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A.S.S.A (Natal) 1991
MINUTES
(JULY 1991 - JUNE 1999)

JD 161



1994 - 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 16 CAMBRIDGE RD ON 24/7/91

Present: B.Lawrence, T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Jarmain, R.Roth, G.Prosser, J.Watson

Apols: A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) ASSA National Symposium (23-25/4/92 in Capetown) - all members notified - R.J. and J.W. and possibly A.S. hope to attend
- b) Natl Soc Library display went well - congrats to Tim Chance for excellent display & slide show, and to Rusty Jarmain for his help in preparing same - Sheila Dale has some photos.
- c) Prestbury Scouts/Cubs evening went well - good response - too much moon.
- d) SABI-SABI weekend (14-15/9/91) - all members notified - very expensive.

3. Membership

- a) Mr Dean da Costa Prop J.Watson Sec T.Chance
- b) Ron Dale going into hospital 28/7/91 for hip op - Rusty Jarmain also going in at the same time for hand op.
- c) Potential new members Dr P.Uys, Mrs L.Stuart, Mr P.Hawkins

4. Correspondence

- a) Newsletters & notice papers from other Centres
- b) SAAO Annual Report
- c) TIME-LIFE 'Voyage through the Universe' (new ?) on offer at R76-44 per volume - agreed too expensive for our library
- d) ASSA Minutes - going ahead with plaques for Maclear and de la Caille.

5. Election of Office Bearers 1991/92

Chairman	Mrs B.Lawrence
Secretary	Mr J.Watson (and Council Rep)
Treasurer	Mrs H.Chance
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarmain
Library	Mrs H.Chance
PRO & Education	Mr T.Chance
Projects	Dr G.Prosser
Instruments	R.Roth and A.Scafturis

6. Treasurers Report

- a) Sheila Dale handed over cash and all relevant paperwork
- b) Balnce on hand as per A.G.M. less payment of ASSA Subs - approx R657.
- c) Hassles with withdrawals at FN Bank - H.C. to research possibility of transferring to cheque account , most probably at another institution.

7. Library

ICFR has facility to copy slides - H.C. has contact to make slides from pictures in books.

8. Planning

August 14/8/91 - mini-talks on constellation names

- T.C. Scornio/Orion, R.J. Coma Berenices
- B.L. Zodiac, R.R. Toucan & Mag Clouds
- J.W. Argo, G.P. ??

September 11/9/91 - Astro Photography

9. Instruments & Project Palomar

- a) Centre's 6" at home of A.S.
- b) Centre has been 'given' the telescope and accessories of late Mark Lipshitz in Durban - G.P. and A.S. to fetch and inspect for future use.

10. General

- a) Venue for Committee meetings to remain at CCB, 49 Chapel St at 5.30 pm.
- b) Venue for Centre Meetings - Bot Gardens a strong possibility
 - G.P. to set up formal meeting with Brian Tarr.
- c) New magazine 'Leisure Time' to be published - article on Astronomy may be possible.
- d) Bumper Stickers - plenty left - J.W. to chase up other Centres.
- e) Education T.C. has a lot of ideas
 - i) 'Formal' programme at Bot Gardens facility
 - ii) Possible use of Natal Centre's syllabus and/or Mr Turk's adult education program
 - iii) Schools - Indian (Woodlands), Black (Bhekamatshe Primary - H.Mkhize)
 - iv) Primary schools, Cubs, Scouts
 - v) Tea convening - to be arranged on a roster basis (B.L. 14/8/91).

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CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

* N.B. Next meeting on 18 September 1991

Present: B.Lawrence, T.Chance, H.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apols: R.Roth, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matters arising
 - a) ASSA National Symposium - no further information as yet
 - b) "Leisure Time" magazine - RJ has sent copy of 'Stardust' and is in touch
 - c) Last article in "Maritzburg Views" was badly edited.
3. Membership
 - a) New members - Mrs H.Chance Prop T.Chance Sec J.Watson
Mr P.Hawkins Prop B.Lawrence Sec J.Watson
 - b) Congrats to Rogan & Helen Roth on birth of a son - JW to send card.
 - c) Ron Dale and Rusty Jarman both recovering well from spells in hospital.
4. Correspondence
 - a) Letter of thanks from Natal Soc Library
 - b) Notice of AGM from SANEL
5. Treasurers Report
 - a) Subscriptions coming in well so far
 - b) PERM and UNITED Savings Accounts better and more convenient than FIRST NATIONAL
- BL will close our account at FNB.
6. Library
 - a) JW has discovered membership card for U.S.Information Service library
 - b) CITILAB can develop slides - so can A.Norris' son
 - c) TC to get the Centre Scrapbook going - S.Dale has prints and/or negatives
 - d) Send slides/prints of N.S.Library display to 'Sky & Telescope' and/or MNASSA ??
7. Planning

September 11/9/91 - Astro Photography - basics et al - GP and RR to convene
October 9/10/91 - Galaxies - invite John Ade to give talk + others
November 13/11/91 - Mars landing
8. Instruments
 - a) GP and AS have recovered the Lipshitz telescope from Durban - appears to be a 10" which is very heavy but usable - need to get members together to have a look and plan for the immediate future - GP suggests a sturdy Dobsonian mount temporarily.
 - b) GP has sorted out P.Hawkins with some glass to make a telescope
 - c) A Mr Allbon (Hayfields) has contacted GP with a telescope for sale - JW to phone through details to Mike Radford in Colenso.
9. Education

Visit to King's School for talk and viewing planned for 31/8/91 - contact is one of our members, Mr C.Botha who teaches there.
10. General
 - a) Botanical Gardens as a venue - JW to draft a letter to B.Tarr for discussion at next committee meeting.
 - b) Ladysmith Evening Market held on last Friday of the month - M.Schrader is doing some "pavement astronomy" with great success - would be happy to have some help - next one is on 27/9/91.
 - c) Tea duty for September meeting - Tim and Hilary Chance.
 - d) Next Committee meeting on 18/9/91.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST ON 18/9/91

Present: B.Lawrence, T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Jarman, R.Roth, A.Scafturis,
G.Prosser, J.Watson.

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matters arising
 - a) ASSA National Symposium planned for April 1992
 - b) Izinkhanyezi planned for August 1992
 - c) Letter to B.Tarr re Botanical Gardens as venue still outstanding.
 - d) Approx 5 members keen to go to Ladysmith on 27/9/91
3. Membership
 - a) New member - Mr William Foster Prop B.Lawrence Sec J.Watson
 - b) Stuart Holiday keen to become a member.
4. Correspondence
 - a) Updates to British Film/Video Library catalogue
 - b) ASSA Council minutes - membership drive - *no increase of annual subs.*
 - c) Letter from M.Schreuder re Lipshitz reflector - JW to write reply.
 - d) Embarrassed letters from Cape and Pretoria re bumper stickers.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a) Account at FNB closed - money now held in PERM CLUB Account
 - b) Balance on hand R 1123-29.
6. Library

Scrapbook/Photo album purchased - appeal for material from members - need a brief account of the origins/founding of the Centre from the 'old timers'.
7. Planning

October 9/10/91 - GALAXIES - John Ade and John Watson
November 13/11/91 - MARS landing
December - Xmas party ? - first weekend ? - ideas at next meeting
8. Instruments

Inspection of 10" Lipshitz reflector on 21/9/91 at 60 Wilkes Rd at 3.30 pm.
9. Education
 - a) TC and JW went to King's School, Nott.Rd on 31/8/91 - successful but overcast.
 - b) Letters to be written to Cape, Natal and Transvaal Centres re adult education curriculae and/or materials available.
 - c) JW gave talk to St Lukes Men's fellowship, Howick on 3/9/91
10. General
 - a) Tea duty for October meeting - JW and RR - get plug for sink
 - b) Next Committee meeting 16/10/91

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST ON 14/10/91

Present: B.Lawrence, R.Roth, T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apolo: G.Prosser, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Letters have been written to Botanical Gardens and St.Charles re venue.
- b) Letter of reply written to M.Schreuder
- c) Letters have been written to Cape and Pretoria Centres re bumper stickers.

