

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Page 1 of 6

DATE	27 Mar 2012	TIME	19:30 to 20:28	VENUE	Via Skype
-------------	-------------	-------------	----------------	--------------	-----------

ATTENDANCE

Present	Role
I Glass	President (Chair)
Matie Hoffman	Vice President and Chair – Bloemfontein Centre
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Chris Stewart	Council Member
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Johan Smit	Chair – ASSA Pretoria Centre
Christian Hettlage	Web Master
Auke Slotegraaf	Sky Guide Editor
John Richards	Vice Chair – Cape Centre
John Saunders	Chair - Hermanus Centre

Apologies (a) and not present

Logan Govender (a)	Chair - Durban Centre
Maciej Soltynski (a)	Council Member, Convenor of Scholarship Committee
Pat Booth	Membership Secretary
Gary Els (a)	Chair – ASSA Johannesburg Centre
Case Rijdsdijk (a)	Chair - Garden Route Centre, MNASSA Editor

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	<p>I Glass welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.</p> <p>L Cross noted that apologies will be recorded in the minutes.</p> <p>(Note: A Slotegraaf and J Richards and C Hettlage were not connected via Skype for all the discussions)</p>
2	Minutes /Matters arising	<p>2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 February 2012 were accepted without amendments.</p> <p>2.2 Matters arising from previous meeting are noted <i>in italics</i> in the minutes below.</p>
3	Council 2011/ 12	<p>Section Director Guidelines</p> <p>3.1 (3.1) <u>L Cross</u> discussed with <u>A Slotegraaf</u> if he would be prepared to start off a draft for discussion on “Guidelines for new Section Directors” focusing on Observing Sections. (Refer to the input received and listed at the end of minutes of 15 Nov 2011)</p> <p>No further update has been received and L Cross agreed to check with A Slotegraaf when he will have time to start off a draft and provide a “due by date”.</p>
4	Financial Statements	<p>Previous financial statements & audits</p> <p>4.1 Previous Financials:</p> <p>AJ Nel reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2009/10 – with Auditors 2) 2010 /11 – AJ Nel will submit to the Auditors when he receives a copy of the 2009/10 financials to use the close off figures 3) 2011/12 - due in June 2012

Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	<p>Account balances</p> <p>4.2 (4.3) <u>AJ Nel</u> offered to present a proposal at the next meeting for possible change to amount kept in current account and improved return on savings in savings account.</p> <p>A proposal was sent by AJ Nel to an amount and included these points:</p> <p>“The ASSA has funds totally approximately R 400 000.00 in three bank accounts. The highest interest rate earned is 4.0%. The concern is: tax on associated interest earned. The proposal is that R 300 000 be invested in a fixed investment, accessible on 30 to 90 days where an interest rate of 10% is achieved. If this option is followed it would no longer be necessary to deplete funds to pay bursaries as R30 000.00 would annually be available for this purpose. The interest can further be directly paid to the current account thus facilitating ease of accounting.”</p> <p>I Glass thanked AJ Nel for his advice and <u>AJ Nel</u> received a mandate is to present proposals for the investment by the next meeting.</p> <p>AJ Nel also advised that he needs to become signatory to all accounts (including the investment account). This to be arranged between <u>AJ Nel</u> and <u>I Glass</u> by the next meeting.</p> <p>ASSET</p> <p>4.3 (4.3) A letter was drafted by M Soltynski and sent by I Glass to ASSET and reply received from T Cooper - the correspondence are listed in the attachment to the minutes of 15 November 2011 in which ASSET (T.Cooper) undertakes to bring to conclusion:</p> <p>“ fully audited financial statements, a clear statement of the terms of reference for ASSET and published procedures to be followed to apply for funds from the trust.”</p> <p>Response from ASSET (C Turk) dated 8 Dec 2011 - attached to minutes of 7 Feb 2012 – did not put matters to rest. AJ Nel noted that it was not clear from the ASSET Notarial Deed of Trust what the reason for ASSET existence is; <u>AJ Nel</u> offered to put some of his views in a mail to <u>I Glass</u> and <u>M Soltynski</u> who will respond to T Cooper on his response. AJ Nel also suggested that the Master of the High Court be cc'd.</p> <p><u>AJ Nel</u> undertook to send out his thought on the matter by the next meeting.</p> <p>4.4 Copying ASSA Council minutes to the ASSET Trustees:</p> <p><u>L Cross</u> to advice P Cramb that “the request from ASSET Trustees to be copied on the minutes of the ASSA Council meetings was considered but not agreed to by Council at their meeting on 27 March 2012.”</p> <p>Registration as Non-Profit</p> <p>4.5 (4.7)<u>AJ Nel</u> offered to draft a proposal to Council for registration of the ASSA entity as a Non-Profit Organisation.</p> <p>Council thanked AJ Nel for the proposal that he submitted – extract of main points:</p> <p>“ASSA is a voluntary association and may register as a non-profit organisation (“NPO”). NPOs exist solely to provide programs and services that are of public benefit. Earnings may not benefit individuals or stake-holders. Any organisation that is not for profit and is not part of government can apply for registration. To register a NPO is free of charge. Registering under the Non-profit Organisation Act is voluntary, but might become compulsory in future if an organisation falls within the ambit of the Act. It takes about two months to process the entire registration. Tax exemption is not automatic and ASSA would need to apply for exemption from SARS which is usually granted without any difficulty. The benefits are: In the past, voluntary associations could not register with a government registry; this caused problems, because donors and others often require that organisations have a degree of legal formality and public accountability which registration provides. Now, the NPO Act provides a registration and regulatory authority for voluntary associations. The ASSA</p>

