DATE	12 Sep 2013	TIME	19:30 to 20.50	VENUE	Via Skype
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ATTENDANCE

Present Role

Matie Hoffman President (Chair)

AJ Nel Treasurer

Chris Stewart Council Member

Maciej Soltynski Council Member, Convenor of Scholarship Committee

Lerika Cross Secretary

Pat Booth Membership Secretary

Auke Slotegraaf Sky Guide Editor

Christian Hettlage Acting Web Master (resigned 11 Sep 2013)

Peter Dormehl Chair - Durban Centre

Bosman Olivier Chair – ASSA Pretoria Centre

Case Rijsdijk Chair - Garden Route Centre, MNASSA Editor

Wendy Vermeulen For ASSA Cape Centre Chair

Apologies (a) Not Present

Ian Glass (a) Vice-President

Pierre de Villiers (a) Chair - Hermanus Centre Lia Labuschagne (a) Chair - ASSA Cape Centre

Gary Els Chair – ASSA Johannesburg Centre

NOTE: Names responsible for progressing actions are <u>underlined</u> and matters arising are in italics

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)					
1	Welcome	M Hoffman welcomed everyone to the first 2013/14 Council meeting. Apologies received are noted in the minutes.					
2	Previous Minutes Matters arising	Previous Minutes of Meetings Minutes of meeting on 17 June 2013 were accepted except for a request to correct spelling of surnames for Messrs Soltynski and De Villiers. The final version of the minutes is attached. Matters arising from previous meeting are noted in <i>italics</i> in minutes below, actions underlined.					
3	Council 2013/14 Composition	Council 2013 14 Composition 3.1 Council Composition and Election of Vice President: 3.1.1 The Council composition after the recent AGM:					
		Prof Matie Hoffman President (Chair Bloemfontein)					
		To be elected Vice President					
		Vice- President (Outgoing President)					
		Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer				
		Lerika Cross	Secretary				

Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)					
	Pat Booth	Membership Secretary				
	Chris Stewart	Member				
	Maciej Soltynski	Member				
	Pierre de Villiers	Member (Chair Hermanus)				
	Lia Labuschagne	Cape Chair				
	Peter Dormehl	Durban Chair				
	Case Rijsdijk	Garden Route Chair				
	Gary Els	Johannesburg Chair				
	Bosman Olivier	Pretoria Chair				

- a separate table (<u>L Cross</u>)
- 3.1.3 AJ Nel led the discussion for the election of the Vice-President. According to the Constitution the Vice-President had to be elected at the AGM – this did not happen. The Council discussion the process to follow and the key outcomes were:
 - (1) The attendees at the 2012/13 AGM meeting are eligible to nominate and vote for the Vice President;
 - (2) An internet based voting process will be established using Survey Monkey if there is more than one candidate to vote for;
 - (3) The nomination, voting and appointment of the Vice-President must be completed by end September 2013;

3.2 Council Appointees

- 3.2.1 M Hoffman asked and the Council discussed what the process should apply for all Council appointees. Outcome of the discussions:
 - 1) Appointees are not formal members of Council;
 - 2) Appointees must be asked for input to Council meetings and will receive copies of the Council minutes:
 - 3) Appointees will attend Council meetings on invitation;
- 3.2.2 M Soltynski noted that there were discussions with AJ Nel and C Rijsdijk and L Cross before the meeting about the Editorial Board where he queried the removal of the Editorial Board and this will be taken further outside the meeting.
- 3.2.3 The following Council Appointees for 2013/14 were agreed following discussions throughout the meeting - as below:

ASSA Appointees reporting into Council

Role reporting into Council	Appointees
Editor -MNASSA	Case Rijsdijk
Editor – Sky Guide	Auke Slotegraaf
Webmaster	Christian Hettlage

Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions	/ Actions ((in bold)		
	Convener Scholarships		Maciej Solt	ynski	
	ASSA Observing Director		Kos Coronaios (note: refer to 7.1.1. in the minutes)		
	ASSA Communications Offi	icer	Case Rijsdijk		
	ASSA Outreach Officer		Johan Smit		
	ASSA Archivist		Chris de Co	oning	
	Council Appointees - Section Di	irectors:			
	Sections (Groups)			Directors Council	appointed by 2013/14
	A - Shallow Sky: Asteroid, Meteors, Comets, I Planetary, Satellites, Solar	Lunar, Occ	cultations,	Dave Bla	ne
	B: Deep Sky: Deep Sky, Double Stars, Vari	able Stars	Auke Slotegraaf		
	C: Photometry, Spectroscopy	•		Vacant	
	D: Cosmology and Astrophys	sics		Frikkie de	e Bruyn
	E: Southern African Astronoi	ny Histor	y	Coning	
	F: Dark Sky			nit	
	G: Imaging Section			Gary Els	
	H: Instrumentation: including	g ATM		Chris Ste	wart
	Checklist will be reviewed by end 3.2.5 Comment to consider for th "Council may review the appoint Council meeting". 3.2.6 The Editorial Board: After the meeting, following disc	o consider for the Constitution (<u>AJ Nel</u>): view the appointees whenever the need arise but at least once a year a ".			
	Editor - MNASSA		Case Rijsdijk	<u>. </u>	
	Asst Editor - MNASSA		Ian Glass		
	MNASSA Layout Editor Willie Koorts				
	Editor – Sky Guide		Auke Slotegra		
	Book Review Editor		Maciej Soltynl	i	
	Professional Astronomer		us Prof. Brian		
	Professional Astronomer	Emeriti	us Prof. Micha	ael Feast	
nancial ntters	Financial Matters 4.1 ASSA registering as non-pro	ofit organi	sation		

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Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	(15 Jul 13): AJN reported: "Dir of NPO's happy with our submissions but we need to include a clause that the Society will perform financial transactions through a bank account; Clause 18.1 included in constitution. Must be placed on the website and advise on voting. We need 2/3 of all members to vote in favour."
	4.1.1 AJ Nel confirmed that until the final ASSA Constitution can be presented to the Department, the matter is in abeyance (will be kept in a section at the end of the minutes going forward. <u>L Cross</u>)
	4.2 Investment of ASSA Funds - 2013 (3.3) 20 May 2013: AJ Nel reported that he has completed the documentation for combining the 3 accounts and gave it in at Greenstone SBSA branch – he explained that the account will receive 5% fixed interest and the monies could be made available on short notice. AJ Nel reported that the forms need the President's signature. <u>AJ Nel and I Glass</u> to arrange.
	4.2.1 AJ Nel advised that the item is on the backburner in consequence of insufficient funds to justify the combination of the accounts (R 500 000.00 required). This flows inter alia from the fact that the ASSET funds will not be made available for the combined investment account.
	4.3 ASSET 4.3.1 It was noted that a short verbal report was given at the AGM by Peter Cramb (ASSET Trustees: Alan Gray, Peter Cramb, Tim Cooper. Cliff Turk is the Secretary, not a Trustee) who said:
	 The interest available to consider for good causes: R90 000. He advised the AGM meeting that the Trust is financially sound and that it is willing to accept requests for grants. No financial report was tabled or handed to ASSA; The ASSET is asking that a request to ASSA Members be made visible to give a donation to the Trust (this used to appear on the advice of subscription renewals /new membership and has since disappeared) and asked ASSA Council to consider reducing it.
	4.3.2 M Hoffman informed Council that – in order to be open and allow no conflict of interest - ASSA Bloemfontein would like to request a grant from ASSET. The meeting discussed this and noted that the matter is outside Council's scope to comment.
	4.3.3 A Slotegraaf advised Council that P Cramb asked for advertising space in SGAS 2014 but has not received any content yet.
	4.3.4 Some members voiced concern that the relationship with ASSET has not yet been normalised. Council agreed that M Hoffman will make contact with I Glass and M Soltynski for background to the ASSA/ASSET communication to date and will advise in due course.
	4.4 Auditing of 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 4.4.1 AJ Nel advised the meeting that the Financials for the year 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/13 were forwarded to the ASSA Auditor, R Glass – 7 August – and are currently under "audit".
	4.4.2 M Hoffman suggested that it would be excellent to have a "clean slate" on the financials by year-end and asked if <u>AJ Nel</u> can make contact before the next meeting with Ronnie Glass – the Auditor – and ask for feedback and an indication on progress to advise Council.
	 4.5 Payments by Centres and ASSA for SGAS 2013 24 Jan 13: <u>AJ Nel</u> to just finally confirm if payment has been received from Durban Centre. AJ Nel reported that Durban Centre effected payment on 2 August 2013. Item closed.
	4.6 ASSA Treasurer report : annexure to the minutes