3. Membership Nil

4. Correspondence Nil

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1134-57
- b) Publicity Assoc subs to be paid

6. Library Nil

7. Planning

- November 13/11/91 - Viking landing on Mars - TC with slides
- December 7/12/91 - Xmas Party
 - agreed to go out for supper for a change
 - suggestion of Elsamix as suitable venue which BL will investigate
 - details in next 'Stardust' - replies by 19/11/91.
- January 1992
 - no Centre meeting
 - Committee meets on 15/1/92

8. Instruments

- a) At a meeting held at 60 Wilkes Rd on 12/10/91 the following plan of action was adopted
 - i. Discard tube from Lipshitz 10" - difficult to access the eyepiece
 - ii. Fit 12" mirror into Lipshitz mirror cell and purchase a new tube (fibreglass) of suitable size
 - iii. Use existing diagonal - may need a new spider
 - iv. Use Equatorial mount from Lipshitz telescope
 - v. Work parties to be organised

9. Education

- a) Letters written to Mr Turk, Natal and Transvaal Centres re available courses in Adult Astronomy
- b) "Home Studies" Astronomy Course (Patrick Moore ?) being investigated by TC

10. General a) Questionnaire to be sent out to members

b) Tea duty for November meeting - RR

c) Next Committee meeting 20/11/91

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST ON 26/11/91

Present: B.Lawrence, T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Jarmain, A.Scafturis, J.Watson

Appls: G.Prosser, R.Roth

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Venue - St.Charles have responded very positively - members of committee met with the Headmaster on 19/11/91
 - no reply from Botanical Gardens as yet
- b) Letter received from M.Schreuder - he is building an observatory in L-Smith.
- c) Letter received from Cape Centre plus cheque (R100) and photo of Cedarberg observatory.
- d) Info received confirming ASSA Symposium in Capetown 23-25 April 1992
 - RJ prepared to do a poster presentation.
- e) L.Rens (Natal Centre) has responded re Adult Education
 - would like to come up and discuss the matter with us
 - possible dates 12 or 19/1/92.

3. Membership

- a) Potential members - E.Kleinmans, S.Barker, S.Holiday
- b) Mrs Jean Barker has moved to Tvl - does not wish to stay on mailing list.

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter from ASSA Handbook Editor - photos requested for Handbook cover
- b) ASSA Council Minutes - membership drive, Jack Bennett award (Pretoria Centre)
- c) Letter from Dept of Educ & Culture - nominations for Merit awards etc
- d) Poster and order form for book relating to Herschell 100th Anniversary

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand R 1198-57

6. Library

- a) Cupboard to be moved from Music School before end of term to Chance residence.
- b) JW discovered tape of 10th Anniv message from Andrew Gray amongst archives.

7. Stardust

- a) RJ very pleased to receive any form of feedback (N.Young, J.Swift) and/or letters to the Editor.

8. Planning

December 7/12/91 - Xmas party at Els Amics confirmed
- R15 per head deposit recd by 25/11/91

9. Instruments

- a) Centre's 6" available on loan - AS to be phoned - bad viewing at present
- b) Various people involved in building/refurbishing the 'new' telescope

10. Education

- a) TC has registered to do the "Home Studies" Astronomy course
- b) Letter to be prepared and sent to all Education Depts for circularising schools at beginning of 1992

11. General

- a) JW received phone call from organisation doing feasibility study of building an observatory at new resort in mountains in Rhodes/Barkly East area.
- b) BL has prepared a questionnaire to be sent out to all members.
- c) Next Committee meeting 15/1/92.
- d) Letter of thanks to be written to Music School

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CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS. CHAPEL ST ON 19/2/92

Present: B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, G.Prosser, R.Roth, J.Watson

Apols: T.Chance, H.Chance, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Venue - generally agreed that room at St.Charles is satisfactory
 - need to investigate facilities for washing up the cups
 - room is available for all dates in 1992 except April 8 th.
- b) ASSA Symposium in Capetown 24-26 April 1992 - no further info received
- c) Fruitful discussions over lunch with L.Rens re Adult Education on 19/1/92
- d) Xmas party at Els Amics very enjoyable - room rather stuffy

3. Membershp

- a) New member - Mr Ewert Kleinhans Prop J.Watson Sec R.Jarman
- b) Letter/card received from W.Coombes (Canada) and A.Strauss (Capetown).

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Council minutes - subs to increase to R85 in 1992
- b) Ballot Paper re amendment to ASSA Constitution - approved by Committee

5. Treasurer's Report Nil

6. Library Cupboard and bookcase to be moved to new venue - AS to assist.

7. Stardust Plagiarism in latest copy of 'Canopus' (Tvl Centre) ???

8. Planning

March 11/3/92 - THE SUN - JW to chair/coordinate contributions from members.

April 8/4/92 - ASTRONOMICAL COMPUTING - meet at ICFR
- RR,GP and RJ to plan

May 13/5/92 - VIEWING AT ST.CHARLES - Video back-up

June 10/6/92 → TELESCOPES

July 8/7/92 - A.G.M.

Other events Herschel Symposium - Capetown 7/3/92
ASSA Symposium - Capetown 24-26/4/92
Total Eclipse - Capetown 30/6/92
- L.Rens planning a flight
Izinkhanyezi - August 1992

9. Instruments

- a) GP has finished the polishing and parabolising of the 12" mirror
- b) Mechanical cleaning/refurbishing going slowly but surely - price of a new fibreglass tube very high - JW to contact friend at PMBEE Fibreglass.

10. Education

Linpark High School (Roger Shepherd) keen for a talk

11. General

- a) P.O.Pensioners Club want a talk on 3/6/92 at Wanderers Club at 10.00am (Contact Mr Prevost - 964433)
- b) Time for a display at the Museum (the Roberts Refractor is still there)
- c) Next Committee meeting 18/3/92

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST ON 18/3/92

Present: B.Lawrence, G.Prosser, R.Roth, T.Chance, H.Chance, J.Watson

Apols: R.Jarman, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Venue - washing up facilities available, library cupboard to be moved
- viewing conditions at St Charles bad due to light pollution | TC/AS
- b) ASSA Symposium - good programme of speakers, JW the only person going
- c) Adult Education - TC still planning, no further contact with L.Rens
- d) 12" telescope - fibreglass tube relatively easy to make, rolled aluminium
an option
- should investigate heavy duty plastic | RR
- e) Museum display - need theme and materials | BL/TC

3. Membership

- a) New member - Mr Shaun McDermott Prop J.Watson Sec T.Chance
- b) Astro Club at Weston Agric College, Mooi River to affiliate rather than
all become members.

4. Correspondence

- a) Notice Paper and newspaper cuttings received from Bulawayo Astro Soc.
- b) Letter from W.Coombes (Canada)

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand R 1297

6. Library

- a) Agreed to purchase "Search for E.T.I" - special price on Sale | TC
- b) Re-investigate purchase of slides - catalogue(s) from USA | RR

7. Planning

- April 8/4/92 - ASTRO COMPUTING - at ICFR - RR,RJ and GP plus CCollingwood
- May 13/5/92 - VIEWING - change venue to Collingwood's ? | JW
- video back-up | BL
- June 10/6/92 - TELESCOPES
- JULY 8/7/92 - A.Q.M. - cheese & wine, cheese fondue ??
- at Lawrence's

8. Instruments

- Aluminising at Tvl.Centre, Durban, Sutherland
- Ron Dale unable to continue with work on new telescope due to ill-health.

