

**ASSA AGM 2016 MINUTES**

<b>DATE</b>	17 Aug 2016	<b>TIME</b>	19:00 to 21:30	<b>VENUE</b>	The Willows Country Lodge, The Willows, Pretoria East
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**Present**

Council Members	Role
Dr Pierre de Villiers	President, Chair - Hermanus Centre
Bosman Olivier	Membership Secretary
Johan Smit	ASSA Pretoria Chair
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Chris Stewart	Council Member, Section Director Instrumentation
Jerome Jooste	ASSA Johannesburg Chair

## Council Appointees

Dave Blane	Section Director Double and Variable Stars
Allen Versfeld	Section Director Imaging

**ASSA members and visitors**

Wilmi le Roux	Clyde Foster	Michelle Ferreira
Dr Barbara Cunow	Neville Young	Nigel Rotherham
Linda Rotherham	Dr Louis Lombaard	Laura Lombaard
Michael Poll	Jerome Jooste	John Maynier
Fred Oosthuizen	Gilbert Maloka	Andy Overbeek
Rudolf Strydom	Jess van Elferen	Neil Viljoen
Anton du Toit		

**Apologies**

Tim Cooper	ASSET Trustee
Dr IS Glass	Committee Member
Dr Claire Flanagan	ASSA Scholarship Convenor
Eddy Nijeboer	Cape Centre Chair
Case Rijdsdijk	Vice President, Chair - Garden Route Centre, MNASSA Editor
Auke Slotegraaf	Sky Guide Editor, Section Director Deep Sky
Christian Hettlage	Web Master
James Smith	Web Manager

**Distribution**

Prof Matie Hoffman	Vice President
Peter Dormehl	Chair - Durban Centre

## ASSA AGM 2016 MINUTES

	<b>Agenda Points</b>	<b>Discussions / Decisions / Actions</b>
1	Welcome	<p>Bosman Olivier, ASSA Membership Secretary and ASSA Pretoria Council Member, who fulfilled the role of host and Chairman for the AGM, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received are recorded in these minutes.</p>
2	Minutes	<p>The minutes of the previous AGM meeting held on 5 August 2015 were accepted without amendments (Proposed AJ Nel, Seconded C Stewart).</p>
3	Report on Council 2014/15	<p><b>Report on Council</b> The ASSA President, P de Villiers, presented his Report on Council.</p> <p><b>NOTE: All reports will be placed on the website <a href="http://assa.saa.ac.za/">http://assa.saa.ac.za/</a> and in MNASSA</b></p>
4	ASSA Director Reports	<p><b>4.1 Reports received from the ASSA Directors</b> The reports that were received from ASSA Directors were tabled and presented and accepted by the meeting and will be placed on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Shallow Sky Section Report from the Director, D Blane.</li> <li>b) Deep Sky Section Report from the Director, A Slotegraaf</li> <li>c) Imaging Section Report from the Director, A Versfeld.</li> <li>d) Cosmology Section Report from the Director J de Bruyn.</li> <li>e) SA Astronomy History Section report from the Director C de Coning.</li> <li>f) Instrumentation Section Report from the Director, C Stewart.</li> <li>g) Observing Report received from the Director K Coronaios.</li> <li>h) Photometry and Spectroscopy Report from the Director J Jooste.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.2 ASSA Scholarships</b> The Report received from the ASSA Scholarship Convenor, Dr Claire Flanagan, could not be presented at the meeting due to technical difficulties encountered with the file but will be included on the website.</p>
5	Constitution Amendment	<p><b>Amendment to the Constitution</b> Adv AJ Nel informed the meeting that at the recommendation of the ASSA Auditor Mr R Glass, and approved at the ASSA Council meeting held 28 June 2015, the meeting is asked to approve the amendment to the ASSA Constitution to include the following resolution:</p> <p>“An Independent Compiler’s Report on the financial statements be prepared and submitted together with the financial statements for the approval by members at the annual general meeting. The firm or individual engaged to prepare such a Report for the new financial year, be appointed at the annual general meeting. “</p> <p>The current items in the ASSA Constitution refer to audit process and will be suitably amended after the meeting and all ASSA members will be informed when the final version is on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 18.4. The financial statement shall be audited by the auditor or auditing firm appointed at the previous <i>AGM</i>.</li> <li>· 18.5. Financial statements for each financial period shall be prepared and submitted for approval to the <i>council</i> once completed and audited.</li> <li>· 19.8.5. to elect an auditor or auditing firm for the ensuing <i>year</i>;</li> <li>· 12.2.3. to receive the <i>treasurer's</i> unaudited financial statement for the year ended 30 June;</li> </ul>

