

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| DATE | 4 October 11 | TIME | 19:30 to 20:30 | VENUE | Via Skype |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|

ATTENDANCE

| Present | Role |
|--------------------|---|
| I Glass | President (Chair) |
| Maciej Soltynski | Council Member, Convenor of Scholarship Committee |
| Chris Stewart | Council Member |
| Adv AJ Nel | Treasurer |
| Lerika Cross | Secretary |
| Pat Booth | Membership Secretary |
| Johan Smit | Chair – ASSA Pretoria Centre |
| Case Rijdsdijk | Chair - Garden Route Centre, MNASSA Editor |
| Christian Hettlage | Web Master |
| Auke Slotegraaf | Sky Guide Editor |

Apologies (a) and not present

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| Matie Hoffman | Vice President and Chair – Bloemfontein Centre |
| John Richards | Vice Chair – Cape Centre |
| John Saunders | Chair - Hermanus Centre |
| Logan Govender | Chair - Durban Centre |
| Gary Els | Chair – ASSA Johannesburg Centre |

NOTE: Names responsible for progressing actions are underlined and items from previous minutes are in italics

| | Agenda Points | Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold) |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Welcome | I Glass welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and also extended a special welcome to Pat Booth as the newly appointed Membership Secretary. There were no apologies submitted. |
| 2 | Previous Minutes Matters arising | 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 August were accepted. 2.2 Matters arising from previous meeting are noted <i>in italics</i> in the minutes below. |
| 3 | Council 2011/ 12 | <p><i>3.1 The appointment of two professional Astronomers to the Editorial Board (SKA options to be considered:</i> This was discussed and it was agreed to retain the existing external professional members on the Editorial Board: Michael Feast and Brian Warner. No action was considered necessary such as letting them know they are still on the Board.</p> <p><i>3.2 Centre Chairs:</i> L Cross noted that the name of the Centre Chair for Natal is still to be confirmed. M Hoffman is Chair of Bloemfontein Centre.</p> <p><i>3.3 Membership Secretary handover:</i> Handover was completed on 6 September to Pat Booth. Correct email for her: pjb195@yahoo.com.</p> <p><i>3.4 New Section Directors:</i> Council discussed and agreed the appointment of the two new Sections Directors as result of the resignations of Lucas Ferreira (Double Star) and Jacques van Delft (Solar Section):</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Double Star: Dave Blane email: theblanes@telkomsa.net</p> |

| | Agenda Points | Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold) |
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| | | <p>5.2 As time is running out for getting membership lists from all the Centres it was proposed and accepted that a note be sent to all Members on the list by <u>P Booth</u> asking them if they want to remain as Country members, reminding them of the renewal fee and also ask them to join the maillist (<u>C Hettlage</u> to advise the process).</p> <p>Fees for the record: Country Membership Fee: R50 (Joining fee R50). Any ASSA member (who is not a member of a Centre) who has already paid subs will get two years Country membership. And for Printed MNASSA: R55 for an annual subscription for 6 printed issues.</p> <p>5.3 Hon Member: Sky & Telescope renewals: Receiving the S&T was a part of a member's benefit in the past; when someone became a Hon Member during that time, the benefit of S&T was continued for those Hon Members when the benefit stopped for normal members. As the time is probably now due to process renewals of the S&T for some Hon Members it was agreed that <u>P Booth</u> and <u>L Cross</u> (who ordered some of the S&T for Hon Members living overseas) will work together to find out which are to be renewed.</p> |
| 6 | Scholarships | <p>Scholarship report</p> <p>6.1 M Soltynski has been in touch with SAAO regarding the three SAAO-ASSA Scholarships to query their status and to ask for an increase in the amount for 2012. SAAO (Sivuyile Manxoyi) have confirmed that they will be available in 2012. A requested increase of 20% for each, agreed with Sivuyile, from R5000 to R6000, is awaiting SAAO budget approval (Eugene and Glenda). As soon as the amount is finalised, <u>M Soltynski</u> will advise the ASSA webmaster with the information.</p> |
| 7 | SGAS Process 2012 | <p>SGAS to members:</p> <p>7.1 <u>L Cross</u> will send note – IN BOLD – to Centre Chairs to send in their order for SGAS 2012 to AJ Nel (including address to send SGAS to) so that one order for all SGAS can be placed by end October. <u>AJ Nel</u> will return an invoice to the Centres to be paid before order can be finalised.</p> <p>7.2 AJ Nel will place a bulk order with Struik for all Sky Guides needed by all Centres and all Country Members (<u>P Booth</u> to provide an estimate of number of Country Members) and supply respective addresses.</p> |
| 8 | Editorial Board Matters - Sky Guide | <p>SGAS report from A Slotegraaf:</p> <p>8.1 Struik: Struik has been very helpful in the production of the 2012 SkyGuide. Layout advice from Janice Evans and editorial corrections & changes from Colette Alves are gratefully acknowledged. The SkyGuide is to be offered in Struik's "Leserskring" catalogue, which should provide additional exposure.</p> <p>Given that he'll be appointed as editor for the next edition - A Slotegraaf intends to arrange a meeting with Janice and Colette to iron out the technical problems encountered (specifically, the notion of "camera-ready artwork" as used in the Struik-ASSA contract).</p> <p>8.2. Content: The entire text has been either rewritten or re-edited, and new material has been added. In the Almanac section, more "horizon diagrams" have been used, and new seasonal star charts are included. Each section of the SkyGuide is now illustrated with photographs taken locally, as is the front and back cover. South African (astro)photographers produce world-class images and I hope the selection in the SkyGuide helps to showcase this.</p> <p>8.3 Advertising: During the initial design for 2012, more pages were set aside for advertisers than in previous editions, so that the projected income from advertising would have been R30,000. Eleven advertisers took out ad space, resulting in an income of R25,050. Three regular advertisers (Telescope Shop, Sky Watcher & Telescope SA) opted out, citing cost as the reason. The unallocated ad-space was used to sponsor a worthy cause (the Cape</p> |