9. Education

- a) J.Campos will send TC monthly updates on comets/novae etc
- b) TC will make contact with Weston Astro Club - star party at Mooi River ?
- c) What is the Jupiter Project ?

10. General

- a) TC has acquired 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ "⁴ mirror plus mounting from J.Campos - also has 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " mirror
- b) Next Committee meeting 15/4/92

Present: B.Lawrence, H.Chance, T.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apols: R.Roth, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Thanks to RJ for venue of last Centre meeting
- b) St.Charles have offered old armoury for storage of telescopes etc
- c) Museum display - theme of 'Space Exploration' suggested & approved
- d) Astro Club at Weston - TC has written to S.McDermott

3. Membership

No discussion

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA minutes - A.Strauss now alternate for Natal Centre (as well as us ?)
- b) Annual questionnaire received from Strasbourg (IDAAS & ASpScROW)

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1138,47
- b) 1992 Handbooks have been paid for
- c) Reminders to go out to subs defaulters - very few !

6. Library

- a) Cupboard still to be moved to St.Charles | TC/AS
- b) "Search for E.T.I" purchased
- c) Need up-to-date catalogue from Planetarium - esp for museum display | JW

7. Stardust

Last months article on 'green flash' not an April Fool's joke

8. Planning

- May 13/5/92 - VIEWING - at Ray Forder's home in Ashburton
- 16/5/92 - viewing evening with TM group at Kloof environs
- June 3/6/92 - talk to P.O.Pensioners | JW
- 10/6/92 - TELESCOPES
- July 8/7/92 - A.G.M. - at Lawrence's home - cheese & wine

9. Instruments

- a) Quotes for tube (14" x 5'6") - rolled aluminium - welded - R 700
- mild steel (2mm) - epoxy coated - R 200
- b) Suitable site ? (Botanical gardens, University ??)

10. Education

- a) No info from Jose Campos received this month
- b) Adult Education - pow-wow at Chance's on 9/5/92 at 11.00 am to brainstorm content, venue, dates etc etc

11. General

- a) Photo of R.Dale at G.de Beer's observatory for ASSA Handbook cover | RJ
- b) Izinkanyezi 1992 at Mountain Park, Bulwer on 27 - 30/8/92
- c) Next Committee meeting 20/5/92.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. ON 20/5/92

Present: B.Lawrence, R.Roth, A.Scafturis, G.Prosser, T.Chance, J.Watson

Apois: R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Thanks to Ray & Les Forder for venue of viewing evening - good site
- b) Museum Display - on hold until BL has finished with conference(s)
- c) Library cupboard to be moved to St Charles on 23/5/92
- d) Planetarium Handbook/Catalogue sent for
- e) Subs reminders sent out to defaulters.

AS/TC

3. Membership No discussion

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter from Dr.W.Coombes (plus letter to Bank re subs)

5. Treasurer's Report No report

6. Stardust No discussion

7. Library No discussion

8. Planning

- June 3/6/92 - talk to P.O.Pensioners JW/LH
- 10/6/92 - TELESCOPES at home of G.Prosser GP
- Diagrams (JW/TC) & report back on Sutherland (JW)
- 27/6/92
- or - rescheduling of viewing evening with TM group
- July 4/7/92 due to bad weather at last attempt
- 8/7/92 - A.G.M. - cheese & wine at Lawrence's home
- 31/7/92 - 'Pavement Astronomy' at Ladysmith Street Market

9. Instruments

- a) GP has 'knocked up' a Dobsonian mount for the 10" mirror (ex Lipschitz)
- b) Rolled Formica a possibility for the new tube - somebody to make up some wooden rings
- c) D.Grayson has a need for somebody to make up some armillary rings - she has some plans for small cardboard version.

10. Education

- a) TC has drawn up a program of 10 lectures for Adult Education course
 - JW and RJ met with him on 9/5/92 & have copies of program details
 - course to be run in 1993

11. General

- a) Izinkanyezi - BL cannot give talk - JW will oblige if necessary
 - BL to contact H.Mitchell regarding this
- b) RR has catalogue of audio-visual material available from USA - he will photo-copy relevant pages for perusal/discussion at next meeting
- c) Next Committee meeting 17/6/92

Present: B.Lawrence, G.Prosser, R.Jarman, T.Chance, H.Chance, J.Watson

Appls: R.Roth, A.Scafturis

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Museum Display - still on hold- need for some colour photocopying
- b) Planetarium Catalogue received - not very helpful regarding slides
- c) Library cupboard moved - books still at home of TC and HC - bookshelves and contents (from J.Barker) still at home of BL
- d) JW and L.Hunt gave talk to P.O.Pensioners as scheduled

3. Membership

- a) Much sadness re death of Ron Dale - card sent to Sheila and family - there will be a Requiem Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 10.00 am on 18/6/92
- b) New members i) Steve Tongue Prop. T.Chance Sec. H.Chance
ii) Anthony van Tonder Prop. T.Chance Sec. R.Jarman
iii) James Aitken Prop. T.Chance Sec. R.Jarman

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter from S.McDermott (Weston) re visit/star party - TC will suggest either 22 or 29 August as suitable dates.
- b) Updates from British Council film library
- c) ASSA Council minutes - Rhodes Univ to form ASSA centre - AGM on 29/7/92
- d) Citation for proposal to award Gill medal to Prof Brian Warner

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 956-27
- b) Standard Bank to forward subs for Dr. and Mrs W.Coombes
- c) Annual subs to ASSA now R 85-00
- d) Defaulters (J.Swift, C.Botha, N.Baier) to be removed from mailing list

6. Stardust

July issue already under way

7. Library

- a) Borrowing system needs to be revamped (again!) - kardex to be used for indexing - time limit of 2 months with suitable fine if exceeded.
- b) RJ has been given several back issues of 'Astronomy'.

8. Planning

<u>June</u>	30/6/92	Total eclipse of the SUN
<u>July</u>	8/7/92	A.G.M. at Lawrence's home - cheese & wine + snacks - each committee member to bring a bottle of wine and biscuits or snacks - Centre to provide cheese and a cask of wine
	25/7/92	Re-scheduling of viewing evening with TM group
	31/7/92	'Pavement Astronomy' at Ladysmith Street Market
<u>August</u>	12/8/92	Viewing evening at V.Collingwood's home
	22 or 29/8/92	Star Party at Weston

9. Instruments

Vote of thanks to GP for all his hard work - very impressed with the performance of the 10" Dobsonian, as yet unsilvered !

10. Education

- a) Sub-committee on Adult Education Course (TC,RJ,JW) need to meet again soon
- b) GP has had a request from teacher at Newton High School for some 'Hands ON' Astronomy over weekends

11. General

- a) New 'blood' needed on Committee for 1992/93 - BL will not be available for election
- b) Next Committee meeting - 15/7/92 or as convenient for new committee

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b) No further communication with H. Mitchell re IZINKHANYEZI talk .

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the home of Mr & Mrs J. Lawrence
on 8 July 1992 at 7.30 pm

1. The meeting was attended by 14 members and 2 visitors, with 5 apologies.
2. The Chairperson, Mrs B. Lawrence, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and requested that a period of silence be observed in memory of Mr Ron Dale.
3. Minutes of the 1991 Annual General Meeting held on 17 July 1991 were read and accepted as being a true record (Prop: R. Roth, Sec: T. Chance)
4. Matters Arising
 - i. Mr T. Chance reported that a lot of preparatory work has been done in planning an adult education course in Astronomy, which will be run in 1993.
 - ii. Due to the relocation of the Pietermaritzburg Music School it had been necessary to find an alternative venue for the Centre to meet, and it had been fortuitous that negotiations with St. Charles College had been finalised for 1992.
 - iii. Mr J. Watson had been able to attend the National Symposium in Capetown in April 1992, and reported that it had been a first class experience.
 - iv. The Lipschitz telescope had been recovered from Durban, and work is well under way in restoring/modifying it to suit our 12" mirror.
 - v. The Centre's library has been moved to St. Charles, and several new books have been purchased.

