

ASSA AGM 2024 MINUTES

DATE	26 Aug 2024	TIME	17.00 to 18:07	VENUE	Virtual via Jitsi Meet
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Attendance

ASSA Council

Prof Matie Hoffman	AGM Host, ASSA Bloemfontein Centre Chair
Dr Daniel Cunnama	President
Derek Duckitt	Vice President (Incoming)
Chris Stewart	Vice President (Outgoing), Instrumentation Section Director
Dr Ian Glass	Council Member

Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Andre Bruton	Membership Secretary
Lerika Cross	Secretary

ASSA Appointees

Tim Cooper	Comet, Asteroid, Meteor Section Director
Auke Slotegraaf	SGAS Editor
Dr Christian Hettlage	SAAO IT Liaison, ASSA Web Manager
Dr Pierre de Villiers	Outreach Director
Jacques van Delft	Solar Section Director
Clyde Foster	Planetary Section Director

ASSA Centre and Country Members

Johan Smit	Pretoria Centre Chair
John Lindsay-Smith	Johannesburg Centre Chair
Willem Brazelle	Cape Centre Chair
Mike Hadlow	Durban Centre Chair
Richard Fulton	ASSA
Alison Coulter	Johannesburg Centre Treasurer
Analize Jooste	Country Member
Ab Vonkeman	Hermanus Centre

Apologies

Chris de Coning	Archivist, ASSA History Director
Martin Heigan	Astrophotography Section Director
Dr Claire Flanagan	Convenor of Scholarships
Case Rijdsijk	Council member, MNASSA Editor
Dave Blane	Double and Variable Stars Section Director
Colin Steyn	Observing Director
John Gill	Web Master

Note:

Links to supporting documentation are underlined.

The links are to the [website page](#) or the [ASSA AGM 2024 folder in the Cloud](#)

[Recording of the meeting](#)

	Agenda Points	Discussions / Decisions / Actions
1	Welcome	<p>Prof Matie Hoffman - Bloemfontein Centre Chair and Incoming Vice President - fulfilling the role of AGM Host, welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies received were noted and are listed above under Attendance.</p>

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2	Previous Minutes	The minutes of the previous AGM meeting - held 2 August 2023 - were accepted. (Proposed by Chris Stewart, seconded by Daniel Cunnama)
3	Report on Council	<p>3. President's Report on Council</p> <p>Daniel expressed his gratitude to Matie for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>He expressed sincere gratitude to Council members for their contributions, the dedication and passion each brings to ASSA which is what keeps the ASSA community thriving.</p> <p>Daniel proceeded with his Report on Council summarising highlights from the reports submitted by the Directors of the various sections.</p> <p>Daniel said that as his President of ASSA term comes to an end, he had found the past two years incredibly rewarding and expressed his deepest gratitude to every one.</p> <p>He expressed his confidence that Derek, as the new President, will continue to lead ASSA with excellence. He will continue providing support and advancing the interests of ASSA through his professional work across the South African astronomy landscape.</p> <p>Daniel asked all to continue the excellent work in reaching ASSA goals - to encourage and stimulate the study of astronomy in Southern Africa, to associate and organise observers in astronomical observation and research, and to disseminate current astronomical information.</p> <p>No questions were raised and Matie thanked Daniel for his report.</p>
4	Financials	<p>4. Financials Report 2023/24</p> <p>The Treasurer, AJ Nel, presented the Financial Report.</p> <p>Highlights from the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net loss is down to -R7 510,21 - Comparative income slightly higher; - Income derived from most sources remained stable; - Sanlam Glacier continued a steady growth and the first withdrawal for bursary payment was done in 2023; - SkyGuide sources, contributing the most to income, was up - as were Sabinet Royalties and Membership fees; - Expenses in general were on par with 2023; - Accountant fees spike now and again as CTFS only charge every 2 or so years; - No major expenses are foreseen for the 2024-2025 financial year. <p>The meeting approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country membership renewal fee for 2024/25 will remain at R150 (which includes the delivery options of either via PAXI or PUDO) as approved by Council at the meeting of 24 June. The entry fee remains R50. - Independent Compiler, Peter Carlisle of CTFS, to remain Independent Compiler for ASSA. Note: his Auditing business is independent of the normal bookkeeping and tax work done by CTF services for the ASSA. <p>No objections were received and the Financial Report was accepted.</p>
5	ASSET	5. ASSA Endowment Trust