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
		<p>will as such be geared to access funding from National Lotteries Trust, NDA and other agencies. Donors receive tax benefits. Tax exemption status with SARS is usually automatically granted. The liability of the organisation’s members and office-bearers is limited. The organisation has perpetual succession. Simple and limited annual reporting.”</p> <p>AJ Nel pointed out that Council members would need to sign the application document and ASSA would need to submit, i.a audited financials, copy of AGM minutes, Constitution. Council gave <u>AJ Nel</u> the mandate to proceed with the application process and advise on progress at the next meeting.</p>
5	Membership	<p>New Members: 5.1 P Booth was not at the meeting and new member list was not submitted</p> <p>Membership 5.2 Total number of ASSA Members (as at 7 Feb 2012): 159 including the 13 Hon Members (2 vacant).</p> <p>Hon Members and Sky & Telescope renewals: 5.3 (5.3) Council agreed that Hon Members will be asked to subscribe themselves to the magazine and submit refund to the Membership Secretary and the Hon Treasurer. P Booth to draft a short note to this effect to Hon Members and give them the URL of the website and email address to contact Sky Circ Service SkyCircService@skyandtelescope.com</p> <p>No update from P Booth received.</p>
6	Scholarships	<p>Scholarship report 6.1 M Soltynski advised before the meeting: no item to discuss.</p>
7	Editorial Board Matters - Sky Guide	<p>SGAS – Editor 2013 7.1 I Glass thanks AJ Nel for the updates to the SGAS Editor Service Agreement . I Glass reported that he had spoken to A Slotegraaf who advised that he was happy with agreement content. <u>AJ Nel</u> will proceed to finalise the contract for signature with A Slotegraaf.</p>
8	Editorial Board Matters – SGAS 2013	<p>SGAS 2013 matters: 8.1. What should the advertisers pay? Council discussed options. AJ Nel suggested that the advertising income should cover the SGAS cost to ASSA for delivering the finalised content to Struik and if required the advertising rate could be increased by 10%; Council agreed.</p> <p>8.2 Provided by A Slotegraaf: Key dates – to note: Aug ?? New Council info (ASSA AGM) available Aug ?? New Centre info available Aug 08,Wed Advertisers deadline (camera-ready artwork in hand) Aug 20,Mon Done - files to Struik for checking Sep 17,Mon HAND-OFF to Struik</p>
9	Editorial Board Matters - MNASSA	<p>MNASSA matters 9.1 Editorial Board: M Soltynski advised before the meeting: “Council needs to advise MNASSA Editors that the Editorial Board has no vacant positions, and those shown on MNASSA as vacant are actually occupied by Profs Feast and Warner.” Council agreed.</p> <p>9.2 For the record, L Cross will record in the minutes that W Koorts advised mail lists earlier in the month as follows:” I prepared a Concise Style Guide for contributions of articles to MNASSA (http://assa.saao.ac.za/resource/Concise_MNASSA_Style_Guide.pdf). All authors</p>