5. Chairman's Report (Prop: R. Jarmain, Sec: T. Chance)

Mrs B. Lawrence gave a comprehensive review of the various activities of the Centre, and thanked all the members for their contributions towards a busy and successful year.

6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: R. Roth, Sec: T. Chance)

Mrs H. Chance presented the statement of Income & Expenditure for the previous year, which reflected a closing balance of R1017-75, a gain of some R275 over the opening balance. Despite this profit, it was pointed out that:-

- i. Capital expenses would be incurred during the coming year due to the purchase of materials etc to finish off the Centre's 12" telescope
- ii. Increased costs of printing and postage, plus annual subscriptions, are not being adequately covered by the present membership fees.

A proposal was put to the meeting (Prop: T. Chance, Sec: C. Lake) that annual membership subscriptions be increased by R5-00 in each category. After some discussion, the proposal was accepted (with 1 against). The revised annual subscriptions will therefore be:-

<u>Members</u>	R 25-00	<u>Couples</u>	R 35-00	<u>Pensioners & Students</u>	R 15-00
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7. Election of New Committee

The following members were nominated and elected:-

Dr G. Prosser, Mesdames S. Dale and H. Chance, Messrs T. Chance, R. Jarmain, R. Roth, R. Forder and J. Watson.

8. Instruments

Dr G.Prosser gave an up-to-date report on the status of the Centre's telescopes.

- i. the 6" reflector is in a bad state of repair and effectively out of action until such time as it can be rebuilt/refurbished.
- ii. the 10" Lipschitz mirror has been cleaned up and re-silvered by a local business (aluminised) who have done a good job. It will be used to make a simple Dobsonian for use at viewing evenings.
- iii. the 12" mirror is polished and ready for silvering - the next stage is to acquire a suitable tube (some 14½" x 5'6"). This instrument will not really be portable and therefore consideration must be given to finding a suitable permanent site to set it up.
- iv. a small sub-committee must be set up to complete this project

9. Other business

- a) Many members had observed the solar eclipse on 30/6/92, and some had been able to take photographs. R.Forder had had some difficulty in understanding the measurements used in determining the percentage of the eclipse, and had written to Natal Witness about this.
- b) G.Prosser and S.Dale had been doing as much occultation observing/timing as possible, but not as much as in previous years.
- c) T.Chance reported some shuttle sightings
- d) P.Moore has a 6" telescope for sale - mounting is missing, but there are quite a lot of extras to go with it as well.
- e) Upcoming events
 - i) J.Watson to address land service camp at Cedara
 - ii) TM group want some guidance as to constellation shapes and locations
 - iii) Public viewing evening in Ladysmith to inaugurate the establishment of an Astronomical Society
- f) Sincere vote of thanks to the Lawrence's for the use of their home

10. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm, after which everyone present enjoyed a cheese and wine supper together.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

8th July 1992.

MEMBERS

Rusty Jarman.

Tim + Hilary Chance.

Sheila Dale

Rogan Roth.

A. Norris

~~David Lake.~~

E. Heinhams.

Jon + Bianca

Ray Fordes.

S. Tongue

V. Collingwood.

John Watson.

VISITORS

M. Lake.

C. Collingwood.

APOLOGIES

Roy Lambert

Dean de Coster

M. Schreuder.

A. Telford.

A. Scafturis.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1991/1992

It is with pleasure that I present my report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Astronomy Society for the years 1991/1992. I have certainly enjoyed the high standard of talks and demonstrations given by our members and I, for one certainly learned a lot from them. Our membership has fluctuated during the course of the year and although we have gained a good number of new members, we have also had to say goodbye to a few members including our good friend Ron Dale who succumbed to a long illness in June. Ron was a founder member of the society and we shall all miss him.

This year saw the end of our long standing relationship with the music school. Unfortunately we were no longer able to use their premises and set about looking for a new venue for our meetings. Some successful negotiating by the committee found ourselves a meeting place in the recreation room at St Charles school. The venue has video and TV equipment which will be very useful to us. We hope that our new venue will prove mutually beneficial to the school and the society.

Some of the talks this year were:

A talk by Tim Chance on the Mars Viking landers.

An excellent demonstration by Geoff Prosser and Rogan Roth on astrophotography.

A forum on the sun, chaired by John Watson and contributed to by some members of the society.

A discussion on celestial nomenclature, given by some of the committee.

An excellent and very professional slide show on new discoveries on Venus, also by Tim.

A very illuminating talk on galaxies by John Ade full of interesting snippets and mind-blowing comparisons of the size and capabilities of various galaxies.

A demonstration by our computer boffins Geoff, Rogan and Rusty on the use of computers in astronomy.

A demonstration of telescope building by Geoff.

We also had a very successful viewing evening at the home of Ray Forder in Ashburton.

Our Christmas dinner took the form of a dinner at Els Amics where the food and entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Our education department, in the very capable hands of Tim Chance has been very productive this year by producing a series of adult education lectures on astronomy. A course of ten lectures prepared by Tim will hopefully be run in the near future. Tim and John Watson also gave a number of talks to a variety of institutions this year. These public talks are a very important part of ensuring the society's relevance towards society.

The society procured a telescope this year. The 10" mirror and various accessories were the property of the late Mark Lipschitz and the project has been ably handled by Geoff who has been steadily grinding the mirror for the society's new telescope.

Our newsletter this year has maintained its highly informative and entertaining standard under the able editorship of Rusty Jarmain.

Our library has been very mobile this year having been shuttled between various venues. This has had its advantages because it has enabled Hilary to do a revamp of the library cupboard stocks.

John Watson represented us, in his personal capacity, at the ASSA syposium in Cape Town in April. He was also able to bring us news of what was being done astronomically around the country as well as tell us about a visit to Sutherland.

The solar eclipse on the 30 June proved interesting to those of us who had the courage to look at it. It will be quite a while before we will see one again.

In concluding I would like to thank the rest of the committee for their hard work during the year. Also a big thanks to those members who participated in the meetings and those of you, especially the Ladysmith people who had to come so far to be with us. I wish the next committee all the best for a wonderful year.

B.LAWRENCE

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1992

INCOME

Brought forward from 1991	Bank	663.23	
	Cash	69.32	<u>732.55</u>
Membership subscriptions		840.00	
Bumper Stickers		160.00	
Handbooks		50.00	
Donations (Teas etc.)		1.30	
Interest on Savings Account		26.66	<u>1077.96</u>
	TOTAL		1810.51
			=====

EXPENDITURE

Annual Payments	ASSA Subscriptions	75.00	
	Publicity Association	30.00	
	Post Office Box Rental	16.00	<u>121.00</u>
Newsletter		371.66	<u>371.66</u>
Library	Handbooks	100.00	
	Book (S E T I)	14.95	<u>114.95</u>
Refreshments	Monthly Meetings	116.72	
	AGM 1991	18.67	<u>135.39</u>
Miscellaneous	Photo Album - Scrap Book	25.97	
	Extension cord	23.79	<u>49.76</u>
Carried Forward to 1992	Bank	907.33	
	Cash	110.42	<u>1017.75</u>
	TOTAL		1810.51
			=====

H.CHANCE .