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
5	Membership matters	5.1 New Members and Membership: membership status, issues P Booth reported to A Slotegraaf the total members 2013/14 were 146 Country members incl Hons. She reported at the meeting that she is following up on membership renewals and thus far 26 Country members have renewed.
		MR G N SEATON PO BOX 318 SARNIA 3615 MS R IMRIE PO BOX 6 SKUKUZA 1350
		5.2 Increasing Country Membership M Hoffman suggested some proposals to increase ASSA's "country member" base with enthusiastic members:
		5.2.1 Recruit Members from outside SA borders. Some logistical challenges were noted but none were considered show stoppers, e.g getting payment for subs from foreigners could be an issues and have increased costs in the past. Some considerations:
		 Depending on merit, membership could be waived; They can create Centres of their own and they will get ASSA publications at cost; Working with the SKA (Kim de Boor or Anita Loots) to explore how ASSA and SKA can practically work together on this; Could liaise with Kevin Govender on foreign contacts.
		5.2.2 Recruit more Country Members from inside RSA borders: Good sources considered: Astronomy Clubs not formally linked to ASSA, from university campuses, including "less visible" campuses such as the UFS QwaQwa Campus, UJ Soweto campus, even schools to encourage young people, etc.
		5.2.3 M Hoffman concluded the conversation that Council thinks a bit more on the specifics and keeps it as a focus. M Soltynski suggested that a sub-committees work further on this and he is happy to serve on such a sub-committee if required.
		5.3 Sky & Telescope subscription for Ronnie Glass as Hon Member: P Booth to again forward the mail to Ronnie and also ask him if he needs help to subscribe himself and claim back from AJ Nel. P Booth said she still has to do this.
		5.4 Membership fees 2014 AJ Nel proposed that a nominal increase is made to the annual membership subscription. It was discussed and agreed that the membership fee should be increased to R55 pa and the entrance fee will be kept at R50. Council confirmed that the new rate has been updated on all forms and the website. (Note: After the meeting a query arose about the printed version of MNASSA and correspondence was sent that it will be kept at last year's pricing: extra R55 to the sub)
6	Scholarships	Scholarships 6.1 M Soltynski informed Council that he wrote a report for the AGM and this was sent to MNASSA editor for publication.
		6.2 He advised that the SAAO increased their 3 scholarships - administered by ASSA - to R12 000 from R10 000 per scholarship (total R36 000 max). The deadline for applications is 1 Feb 2014. The website has been updated.
		6.3. In due course the scholarships will be advertised using the Astronet mail list (and any other mechanisms in place).

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
7	Section Directors & Website Review	Section Director and Website review 7.1 Section Director review 7.1.1. L Cross reported on the outstanding appointments – the key outstanding appointment being ASSA Observing Director. When asked by A Slotegraaf if she noted the correspondence between him and Kos Coronaios, she said she did not and noted that if Kos Coronaios in fact volunteered for the role, she proposed that Council accepts the offer. This was agreed. (Note: For purposes of the minutes please refer to section 3.2.3 for the list of all Council Appointees finalised by Council.)
		7.2 Website Review (6.2.2) It was proposed and agreed that once the static information has been updated the website will go live. A subsequent release will be the chat room / discussion groups and these will planned and prepared for to ensure that these are active from the start.
		7.2.1 Council was advised that C Hettlage sent in his resignation. Council expressed their dismay and sadness about this and asked Christian if he would consider staying on — at least until the new site is up and running — and Christian gracefully agreed to do so. Many thanks Christian!
		7.2.2 It was discussed that to reduce the load on the Web Master in terms of updating the site as a key focus. M Hoffman agreed to approach Hannes Pieterse from ASSA Bloemfontein to see how and when he can assist with website updating. The structure of the new website will also be such that it will allow various people to update different portions of the site.
		7.2.3 <u>C Hettlage</u> and <u>A Slotegraaf</u> agreed that it will take about 4 weeks to get the new website up and operational.
		7.2.4. <u>M Hoffman</u> tabled a proposal to translate "About ASSA" - on the website - in a few Southern African languages. Council considered this a good idea to pursue and thanked <u>M Hoffman</u> to take it further with C Hettlage/A Slotegraaf.
		7.3 ASSA Communications document 7.3.1 The document used by the sub-committee to review the communications of ASSA was updated by L Cross following the Council meeting and is an attachment to the minutes for the record and also perusal by <u>Council</u> .
		The document will now be used to engage with the key Council appointees in terms of communication with ASSA Members and the Public (<u>L Cross</u> to facilitate).
8	Historical Section	8. ASSA Archives at UCT Archive 8.1 C de Coning's report to Council was tabled: "I have received original material from Jan Hers and Andrew Gray which was taken to the archive. Also I did receive the MNASSA's from Sabinet. All the MNASSA have now been scanned in, all 517 editions. I have looked over Sabinet's work (impressive) and have corrected some minor errors. The final versions are being posted back to Sabinet". M Hoffman and C Rijsdijk discussed that searching the archives could give good information/facts.
9	Editorial Board Matters - MNASSA	MNASSA 9.1 Items in abeyance for new website (will be moved to items in abeyance): - The link to MNASSA.org site will be retained for a year with a message saying that the enquiry is being forwarded to the new site and that the old one will be closed down at the end of 2013. (C Hettlage) - Both the ASSA site and the MNASSA.org site need to have a link to download the index of the MNASSA article content. (C Hettlage) - Glass asked if the SAAO can continue to provide the facility to look at the number of hits to the site and I Glass and C Hettlage will talk about this with SAAO staff. They will also chat to