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	<p>Tim Cooper, a Trustee of ASSET tabled the ASSET Trustees' Report.</p> <p>Key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trust capital account increased and @ 29 February 2024 was R188,180. - Chartac Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd., continue to act as independent compilers. - Peter Cramb continues to stand as acting Secretary. - Options are being considered to avail the Trust of tax exemptions, including becoming a Public Benefit Organisation. <p>No questions were received. Daniel thanked Tim and the Trustees.</p>
6	<p>Awards</p> <p>6. ASSA Awards Daniel proceeded to announcing the annual awards.</p> <p>Directors' Awards: These are means Directors have to recognise hard work, excellent service to their Sections. Tim Cooper motivated CAM Section Director's awards, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kos Coronaios, <i>acknowledging his continued imaging of comets, which is of a high standard;</i> - Magda Streicher <i>for her observations of meteor showers, in support of the CAM Section's programs.</i> <p>President's Award: A certificate awarded to a member making exceptional contributions to furthering the aims of the Society, was awarded to Lerika Cross <i>in recognition of her unwavering dedication as the Secretary of ASSA.</i></p> <p>Merit Awards: These are awarded to a member for performing a particularly meritorious service to the Society, above and beyond that individual's regular duties and tasks on behalf of the Society. Merit Awards were awarded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tim Cooper <i>for initiating and coordinating the successful ASSA Global Meteor Network Outreach Project;</i> - Auke Slotegraaf <i>for his willingness and effort to refresh the ASSA website;</i> - Jacques van Delft <i>for restarting and reigniting the Solar special interest group.</i> <p>Long Service Award: An award given in recognition of long service to the Society or a Centre of the Society:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pierre de Villiers <i>has been awarded a Long Service Award in appreciation for his many valuable contributions made to the furthering of ASSA Objectives.</i> <p>Attendees applauded and Daniel concluded by again congratulating all awardees.</p>
7	<p>Office Bearers 2023/24</p> <p>7. ASSA Office Bearers 2024/ 25 Daniel presented the list of incoming Council for 2024/25 and gave a warm welcome to the new Centre Chairs, i.e. Willem Brazelle - Cape Centre Chair, Mike Hadlow - Durban Chair, John Lindsay-Smith - Johannesburg Chair.</p> <p>He welcomed Colin Steyn, incoming Observing Director, noting it was good to again have someone in the daunting role.</p> <p>Daniel introduced Clyde Foster, all the way from Namibia, saying ASSA was delighted to have Clyde onboard again, this time driving the focus area in which he specialises, Planetary.</p>

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	<p>Clyde said he was delighted to be back in the fold. He shared an introduction note and relayed his primary focus area and collaborations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He has been specialising in planetary imaging, for the last 10 years; - ASSA has always remained his primary affiliation. Recent interest was working international Pro-Am Planetary Science community; - The move to Namibia led to an area ~ 100 kms southwest of Windhoek where he was very fortunate to make contact with a farm who kindly gave him permission to move onto one of his farms where he subsequently rebuilt his observatory; - Having settled down now, his drive is now towards renewing contact with ASSA and hoping to build on strengthening Namibia / South Africa relationship as a member of the Namibian Scientific Society. - To promote ASSA in the international community and the interest and enjoyment of the planets, highlighting key aspects of planetary observations. <p>Clyde ended saying he is very much looking forward to being back and involved with ASSA after a tumultuous couple of years.</p> <p>Daniel thanked Clyde for the introduction and encouraged anyone interested in joining the the Planetary group to get in touch with Clyde.</p> <p>Daniel welcomed Analize Jooste and thanked her for her illingness to join the Scholarships Committee.</p> <p>He noted ASSA is still looking for candidates to fill the vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MNASSA Editor - Photometry and Spectroscopy Director <p>In closing, Daniel welcomed Matie as the Incoming Vice President and said it’s time to hand over the ASSA Baton to Derek.</p>
8	<p>ASSA President</p> <p>8. ASSA President 2024/25 Derek accepted the ASSA Baton from Daniel and thanked him for his substantial contributions during his presidency.</p> <p>Key points Derek noted as importance aspects to pursue during his presidency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach has been a focus for him at Hermanus Centre and will be in his new role; - Important areas will be the improvement in membership and communication and to “encourage and stimulate the study and practice of astronomy”, an ASSA objective. <p>In conclusion Derek thanked, in advance, the people keeping “the engine room running” . He extended a warm welcome to all the new people in roles, saying he is looking forward to working with everybody in the new year.</p>
9	<p>Closure</p> <p>Matie thanked Derek and noted he may well visit Derek in Hermanus to share some ideas for ASSA. Matie asked if AJ will share the Financial Report, which AJ confirmed, and also thanked AJ for his dedication as Treasurer, over a very long time, which is highly appreciated.</p> <p>In closure, Matie thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 18:07</p>
Next Council meeting	<p>The Council meetings for the year will be confirmed in due course.</p>

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Attachments to the minutes:

- Refer item 2: [ASSA AGM Minutes 230802 v6](#)
- Refer item 3: [2024 AGM President's Report, AGM Presidents' Baton.jpg](#)
- Refer Item 4: [2024-08-25 ASSA Financials Presentation.pdf](#)
- Refer Item 5: [ASSET Annual Report 2024](#)
- Refer Item 7: [ASSA Council and Appointees 2024 25 after AGM](#)
- Refer Item 7: [ASSA Planetary Special Interest Group introduction](#)
- Refer Item 7: [AGM Presidents' Baton](#)