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. ON 15/7/92

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Forder, R.Jarman, S.Dale, G.Prosser, J.Watson

Apols: R.Roth

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Election of Office Bearers 1992/93

Chairman	Mr T.Chance	(and Education)
Secretary	Mr J.Watson	(and Council Rep)
Treasurer	Mrs H.Chance	
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarman	
Library	Mrs S.Dale	
Instruments	Dr G.Prosser and Mr R.Forder	
Projects	Mr R.Roth	

3. Matters arising

- a) A warm welcome to Sheila Dale and Ray Forder.
- b) Museum Display - need suitable dates from B.Lawrence

4. Membership No discussion

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from ASSA asking JW to accept nomination to Council - uncertain.
- b) Thankyou card from S.Dale
- c) Lengthy 'letter' from Wilf Coombes plus computer Sky-charts.
- d) Ndaba (Natal Centre) - still space at Izinkhanyezi

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand as per A.G.M. (R 1017-75)
- b) Annual subs notices to go out (Pens/Students R15, Membs R25, Couples R35)

7. Stardust

- a) RF will tape BBC 'Discovery' programme

8. Library

- a) Donation of magazines from P.Moore
- b) SD to liaise with TC and HC re hand-over and new ideas re lending-control.

10. Planning

<u>July</u>	22/7/92	Talk to Land Service camp (Cedara) - 120 pupils (JW)
	25/7/92	Viewing evening with TM group - in the Berg (JW)
	31/7/92	Astro evening at Ladysmith (Wagon Hill)
<u>August</u>	19/8/92	Viewing evening at Collingwood's or Forder's - start at 7.00 pm if possible
	22 or 29/8/92	Star Party at Weston
	27 - 30/8/92	Izinkhanyezi at Bulwer
<u>Sent</u>	9/9/92	'Space Shuttle' and/or Video (TC to convene) - Izinkhanyezi report back
<u>Oct</u>	14/10/92	Time and Calendar - 'Leap Year'(RF) - "bring & share" contributions from members.

11. Instruments

- a) 10" mirror aluminised locally (MARS Technology)
- b) Sub-committee needed to finish off 12" - need permanent site
- c) C.Collingwood to investigate Umgeni Water 'scrap' for large pipe.

12. Education

- a) Adult Education - next sub-committee meeting 8/8/92
- b) Woodlands High School keen to start up again - suggestion of a joint High School's Association

13. General

- a) P.Moore has a 6" telescope for sale - no mount but many extra bits & pieces.
- b) Teas at Centre meetings - roster of convenors - must purchase a kettle.
- c) Next Committee meeting 26/8/92.

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. ON 26/8/92

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, G.Prosser, R.Roth, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apologies: H.Chance, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Museum Display - commencing on 31/8/92 - TC and BL setting up this weekend
- will use Centre's logo and leave memb. applic. forms
- b) Izinkhanyezi - very few (if any) going out on Saturday 29/8/92
- c) Talk at Cedera went well (approx 150 pupils) - no viewing due to clouds
- d) Viewing evening with TM group cancelled
- e) Good Astro evening at Ladysmith - 6 members attended
- f) 3 members went to Weston on 22/8/92 - dirty sky - 5 pupils plus teacher
- g) JW has declined nomination to Council - will continue as Rep for Centre

3. Membership

- a) New member Miss Kerry Hampson (Prop: R.Jarman Sec: T.Chance)
- b) Resignation Mr Peter Bridges (JW will try to contact him)

4. Correspondence

2 letters from S.McDermott (Weston) - thanks for visit & request for handbook

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand R 1127,61 - response to subs notices good.

6. Stardust

HC has prepared a crossword puzzle - contributions always acceptable

7. Library

- a) All books and magazines now at home of TC - SD to contact HC re moving them to St Charles - duplicate S&T magazines to be sold (R2-00 each ?)
- b) TC to investigate cost of binding old volumes of S&T which are still loose.

8. Planning

<u>Sept</u>	9/9/92	Mercury and the Gemini program (TC to convene) JW to contact St Charles re availability of OHP
<u>Oct</u>	14/10/92	"Time and the Calendar" (JW to convene) RF to contribute - 'bring & share' from all members
<u>Nov</u>	11/11/92	"BIG BANG" evening - A.Norris to contribute

9. Instruments No discussion

10. Education

- a) Sub-committee meeting on 20/9/92 at 225 Old Howick Rd (TC) at 2 pm.
- b) Meet with Colin Mackay (Newton High) after work on 2/9/92 - GP to confirm

11. General

- a) Phone call from M.Erasmus ('Voortrekkers') and from S.de Vos re membership
- b) Next Committee meeting on 16/9/92

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. ON 16/9/92

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarmain, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apologies: R.Forder, H.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Roth

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Museum Display - will run for a few months - response from S.A.B.C. and Natal Witness
- b) Izinkhanyezi - nobody was free to go
- c) Quotes for binding of old volumes of S & T magazines (R50-00 each) rejected
- d) Meeting with Colin Mackay took place on 2/9/92 - get together with Newton High pupils planned for 24/10/92

3. Membership

Resignation - Mr Jock MacCallum - letter received

4. Correspondence

- a) Nomination form for Publicity Association
- b) Notice of Council Meeting to be held on 14/9/92
- c) Invitation to opening of Natal Centre Observatory on 26/9/92

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand R 1227,61

6. Stardust

- a) RJ would like to enlarge the newsletter to 8 pages as often as possible
- b) Occultations to be advertised - info from GP and SD

7. Library

- a) SD to meet with HC on 20/9/92 at 2.00 pm
- b) RR to be contacted regarding binding of old S&T volumes at UNP

8. Planning

<u>Sept</u>	26/9/92	Opening of [Jimmy Barker Observatory in Durban at 4.00 pm
<u>Oct</u>	14/10/92	TIME & CALENDAR (jW to convene) RF to talk on 'Short History of Time Reckoning' Members to be invited to 'bring & share'
	24/10/92	Evening with pupils at Newton High from 5.00 pm
<u>Nov</u>	11/11/92	BIG BANG evening - A.Norris to contribute
<u>Dec</u>	?	Xmas party ?

9. Instruments

No report or discussion

10. Education

Sub-committee to meet on 20/9/92 at 225 Old Howick Rd (TC) at 2.00 pm

11. General

- a) Arrangements at St Charles for last meeting chaotic - JW to contact Headmaster
- b) New Centre to be formed at Ladysmith - to be known as Drakensberg Centre ?
- c) Next Committee meeting on 21/10/92

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 21/10/92.

Present: T.Chance, J.Watson, H.Chance, R.Jarman, G.Prosser, S.Dale, R.Roth,
R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matters Arising
 - a) Museum display - there have been requests for copies of notes & diagrams
- these could be sold to cover costs
 - b) Binding of S&T - cheap binding (R12-00) not satisfactory - better binding
from University at R25-00 per volume.
 - c) Visit to Newton High - TC, GP, RJ and SD to go (15 mins each)
 - d) 6 representatives of NMC were able to attend opening of J.Barker Observatory
in Durban
 - e) Thanks and well done to R.Forder for talk on 'Time Reckoning' at last meeting.
3. Membership Nothing to report
4. Correspondence
 - a) Routine reports sent to ASSA Secretary and Handbook Editor.
 - b) ASSA Council Minutes - proposed Logo - agreed that No 1 is the best
- National Symposium to be held every second year
i.e. next one in 1994, possibly in Transvaal
- discount for 20+ Handbooks
- no alternate for Natal Midlands as yet
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a) Balance on hand R1357-17
 - b) Proposal to offer St Charles an annual subscription to S&T rather than cash.
6. Stardust
 - a) Cost of production rising - approx 65c for the usual 4 page edition
7. Library

S.Dale having quite a tough time sorting things out, especially all the S&T's
8. Planning

<u>November</u>	11/11/92	BIG BANG evening (TC to convene) A.Norris 'Creation-Accident or Design?' Video-tape from E.Kleinhaus
<u>December</u>	12/12/92	Xmas party - braai at R.Forder's home
9. Instruments Nothing to report
10. Education

Sub-committee meeting held - preparation of lectures shared out - course to
commence in mid May 1993 (19/5/93)
11. General
 - a) Possible Natal-Transvaal get-together at Van Reenen's in May 1993
 - b) "Shareware" catalogue - public domain software
 - c) H.Mitchell planning to write/complete history of Astronomy in Natal

Present: T.Chance, J.Watson, G.Prosser, R.Jarmain

Apsls: H.Chance, S.Dale, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Museum display - notes have been printed - still to be copied and bound
- b) Visit to Newton High went well - will try to go again in winter
- c) No response to telephone calls to Headmaster of St.Charles - JW to write a letter in new year.
- d) JW has replied to ASSA questionnaire re proposed logo
- e) Thanks and well done to A.Norris and E.Kleinhans for contribution to last meeting.