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	Tomes	them about having a check to detect broken links to external websites.
		9.2 Next MNASSA: C Rijsdijk reported that the latest MNASSA edition is with W Koorts.
		9.3. SABINET: AJ Nel advised that SABINET was invoiced on 18 July 2013 in the amount of R 7143.20. Payment is still awaited.
10	Editorial Board Matters - SGAS 2013	SGAS 2014 10.1 A Slotegraaf informed Council that SGAS 2014 is on track for printing at end September – and he will discuss with L Cross to obtain the ASSA Office Bearers and the Calendar.
		10.2 M Hoffman and A Slotegraaf agreed to discuss content around the Digital Planetarium.
		10.3 M Hoffman encouraged Council (and that includes the Centres) to take SGAS "beyond normal borders", e.g. send it to friends even in other countries.
		10.4 A Slotegraaf noted that SGAS has about ~ 70 lexicons of Afrikaans and Xhosa and noted concern about Xhosa words and it is not technical language. C Rijsdijk suggested that the words are back translated by an independent, non- astronomer person speaking Xhosa. Both M Hoffman and C Stewart offered to arrange for such a back translation if A Slotegraaf sends them the words.
11	ASSA Constitution	New ASSA Constitution: 20 May: <u>AJ Nel</u> offered to distribute the latest draft of the Constitution as well as a mark-up version for the purposes of the Dept of Social Development regarding the NPO application.
		11.1 The latest version of the Constitution was distributed to Council before the minutes.
		11.2 Constitution changes A number of items affecting changes to the Constitution were discussed under item 3 and summarised (AJ Nel): 11.2.1_Constitution to allow all members of Council to be eligible to be nominated as Vice-President, thus when the Centre Chairs for the next year are known. Also to consider a provision of internet voting procedure, e.g. to vote using an internet service such as Survey Monkey. C Rijsdijk suggested that for the voting process Centre Chairs be asked to get their members approval.
		11.2.2 Editorial Board: to be included in the next version to be circulated.
		11.2.3 M Hoffman proposed that the Constitution voting process be done and finalised by year-end and asked AJ Nel to include the changes as soon as possible and to circulate to Council before the next Council meeting: - Required for the Non- Profit Organisation;
		 A paragraph on the voting process. Para for election of Vice President.
		The voting process will be agreed at the next Council meeting and the voting process can then proceed after that.
12	Next ASSA	ASSA Symposium 2014 – to be hosted by the Durban Centre
42	Symposium	Note: Item in abeyance for information
13	General	General 13.1 Digital Planetarium: 13.1.1 M Hoffman tabled the opening program which was sent to Council before the

	Agenda	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	Points	
		meeting and asked if ASSA would like to send a representative (other than himself) to the events on 2 November (Saturday) to read a short message on behalf of ASSA (perhaps one of the vice-presidents). This was agreed to in principle and Council will leave this to be finalised by M Hoffman and AJ Nel. 13.1.2 It was also suggested that someone also attends and does a write-up for the publications – B Olivier was proposed and he accepted the offer.
14	Next meeting	Next Meetings: 19.30 via Skype: 14 October, 18 November, 10 Feb, 24 March, 5 May, 23 June, 14 July (if needed).
		AGM 6 August in Bloemfontein (to be confirmed)

Minutes Approved:	Date:	

Attachments to minutes:

 $Final\ minutes\ of\ meeting\ held\ on\ 15\ July-filename:\ ASSA\ Minutes\ 130715\ final\ v1.doc$

ASSA Communications: ASSA Communication 130919.doc

Treasurer Financial report

Checklist:

1 Feb Scholarship application dead line (changed 27 Jan 2013)

- 31 Mar Closing date for nominations for: Honorary Members and Awards

- 15 April Deadline for Secretary to send to Council list of nominations.