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
		are requested to please digest this information and to submit their material in this format only. A (crude) MS Word template is also available for download (http://assa.saa.ac.za/resource/MNASSA_Article_Template.doc). “
10	Website	<p>Website Review</p> <p>10.1 (9.2) <i>Website Review: L Cross contacted A Slotegraaf who agreed that he would assist in proposing some requirements/guidelines for an ASSA Website.</i></p> <p>L Cross will ask <u>A Slotegraaf</u> for an estimate of when he would be able to progress Council’s request.</p>
11	Historical Section	<p>ASSA Archives to UCT Archive</p> <p>11.1 ASSA Archives to UCT Archive: C de Coning provided this report by email: “Most of the Archive is live on the web. I have not advertised it yet. Look at http://assa.saa.ac.za/html/his-arch-council.html “</p> <p>Photographic Glass Plates archives from the Republic Observatory:</p> <p>11.2 No outstanding actions for Council on this matter. Further points noted: it is very difficult to generate enthusiasm with outside people polled for input.</p>
12	Gill Medal	<p>More Gill Medals:</p> <p>12.1 <i>The additional 6 medals are with C Stewart and means must be found to get these to the SAAO for safekeeping.</i></p>
13	ASSA Symposium 2012	<p>ASSA Symposium 2012: 12 - 14 Oct by Cape Centre Local Organising Committee (LOC)</p> <p>13.1 <u>C Rijdsdijk</u> advised (after the meeting) that a notice will go into next MNASSA.</p> <p>13.2 J Richards advised that the LOC is to meet on 28 March and the results from meeting may be distributed to Council. Key details regarding the format were advised by J Richards after the Council meeting about the format:</p> <p>“The Symposium dates are confirmed as 12th – 14th October at the SAAO. The theme: “100 years – Looking Back – Looking Forward”.</p> <p>There should be an official call for submissions of topics etc, and a panel (or individual) to vet the entries and formally accept them. Richard Jones has suggested a photo competition to run concurrently with the Symposium”.</p>
14	Constitution leftovers	<p>New ASSA Constitution: List of items left over or arising from the Constitution change</p> <p>14.1 (16.1) <i>L Cross to schedule Skype meeting with I Glass, M Poll, AJ Nel, C Stewart with the purpose to finalise any further changes to the Constitution.</i></p> <p>AJ Nel guidance given: if changes are not material the amendments can be advised in MNASSA and website. The meeting is to be held 23 Feb.</p>
15	General	<p>General</p> <p>15.1 Present whereabouts of the Roberts refractor – see the mails attached to the agenda (annexures to the mails from Hon Sec). M Hoffman advised the Refractor is in the Boyden Museum (the Roberts display will tell the story of the 3 observatories.</p> <p>15.2 Laser Safety: Discussion was held around the recent report in newspapers such as http://www.iol.co.za/the-star/laser-beams-a-big-threat-to-aircraft-1.1263624 and what ASSA can do. I was suggested that a link may be placed on the ASSA website to guide public to what the formal process is to register laser devices and general laser safety.</p> <p>15.3 Awards: L Cross asked and received confirmation from Council that nomination for awards will – in the first instance – be sent to the President and Vice President for consideration.</p>
16	Checklist for Council	<p>Check list for Council</p> <p><i>Key activities due by when to assist Council from year to year</i></p> <p>Attachment to the minutes will be reviewed at each meeting.</p>
16	Closure	I Glass thanked everyone for their contribution and closed the meeting at 20.50

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Page 5 of 6

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	Next Meeting	Next meetings - to be diarised and confirmed over time: 1 May 2012, 26 June 2012 AGM: 1 August Start time 19:30 via Skype (except AGM)

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____
Chair: I Glass

Annexures

Attachment referred to in item 16.1: Whereabouts of the Robert Refractor:

From: Dawid van Jaarsveldt [mailto:vjaarsdp@ufs.ac.za]
Sent: 13 February 2012 10:55 AM
To: Lerika Cross; jalvzyl@mweb.co.za
Cc: Ian Glass; jallet@mweb.co.za; debruyn1@telkomsa.net; Matie Hoffman; Hendrik Van Heerden; Roth@ukzn.ac.za
Subject: RE: Fw: Present whereabouts of the Roberts refractor

Hi Lerika et al

I do not know about the 3 1/2 inch Dollond telescope. As Roth mentioned the 3.5 Ross telescope of Roberts was kindly donated to the Boyden museum some years ago by the ASSA Midlands centre. I myself cannot remember the date, old age I suppose. This was the last artefact we needed to make the Roberts exhibit complete, since all his data of his 70 000 estimates (1938, fetched by Shapley and Paraskevopoulos) and whole library (1954) were also donated to Boyden.