3. Membership

a) New member Bill York Prop: S.Dale Sec: T.Chance

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Coucil meeting agenda - our alternate is Mr.R.Hurley
- b) Comet Rapid Announcement Service (CRAS) inviting us to subscribe - not accepted, as local Comet/Meteor section (J.Campos) keeps us informed
- c) Letter etc received from head of newly formed Deep Sky Observing section

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R1364-77
- b) List of subs defaulters - reminders to go out in Feb 93

6. Stardust

Nothing to report

7. Library

- a) Books and magazines have been taken to St Charles - sale of duplicate 'S&T' magazines has started
- b) Further bound copies of 'S&T' received from Mr K.Fish - to be sold if we don't need them.
- c) Bookcase to be moved from B.Lawrence's home to St Charles - some means of locking required

8. Planning

<u>December</u>	12/12/92	XMAS party at home of R.Forder Centre to provide braais, charcoal and some wine - otherwise everyone to bring their own goodies
<u>January</u>	1993	No meeting (*NB COMM MEETING 13/1/93)
<u>February</u>	10/2/93	Quiz devised by T.Chance

9. Instruments

Nothing further to report - no news from C.Collingwood re a suitable tube

10. Education

a) Suitable venue to be confirmed - next ^{education} committee meeting 16/1/93

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS . CHAPEL ST. on 13/1/93

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, R.Roth, S.Dale, G.Prosser, J.Watson

Appls: R.Jarman, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Museum display will remain in place for approx 2 more months
- b) St Charles still available for 1993 - delighted with offer of subscription to S&F
- c) ASSA have decided on logo No 1 (the one which we voted for !)
- d) Vote of thanks to R & L.Forder for Xmas braai and to R.Jarman for organising the fires

3. Membership

- a) New member Colin McKay Prop: T.Chance Sec: J.Watson
- b) B.Lawrence in hospital with fractured ankle - get-well card to be sent.
- c) P.Hawkins will be away in Australia & environs for approx 2 years
- d) K.Hampson now a member of ASSA - also a Mr I.G.Taylor from Prestbury who will be sent an application form for the Centre

4. Correspondence

- a) Usual newsletters etc and Council correspondence
- b) JW has written to R.Hurly enclosing copy of minutes
- c) Committee very happy with the cover of the 1993 ASSA Handbook

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R1311-35
- b) Subs defaulters to be sent reminders in Feb 1993

6. Stardust

Nothing to report

7. Library

- a) Kardex system to be completed - bookcase and contents to be moved on 23/1/93.
- b) SD would prefer not to raise fines for overdue books - reminder slips better.
- c) Mr Billig's books coming up for sale - SD to contact J.Lawrence about this
- d) 1993 ASSA Handbooks not yet arrived - JW to phone P.Booth if necessary.

8. Planning

February 10/2/93 Look around 1993 (JW)

New Year Quiz (TC)

March 10/3/93 'The Man in the Moon' - short talk by GP

Video from E.Kleinmans or British Council

9. Instruments

- a) Suitable tube still under debate
- b) P.Moore's 6" telescope still for sale

10. Education

- a) Committee meeting postponed to 30/1/93 at TC's home at 2.00pm

11. General

- a) Lot of nonsense from the media (Natal Witness & Daily News) over the 'Light in the sky' above Pietermaritzburg

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 17/2/93.

Present: T.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apsls: H.Chance, S.Dale, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) St Charles application to ASSA completed - to be sent off with letter.
- b) B.Lawrence at home after surgery - get-well card delivered
- c) No reply to letter ~~to~~ R.Hurly as yet
- d) Education committee meeting took place on 30/1/93
- e) Subs reminders sent out
- f) Books and bookcase moved to St Charles as planned
- g) Quiz evening went well - good to have some St Charles boys present

3. Membership

Letter received from I.Taylor - not keen to become a member.

4. Correspondence

- a) Annual registration form for Dept of Education & Culture
- b) ASSA Council minutes - sorry to say goodbye to Jose Campos
- c) Nomination for long service award to H.Krumm - committee in favour

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R1373-17
- b) Entitled to 20% discount on Handbooks i.e R80-00 for the 20 received

6. Stardust

March edition well in hand - guest article by B.Morton

7. Library

S.Dale away - 1993 ASSA Handbooks have arrived

8. Planning

- March 10/3/93 'The Man in the Moon' (G.Prosser)
Videos from British Council (Sol.Syst & Earth)
- April 14/4/93 E Z COSMOS (R.Jarman) - meet at ICFR
- Future Russian moon-landing program ?

9. Instruments

Nothing to report

10. Education

- a) Next sub-committee meeting on 6/3/93 at TC's home - material to be ready
- b) J.Watson to give talk with slides on 9/3/93 at St Annes - also to St Charles in the near future - slides from R.Field.
- c) Get involved with Scouts/Guides etc again ?

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 17/3/93.

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 17/3/93

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, G.Brosser J.Watson.

Appls: H.Chance, S.Dale, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) St Charles application to ASSA sent off
- b) B.Lawrence improving slowly
- c) Thanks to G.P. for talk on the Moon - overwhelming turnout from Weston

3. Membership

Letter of resignation from M.de Vries - accepted with regret.

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Council minutes - 1993 Symposium in Pretoria 27-28/9/93
- Science Policy guidelines
- b) Rhodes University Astrosoc newsletter
- c) Letters from Deep Sky and Historical sections of ASSA

5. Treasurer's report

Balance on hand R1209-54

6. Stardust

Under control - cost of photocopying discussed

7. Library

S.Dale still away - no report

8. Planning

- | | | |
|-------|------------|---|
| April | 14/4/93 | E Z COSMOS and Satellite Tracking computer packages - at ICFR - RJ and GP to convene |
| May | 12/5/93 | Viewing evening at Collingwood's home |
| | 19/5/93 | Start of Adult Education Course |
| June | 11&12/6/93 | Informal get-together of Natal and Transvaal at suitable venue in the Van Reenen's area |

9. Instruments

Nothing further to report

10. Education

- a) T.C. presented final program outline and reported on meeting with the Dept of Education & Culture - application for financial assistance to be completed by end of March
- b) Pmb Publicity Assoc to be approached re advertising - also Dept of Education & Culture
- c) Venue to be the Meeting Room at City Computers if nothing better turns up

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 21/4/93

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 21/4/93

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

ApoIs: H.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matter arising
 - a) Thanks to R.J. and ICFR for presentation of EZ Comos etc
3. Membership
 - a) Welcome back to S.Dale after absence in the Cape
 - b) M.Povall has moved to Durban
 - c) Subs defaulters to be culled from mailing list
4. Correspondence
 - a) Letter from Mnr Bezuidenhout (Newcastle) - RJ has replied
 - b) Letter from Mrs J.Mauck (St Annes) thanking us for slide presentation
 - c) Invitation to attend (and speak at) 1993 ASSA Symposium in Pretoria
 - d) Newsletter (the first?) from Ladysmith Ast Soc
5. Treasurer's Report