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| | | Town Science Centre) and to experiment with the introduction of smaller "display" ads. Only three of these display ads were taken; more had been anticipated. A detailed billing list of advertisers was supplied to the Treasurer. |
| 9 | Editorial Board Matters - MNASSA | MNASSA matters 9.1 Nothing specific to report |
| 10 | Website | 10.1 Website Review: <i>Council to commence a review and set a task team. <u>L Cross</u> to draft an outline document to guide the process. No progress reported. But AJ Nel commented (and supported by A Slotegraaf: " we need to start using Wordpress / HTML5 type site"</i> 10.2 Calendar of events: <i>To be kept on the website. Use the dates in the SGAS for starters (<u>C Hettlage</u>). No progress reported</i> |
| 11 | Historical Section | 11.1 ASSA Archives to UCT Archive: <i>C de Coning to give update and list issues. No progress to report.</i> |
| 12 | Gill Medal | 12.1 More Gill Medals: <i>I Glass to recirculate the quote he received and C Stewart to do a comparison to present to Council in due course.</i> C Stewart reported that he did a comparison between the two quotes received and the Cape Mint was higher. It was agreed that 6 medals should be ordered (and kept at the SAAO) enclosed in wooden boxes. <u>C Stewart</u> will get a latest quote and start the process of replenishing the medal stock. |
| 13 | Other Awards | 13.1 Long Service Award: <i><u>L Cross</u> has award and contacted B Fraser. Handover now scheduled for Oct ASSA Jhb meeting.</i> 13.2 Honorary Membership – ASSA Auditor: <i>J Richards and I Glass to discuss when to do the announcement and handover a letter stating the benefits (paper copy MNASSA and annual Sky Guide) – AJ Nel to confirm if he has a sample letter.</i> AJ Nel has sent the proposed letter (which, as agreed by Council will not detail the benefits) to <u>I Glass</u> for discussing the handover of the letter with <u>J Richards</u> . |
| 14 | ASSA Symposium 2012 | ASSA Symposium 2012: <i>On agenda awaiting discussion with new ASSA CPT committee in due course</i> <u>I Glass</u> undertook to follow-up with the Cape Centre as soon as the Astronautically Congress was over. |
| 15 | Checklist for Council | Check list for Council 15.1 <i>Key activities due by when to assist Council from year to year – <u>L Cross</u> will do with help from M Poll and will be kept with minutes</i> No progress to report. |
| 16 | Constitution leftovers | New ASSA Constitution: List of items left over or arising from the Constitution change 16.1 <i>M Poll offered to start off a list. L Cross to will keep in touch with M Poll on this.</i> M Poll advised L Cross that he has started with the list which will be circulated once received. |
| 17 | General | Nothing was raised. |
| 18 | Closure Next Meeting | I Glass thanked everyone for their contribution and closed the meeting at 20.30 Next meetings: 15 Nov 2011, 17 Jan 2012, 13 Mar 2012. Start time 19:30 via Skype |

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____
Chair: I Glass