- 30 April Deadline for agreement with Struik of the printing schedule for the following SGAS

- 1 Jun Call for nominations for Council;

- 30 Jun Closing date for nominations for Council, receipt of Section reports, receipt of report from Scholarships Convenor, submission of items for placing on the Agenda of the AGM, Financial year end; Council to review appointment and roles of all Council Appointees including the Section Directors;

- 1 Jul Submission of annual updated ASSA membership form, Country Members: Subs renewal

- 31 Jul Closing date for ballot for Council nominations: Centre AGMs to be concluded before the AGM;

- AGM 1st Wed Aug. 21 business days before 1st Wed in Aug: Deadline for members to receive notice

- 1 Oct Appointment/Negotiations with SGAS Editor for next edition. Open negotiations with STRUIK

TREASURER'S REPORT PREPARED FOR THE 12 SEPTEMBER 2013 COUNCIL MEETING

CASHBOOK: 1 JUL 2013 TO 31 AUG 2013								
			INCOME		E	XPENDITU	JRE	
	DESCRIPTIO	MEMBER	INTERE	ADVERT	BANKI			
DATE	N	SHIP	ST	ISE	NG	TRAVEL	GIFTS	
01-07-	Membership	R						
2013	Fees	50.00						
04-07-	Membership	R						
2013	Fees	100.00						
08-07-	Membership	R						
2013	Fees	100.00						
08-07-	Membership	R						
2013	Fees	110.00						
10-07-			R					
2013	Interest Earned		244.42					
23-07-						R 1		
2013	Travelling					050.00		
23-07-					R			
2013	Banking Costs				0.65			
23-07-				R 11				
2013	Eridanus			250.00				
25-07-				R 2				
2013	SAAO			400.00				
25-07-	Membership	R						
2013	Fees	200.00						
29-07-					R			
2013	Banking Costs				12.40			
29-07-					R			
2013	Banking Costs				0.65			
29-07-						R 1		
2013	Travelling					512.00		
30-07-						R 2		
2013	Travelling					236.00		
30-07-					R			
2013	Banking Costs				0.65			
30-07-				R 2				
2013	Iziko			400.00				
02-08-				R 1				
2013	Durban			050.00				

02-08-]	R		
2013	Banking Costs				15.00		
05-08-	Membership	R					
2013	Fees	100.00					
05-08-	Telescope			R 2			
2013	Shop			400.00			
05-08-						R 1	
2013	Travelling					235.00	
05-08-					R		
2013	Banking Costs				0.65		
06-08-	Membership	R					
2013	Fees	50.00					
06-08-							R
2013	Gifts						501.00
06-08-					R		
2013	Banking Costs				0.65		
14-08-				R			
2013	Over the Moon			350.00			
10-08-			R				
2013	Interest Earned		260.82				
13-08-	Membership	R					
2013	Fees	-150.00					
13-08-					R		
2013	Banking Costs				0.65		
31-08-	Cape Union			R 2			
2013	Mart			137.50			
31-08-				R 2			
2013	Foton			000.00			
		R	R	R 23	R	R 6	R
Clos	Closing Balance		505.24	987.50	31.30	033.00	501.00

DEBTORS JOURNAL: 1 JUL 2013 TO 31 AUG 2013							
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT		CREDIT		BALANCE	
01-07-							
2013	Opening Balance				R	24 525.00	
19-07-		R 2					
2013	SAAO	400.00			R	26 925.00	
19-07-		R 2					
2013	Telescope Shop	400.00			R	29 325.00	
19-07-		R 2					
2013	Iziko	400.00			R	31 725.00	
23-07-	Eridanus		R	11 250.00	R	20 475.00	

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2013						
25-07-						
2013	SAAO		R	2 400.00	R	18 075.00
30-07-						
2013	Iziko		R	2 400.00	R	15 675.00
02-08-						
2013	Durban		R	1 050.00	R	14 625.00
05-08-						
2013	Telescope Shop		R	2 400.00	R	12 225.00
14-08-	-					
2013	Over the Moon		R	350.00	R	11 875.00
29-08-		R 2				
2013	Cape Union Mart	400.00			R	14 275.00
29-08-		R 7				
2013	Eridanus	200.00			R	21 475.00
29-08-		R 1				
2013	Noyens	200.00			R	22 675.00
31-08-						
2013	Cape Union Mart		R	2 137.50	R	20 537.50
31-08-						
2013	Foton		R	2 000.00	R	18 537.50
		R 18				
	Balance	000.00	R	23 987.50	R	18 537.50