Not available
6. Stardust
 - a) RJ retiring from ICFR at end of June - future quality of newsletter therefore somewhat threatened - photocopying can be done at CCB
 - b) TC has sourced suitable envelopes at 4c each - approx 1/2 cost
7. Library

SD back and 'waring' to go
8. Planning

May	12/5/93	Viewing evening at Collingwoods home - 7.30 pm
	19/5/93	Start of Adult Education course
June	9/6/93	Russian Moon landing programme (TC)
	11/6/93	Informal get-together at Van Reenen's
July	14/7/93	A.G.M. - venue ?
9. Instruments

No report
10. Education
 - a) 'Incredible Universe' slides given to RJ for copying
 - b) Application for financial assistance submitted to Dept of Education & Culture
 - c) Advertising - Publicity Assoc, Shopping Centres, Natal Witness
 - d) Use City Computers as venue
 - e) Sub-committee meeting on 1/5/93 at T.Chance's home (2.00 pm)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 19/5/93
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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 19/5/93

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

Appts: H.Chance, G.Prosser, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 6.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Viewing evening a happy occasion - particularly enjoyed by boys from St.Charles - many thanks to Verónica & Chris Collingwood
- b) TC gave talk to Natal Centre on 12/5/93 - went well

3. Membership

- a) RJ has recovered well from short stay in hospital
- b) Sub defaulters to be culled - Pitko, Manning, Bosch

4. Correspondence

- a) Letters sent & received to/from Regional Manager of CCB re use of Board Room for Adult Education Course
- b) Verbal correspondence with Natal Centre re informal gathering at Swinburne (not Van Reenen) - at this stage, no takers from Pietermaritzburg

5. Treasurer's report

Balance on hand R 629-11 - outlay for Educ Course quite high so far

6. Stardust

No report - thanks to RJ for his consistent effort and for agreeing to continue as Editor despite altered circumstances

7. Library

- a) SD to visit St.Charles to tidy up cupboard - original key missing ?
- b) Date Stamp and membership cards to be purchased

8. Planning

May 19/5/93 Start of Adult Education course
June 9/6/93 'The Great Moon Race' - TC to present - at St.Charles
11/6/93 Informal get-together at Swinburne
July 14/7/93 A.G.M. - belated 'house-warming' at SD's new residence

9. Instruments

No report - GP has embarked on 8" spherical mirror for photography

10. Education

- a) Adult Education Course fully booked (20 people)
 - Dept of Educ & Culture to subsidise
 - 'Incredible Universe' slides ready - soundtrack not great but adequate
 - ready for 'kick-off' this evening

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 16/6/93
.....

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 30/6/93

Present: T.Chance, G.Prosser, W.Watson

Apologies: H.Chance, R.Jarman, S.Dale, R.Roth, R.Forder

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Adult Education Course now under way - disappointing viewing evening due to bad weather - University have requested same course to be given during August (see below)
- b) Thanks to T.C. for interesting talk on Russian Moon landing programme at last Centre meeting.

3. Membership

- a) Dr M.Budeck interested in joining the Society (again ??)

4. Correspondence

- a) Newsletters etc from other Centres
- b) Request from Ladysmith for loan of posters etc to advertise public viewing evening in August
- c) Council minutes - Science Policy relevant to our current efforts
- AGM on 28/7/93
- d) Application form for National Symposium in latest MNASSA - JW keen to attend if business commitments permit (27 - 29/9/93)

5. Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand R 1586-11 (NB This includes fees for Adult Educ course)

6. Stardust

No report - RJ continues to do an excellent job

7. Library

No report - TC has given SD suitable cards

8. Planning

July	7/7/93	Adult Educ course IV
	14/7/93	A.G.M. at home of S.Dale - cheese & wine
	21/7/93	Adult Educ course V
	23/7/93	Cedara Land Camp - JW to organise - approx 250 kids
	26/7/93	Talk to Philatelic Soc - TC and B.Lawrence
Aug	4/8/93	Adult Educ course VI
	6/8/93	Ladysmith viewing evening for the public
	11/8/93	Centre monthly meeting at St Charles - JW to talk
	18/8/93	Adult Educ course VII
	21/8/93	Viewing evening with Astrology group at Lidgetton

9. Instruments

No report - mirrors going 'milky' - TC has aquired a tube for his personal telescope

10. Education

TC has agreed to present the Adult Educ course at the University during August every Tuesday and Thursday evening, summarised as follows:-

3/8	Time & C.Sphere	17/8	Solar System II
5/8	Viewing evening ?	19/8	Stars, Galaxies, Universe
10/8	Instruments & Equip	24/8	Astrophotography & Computers
12/8	Solar System I	26/8	Space exploration

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 21/7/93

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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the home of Mrs S.Dale at 7.30 pm
on 14 July 1993

1. The meeting was attended by 11 members, with 4 apologies
2. The Chairman, Mr T.Chance, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and thanked Mrs Dale for the use of her new house.
3. Minutes of the 1992 Annual General Meeting held on 8 July 1992 had already been posted to members, and were taken as read (Prop: G.Prosser, Sec: H.Chance)
4. Matters Arising i) It had not been possible to form a sub-committee to complete the telescope project, due to lack of interest.
ii) Membership had remained static despite efforts to inform the public of the Centre's existence.

5. Chairman's Report (Prop: B.Lawrence Sec: S.Dale)

Mr T.Chance summarised the programme of activities at the Centre's monthly meetings, as well as the many other requests responded to by members for talks and viewing sessions. He thanked the Committee and all others who had worked hard to make the past year a success.

6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: G.Prosser Sec: A.Norris)

Mrs H.Chance presented the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the previous year, which reflected a closing balance of R 1467-49, a gain of some R 450 over the opening balance. By way of explanation it was noted that:-

- i. The Amateur Astronomy course income and expenses and income were included in the statement - this was currently some R 500 in profit, but it was anticipated to run at a loss, for which a grant had already been approved by the Dept of Culture & Education.
- ii. Due to re-organisation, very little had been spent on the Library
- iii. We still anticipate certain capital expenses in completion of the telescope project.

It was agreed to maintain annual subscriptions at their present levels, and a vote of thanks was given to Mrs Chance for her efforts.

7. Election of New Committee

The following members were and nominated and elected:-

Mesdames S.Dale, B.Lawrence, H.Chance and K.Hampson

Messrs T.Chance, R.Jarmain and J.Watson

8. Instruments

Dr G.Prosser reported on the current status as follows:-

- i. The 6" reflector has not been used or re-furbished
- ii. The 10" Lipschitz mirror has been used as the basis of a Dobsonian telescope which is performing well.
- iii. No further progress has been made in procuring/making a tube for the completed 12" mirror telescope, nor has there been any progress in finding a suitable site for a permanent mounting.

Dr Prosser then suggested that as there seemed to be very little interest in general (see Matters Arising), maybe the Centre did not really want to own any instruments. After a certain amount of discussion it was agreed that the Committee should explore all relevant suggestions regarding construction, siting and finances before a final decision is made.

9. Other business

- a) All members should actively encourage better attendance at Centre meetings.
- b) Library has been re-organised by S.Dale and is now ready to operate fully.
- c) A 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " refractor (TOWA) plus extras has come up for sale (Mr Jenkins)
- d) Upcoming events
 - i) Talk/viewing at Cedara Land Camp (23/7)
 - ii) Talk to Philatelic Society (26/7)
 - iii) Public viewing evening - Ladysmith (6/8)
 - iv) Viewing with Astrology group - Lidgetton (21/8)
- e) A new Astronomical Society has been formed in Ladysmith - not yet a formally constituted Centre of ASSA
- f) Education
 - i) The Amateur Astronomy Course is under way with 20 participants
 - ii) The University of Natal (Pmb) have approached us to run a similar course under the auspices of their Adult Education programme in August.