Edward Pickering, director of Harvard Observatory (owner of Boyden) was for many years Roberts' mentor and also provided him with telescopes.

Attached a gallery of Roberts including the telescope. Take note that the exhibit is far from complete - still needs a lot of work.

Also there is a chronology of Robert's life, written by Keith Snedegar, professor in history of Utah Valley University. He is busy writing a book on the life of Roberts and will be visiting us in April for research.

And then some info on the Ross telescope. According to my amateur research the telescope we have must be manufactured before 1837, since it does not say "and company" on the signature. Will be the oldest telescope on the Harvard Kopje, which is an outstanding achievement, seeing the telescopes we have.

We are still on the lookout for the Usher telescope, eventually donated to Ford Hare university, to make the display even more complete.

Roberts' data was digitized by Tim Cooper and Brain Fraser and is now part of the AAVSA database.

The Midmar Centre also donated the Dancer telescope to Boyden for display. Does anyone have more info on this telescope? Date etc? I attach a few pics as well.

Greetings
Dawie Van Jaarsveldt
Boyden Observatory
Harvard Kopje

>>> "Lerika Cross" <lerika@icon.co.za> 2012/02/12 02:57 PM >>>

Hi Dawie van Jaarsfeld and Braam van Zyl

I hope you can help me with the query: the whereabouts of the so called 3 1/2 inch Dollond telescope.

The mails below give the background to this query that was put to the President of ASSA, Dr Glass.

Can you let me have any info you may have on the scope?

Many thanks

Lerika Cross

----- Original Message -----

From: [Rogan Roth](#)

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Page 6 of 6

To: [Jake Alletson](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:22 AM
Subject: Re: Fw: Present whereabouts of the Roberts refractor

Hello Jake,

The Roberts refractor was sent to JHB in an attempt to return it to ASSA about 15 years ago; there it languished in someone's garage for the next ten years or so before it was returned to me. Shortly before / after that (?) I was contacted by (now, let me see if I can remember his name...) Dawie van Jaarsfeld vjaarsdp@ufs.ac.za (or Braam van Zyl, jalvzyl@mweb.co.za) I think, looking for information on the Roberts as they (Boyden) were looking for his original instruments - they were in the process of staging a permanent display of early South African astronomers at the museum.

With your's and the committee's approval at the time, the instrument was collected by Dawie / Braam when I met him at Midmar dam; unfortunately the date of this meeting is lost in the mists of time!

More info.: http://assa.saao.ac.za/html/his-astr-roberts_aw.html

Remaining Artifacts:

The 3.5 inch Ross telescope passed to the ASSA upon Roberts' death. In 1975 the ASSA lent the instrument (then called the Roberts Telescope) to the Natal Midlands Centre at Pietermaritzburg. When Brian Warner enquired with the RAS as to the ownership of the telescope in 1985, the RAS officially made a gift of it to the ASSA.

I hope this gives you some clarity on the matter.

Bye for now
Rogan.

----- Original Message -----

From: "lerika cross" <lerika@icon.co.za>
To: "Frikke de Bruyn" <debruyn1@telkomsa.net>
Cc: "Ian Glass" <glass.ian@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:23 PM
Subject: Present whereabouts of the Roberts refractor

Hi Frikkie

I wonder if you can help with this recent query that Ian received : "the whereabouts of the 3 1/2 inch Dollond telescope that the Natal Midlands Centre had that belonged to ASSA. It was apparently originally the property of the Royal Astronomical Society that they lent to Senator Roberts of Lovedale. ASSA thought it was theirs and lent it to Natal Midlands. The RAS was happy with this and then gave it to ASSA. "

Can you help?

Lerika