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	<b>Agenda Points</b>	<b>Discussions / Decisions / Actions</b>
		<p align="center">· Glossary</p> <p align="center">(Proposed by AJ Nel, Seconded: P de Villiers)</p>
6	Independent Compiler Appointment	<p><b>6 Independent Compiler Appointment</b></p> <p>It was tabled that ASSA appoints Ronnie Glass of Chartac Advisory Services Pty Ltd as ASSA's Independent Compiler.</p> <p>(Proposed AJ Nel, Seconded C Stewart)</p>
7	Financial Report	<p><b>7 Financial Reports 2015/16</b></p> <p>AJ Nel presented the 2015/16 Financial Report, which will also be placed on the website.</p> <p>In response to a question from Neville Young about how many Sky Guides were in fact sold by Struik to result in the royalties received by ASSA, AJ Nel responded that he is not aware on the actual number.</p>
8	ASSET	<p><b>8 ASSA Endowment Trust</b></p> <p>It was noted in the agenda that there was no report was received from ASSET for 2016. This was reported by Tim Cooper (one of the three Trustees) when he tabled his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.</p>
9	Office Bearers 2016/17	<p><b>9 Office Bearers 2016/17</b></p> <p>B Olivier advised the meeting that as the key Council Members were all appointed at the previous general meeting - and all Members were still available to continue for the next year - there was no need for voting for positions on Council.</p> <p>There were a couple of changes to the list of volunteers for position of Appointees.</p> <p>The Council and Appointees' positions for the 2016/17 year were presented and accepted as listed in the attachment to these minutes and which will also be placed on the website.</p> <p>A proposal was tabled for Council to consider splitting the section on Photometry and Spectroscopy into two sections and the <u>next Council meeting</u> will consider this proposal.</p>
10	Awards	<p><b>10 ASSA Awards</b></p> <p><b>10.1 Awards by ASSA Section Directors</b></p> <p>P de Villiers presented the following awards from the Section Directors to those present at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Dave Blane</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for planning and successfully completing the ASSA Top-100 Marathon on 2016 July 02/03 by Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf</li> <li>· <b>Louis Lombaard</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for planning and successfully completing the ASSA Top-100 Marathon on 2016 July 02/03 by Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf</li> <li>· <b>John Maynier</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for planning and successfully completing the ASSA Top-100 Marathon on 2016 July 02/03 by Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf</li> <li>· <b>Andy Overbeek</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for planning and successfully completing the ASSA Top-100 Marathon on 2016 July 02/03 by</li> </ul>

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		<p style="text-align: center;">Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf</p> <p>These awards were announced and certificates will be sent to these recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>John Gill</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for his observing notes and photographic record of the ASSA Top-100 Objects by Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf and Astrophotography Section Director, Allen Versfeld;</li> <li>· <b>Richard Ford</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for the solar and sunspot observations made in 2015 and 2016 by Director of the Shallow-Sky Section , Dave Blane;</li> <li>· <b>Greg Roberts</b> was awarded <i>an Historical Section Certificate</i> for his series of articles published in MNASSA on Amateur satellite tracking in South Africa by the Director of the Historical Section, Chris de Coning;</li> <li>· <b>Percy Jacobs</b> was awarded <i>an Observing Certificate</i> for planning and successfully completing the ASSA Top-100 Marathon on 2016 July 02/03 by Deep-Sky Section Director, Auke Slotegraaf</li> </ul> <p><b>10.2 Awards by ASSA Awards Committee</b></p> <p>The ASSA Awards Committee comprises the ASSA President and two Vice Presidents and the Committee decided on the following awards, announced by P de Villiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>ASSA Pretoria Centre</b> was awarded <i>a Merit Award</i> for promoting the practice of astronomy by arranging the highly successful Karoo Star Party, a very effective means of encouraging observation;</li> <li>· <b>ASSA Bloemfontein Centre</b> was awarded <i>a Merit Award</i> for arranging the highly successful Bloemfontein Star Party, a very effective means of encouraging observation;</li> <li>· <b>StarPeople</b> (<a href="http://starpeople.capetown/">http://starpeople.capetown/</a>) was awarded <i>a Merit Award</i> for arranging the highly successful Southern Star Parties, a very effective means of encouraging observation.</li> <li>· <b>Kos Coronaios</b> was awarded <i>a Merit Award</i> for dedicated, innovative and successful outreach initiatives in the Soutpansberg area which reached at least 5,000 visitors;</li> <li>· <b>StarPeople</b> (<a href="http://starpeople.capetown/">http://starpeople.capetown/</a>) was awarded <i>a Merit Award</i> for dedicated, innovative and successful outreach initiatives in the Cape Town area which reached at least 8,000 visitors</li> </ul> <p><b>10.3 Honorary Membership</b></p> <p>Not tabled at the AGM but proposal was presented before the AGM and then assessed and approved by the ASSA Award Committee:  Honorary Membership for Dr IS Glass for his outstanding contribution to the ASSA over a long period of time. ASSA now has 14 Honorary Members.</p>
11	Any other business	As no other business was raised, the Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting.
12	Presidential Address	P de Villiers presented his presidential address.
13	Next Council meeting	Proposed to be in September ( <i>27 September 19:30 via Skype will be scheduled</i> )

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14	Closure	B Olivier extended a gracious thank you to P de Villiers for his Presidential Address. He also thanked everyone for their attendance P de Villiers extended a thank you to Bosman Olivier and the ASSA Pretoria Centre Committee their well organised general meeting and their kind hospitality.  The meeting closed at 21:30

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For ASSA Council, P de Villiers \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments:** all to be placed on the ASSA website:

Report on Council (P de Villiers)

Financial Report: ASSA Financial Report 2015 to 2016

Reports received from ASSA Directors

- Shallow Sky (Dave Blane)
- Deep Sky (Auke Slotegraaf)
- Astro Photography (Allen Versfeld)
- Cosmology (Frikkie de Bruyn)
- SA Astronomy History (Chris de Coning)
- Instrumentation (Chris Stewart)
- Observing (Kos Coronaios)
- Photometry and Spectroscopy (Jerome Jooste)

ASSA Scholarships (Dr Claire Flanagan)

Presidential Address