: nothing specific to report from Christian. There was a suggested during the month to have a celestial calendar on the website and he will give this suggestion some consideration.</p>
8	Historical Section	<p>8.1 ASSA Archives to UCT Archive. Nothing to report.</p>
9	Gill Medal	<p>9.1 Ten votes for the Gill Medal were received – all were positive.</p> <p>9.2 M Soltynski lodged an objection to the proposal from C Rijdsdijk for the occasion to be used for handing over the award seeing it was a non-ASSA function. C Rijdsdijk subsequently withdrew his proposal.</p> <p>9.3 M Soltynski suggested an award ceremony in the library / entrance of SAAO as was done for Brian Warner.</p> <p>9.4 An option was discussed to look into having the handover during the time that the SAIP conference is held in July in MidRand but at an ASSA function. There will be many ASSA delegates in the area at that time.</p> <p>9.5 L Cross offered to discuss options with C Rijdsdijk and M Soltynski.</p> <p>9.6 I Glass will arrange for the engraving of the medal.</p> <p>9.7 There is only this one medal blank left. C Stewart has mailed the SA Mint but had no reply and undertook to go and visit the SA Mint to find out about the medal blanks.</p>

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10	ASSA Symposium 2012	10.1 L Labuschagne repeated the advice that there is unlikely to be any update before the next committee has been elected.
11	ASSA Review	<p>Constitution – report against key milestones:</p> <p>(1) 10 April: The 5 Council members who drafted the suggested amendments finalise the draft; (DONE)</p> <p>(2) 11 April: Draft Constitution is sent to Council and Centre chairs for comment by 6 May (DONE)</p> <p>(3) 14 May: final comments are tabled and finalised at Council meeting.</p> <p>M Poll reported that the Constitution Task Team assessed all comments received and has built a final copy based taking the comments into account. This final copy is not necessarily going to satisfy everyone but reflects an honest endeavour to accommodate everyone. The process needs to progress to the next step.</p> <p>It was agreed that the final copy will be distributed to Council in the coming week for information and to request approval that the draft be submitted to the membership for a ballot.</p> <p>Any comments about changes at the level of misprints, etc. would be incorporated; comments relating to modifications would be left for review in the next membership year.</p> <p>(4) 23 May: Ballot process to be initiated.</p> <p>The following voting process was discussed and agreed between M Poll, I Glass and L Cross after the meeting (16 May):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the final copy to be placed on the website (C Hettlage) 2. e-advice to all members with email address to invite them to look at the final copy on the website; also send post to these members with a self-addressed envelope enclosed with a “Yes” or “No” box to tick on the back of the envelope; 3. post the final copy to members without email address on record (~34): and enclose the same self- addressed envelope with a “Yes” or “No” box to tick on the back of the envelope; <p>(Ian advised the cost with envelopes and two stamps each would be about R1000+ for a ballot.)</p> <p>(5) Ballot result to be assessed at the Council meeting to be held on 18 June 2011</p>
12	Section Reports	<p>12.1 L Cross reported that reports were received from: Tim Cooper – Comets; Lucas Ferreira – Double Star; Chris de Coning - Historical; Auke – Deep Sky Observing ; Frikkie de Bruyn - Cosmology</p> <p>Resignation received from Jacques van Delft as director of the Solar Section</p>
13	General	13.1 L Labuschagne asked if there is more information about the African Astronomical Society and possible links to ASSA. I Glass offered to follow up after the meeting and replied as follows: “ There is a web site www.africanastronomicalsociety.org about this society. We are listed on their links page. It does not seem to have any real presence at the moment.”
14	Not discussed	<p>14.1 Presidents Award: Nomination and detail to be progressed by M Poll, A Slotegraaf and C Rijdsijk.</p> <p>14.2 Honorary Membership – ASSA Auditor: An email request from Cliff Turk was received for Honorary Membership for the ASSA</p>

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		Auditor, Ronnie Glass. The request is listed below the minutes.
15	Closure Next Meeting	M Poll thanked everyone for their contribution and closed the meeting at 11.10 Next Council Meetings: 18 June, 16 July 10:00 start at the Military History Museum AGM: 3 August (CBC Pretoria)

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____

Chair: M Poll

Annexure to the minutes:

Refer to item: 4.4

Hello Lerika

Re your email request of 3 April, I would like to suggest that Honorary membership be given to Mr Ronnie Glass who has been the ASSA Auditor for over 25 years. During that time Mr Glass has been available for discussions and advice at any time in person or by phone and has attended discussions at the Society's meetings. All the services of his auditing firm have been available totally free of charge.

I would recommend that all the publications issued or distributed by the Society be included with the Honorary Membership. i.e. Sky Guide, MNASSA and Sky & Telescope. Council authorised the supply of Sky Guide and MNASSA a few years ago, so the only additional expense of this is the cost of Sky & Telescope and Council has the power to decide on which publications will be supplied when granting Honorary membership.

I would be proud to propose this myself, but as I am no longer a Member of Council, it is probable that I am not permitted to do so. If this is the case I shall be very grateful if you or some other member of Council will make the proposal so that the matter may proceed immediately.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter and I shall be pleased to hear the outcome.

Best wishes
Cliff