10. The meeting closed at 9.15 pm, after which everyone present enjoyed a cheese and wine supper together

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14/7/93

MEMBERS

Aminé Norris

Jan & Bianca Lawrence

Kenny Hampson

June Turm

Speltz

John Watson

John P. Ross

Jim + Hilary Chance

Spellingwood

VISITORS

APOLOGIES

R. JARMAN.

S. TONGUE

D & B MORSON

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1992/93

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Centre for the year 1992/93.

The year has been a busy one for the Society, with a great deal of emphasis being placed on adult education, of which I will speak in due course.

Membership has, as usual, fluctuated during the year, and although we lost some members, we welcomed Kerry Hampson, Bill York and Colin Mackay to the Society's fold. While on the subject of membership, we were all delighted that the 1993 Astronomical Handbook had a photograph of our late friend and colleague, Ron Dale, on the front cover.

Our new home at St Charles has, despite a few initial glitches, proved to be a happy one, with several school boys showing a keen interest in the Society's meetings.

The past year's talks and presentations have been both entertaining and informative. A brief resumé of the activities is as follows :-

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August | We held a viewing evening at Chris and Veronica Collingwood's home in Hilton. |
| September | A talk on the Mercury and Gemini space projects entitled Winged Messengers and Heavenly Twins presented by myself. |
| October | A bring and share session of Time and the Calendar convened by John Watson, at which Ray Forder presented a talk entitled "A Short History of Time Reckoning". |
| November | A Big Bang evening which opened with a short video loaned to us by Ewart Kleinhans, followed by a talk presented by Arminé Norris entitled "Creation : Accident or Design". |
| December | A Christmas braai was held at Ray Forder's home in Ashburton. |
| February | The New Year opened with a "Look around 1993" presented by John Watson, followed by a quiz. |
| March | A talk entitled "The Man in the Moon" delivered by Geoff Prosser, followed by 2 short videos from the British Council. |
| April | A demonstration of two computer programmes - EZ Cosmos and Instant Track - by Rusty Jarman and Geoff Prosser. |
| May | Another viewing evening at Chris and Veronica Collingwood's home. This turned out well, in spite of initial inclement weather. |
| June | A talk and slide presentation entitled "The Great Moon Race" delivered by myself. |

Apart from the Society's general meetings, we were also kept busy with requests from various schools and other organisations for viewing evenings. Although the July viewing evening at Wagon Hill, in support of our Ladysmith friends, was a resounding success, most of our viewing ventures were thwarted by bad weather.

In September, John and Jill Watson, Chris and Margaret Lake, Sheila Dale and myself had the privilege of attending the opening of the Jimmy Barker Observatory in Durban. Unfortunately the clouds intervened, as usual, and we were unable to try out their 10 inch reflector.

Besides the above activities, the Society also gained publicity from a display at the Natal Museum. This display was assembled by Bianca Lawrence and myself, and was mentioned in the Natal Witness and Town Talk. Bianca also had the unenviable task of being interviewed by the SABC.

Further publicity came when city residents mistook Venus for a UFO in January. Despite the Society's best efforts, during which Rusty Jarman was horrendously misquoted in the Natal Witness, the public made the same mistake just 3 months later.

As mentioned earlier, adult education had taken up most of the Society's energies during the past year. The basic course in Amateur Astronomy began on the 19th May and will run through to 3rd November. There are 20 persons attending the course, and a provisional grant from the Department of Education and Culture has enabled us to keep the course fees to a minimum.

In the meantime, we have also been approached by the University of Natal's Adult Education Centre with a view to running another course concurrently with our own. This second course will commence on 3rd August, but will run for a duration of only four weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my committee members for their unstinting support during the last year; particularly John Watson for his administrative assistance, Rusty Jarman for his continued Editorship of Stardust, despite somewhat altered circumstances; and also Geoff Prosser and Sheila Dale for their lively and invaluable input during committee meetings. I would also like to thank you, the members for your support and participation in the various activities during the year.

14/7/93

Bianca Lawrence

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1993

INCOME

Brought forward 91/92	Bank	907.33	
	Cash	110.42	
Subscriptions		855.00	
Handbooks		75.00	
Bumper Stickers		10.00	
Donations		15.00	
Sale of S & T		22.60	
Interest		32.09	
Astronomical Course		<u>912.00</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>2 939.44</u>

EXPENDITURE

Annual Payments			
ASSA Subscription		85.00	
PMB Publicity Association		30.00	
Post Box Rental		30.00	
Purchase of Handbooks		80.00	
Refreshments		121.80	
Stardust		467.73	
Postage		27.15	
Christmas Party		63.42	
AGM 92/93		93.64	
Photo Album		44.00	
Cards for Library		12.16	
Astronomical Course		417.05	
Carried Forward	Bank	1 200.42	
	Cash	<u>267.07</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>2 939.44</u>

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 21/7/93

Present: T.Chance, B.Lawrence, S.Dale, J.Watson, K.Hampson

Apsols: R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

a) ASSA Science Policy is to create awareness of Astronomy among the public at large with special emphasis on disadvantaged communities - we are already doing this - could link up with museum and/or W.L.Soc at Umgeni Valley

3. Election of Office Bearers for 1993/94

Chairman	Mr T.Chance (and Education)
Secretary	Mr J.Watson (and Council Rep)
Treasurer	Mrs H.Chance
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarman
Library	Mrs S.Dale
P.R.O.	Mrs B.Lawrence
Projects	Ms K.Hampson (and Education)

TC welcomed new committee members BL and KH - will need to co-opt someone to look after instruments

4. Membership

New member Steve de Vos Prop: T.Chance Sec: K.Hampson

5. Correspondence

a) ASSA Council minutes - new Centre at Helderburg, C.Turk to give 6 week course, Natal Drakensburg Centre proposed, L.Rens proposed for Council

6. Treasurer's Report

As per financial statement presented at AGM - Bal on hand R 1467-49.

7. Stardust

Thanks to RJ for agreeing to continue as Editor

8. Library

Encourage members to use library - circulate list of books available - simple card system to be used - SD to look for new books - request donations - advertise in Witness ? - is location at St Charles O.K. ?

9. Planning

July	21/7/93	Adult Educ course V
	23/7/93	Cedara Land Camp - arrangements under control
	26/7/93	TC and BL talk to Philatelic Soc
Aug	4/8/93	Adult Educ course VI
	6/8/93	Ladysmith viewing evening
	11/8/93	Centre meeting at St Charles - 'Gravity..' (jW)
	18/8/93	Adult Educ course VII
	21/8/93	Viewing with Astrology group at Lidgetton
Sept	1/9/93	Adult Educ course VIII
	8/9/93	Centre meeting - Spectral class ?, SETI ?
	15/9/93	Adult Educ course IX
	27/9/93	ASSA Symposium (Pretoria)
<u>Future</u>		Radio Astronomy - film ?, other wavelengths ?

10. Instruments

- a) 'Big Bertha' (10" Dobsonian) performs very well - portability a problem?
- b) Retrieve the Centre's 6" - BL happy to accommodate it

11. Education

TC has a heavy program at the University in August

12. General

SD keen to try some more occultation observation - with G. Prosser if possible.

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NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING ON 18/8/93

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 18/8/93

Present: T.Chance, B.Lawrence, H.Chance, K.Hampson, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apols : NIL

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters Arising.

- a) K.Hampson leaving for U.S.A. on 1/9/93 for a nursing contract in Miami
- b) Philatelic Soc evening went well - Cedara Land-camp clouded out but enjoyed by the 6 members who went

3. Membership

- a) New member Mr Ivan Schroeder Prop B.Lawrence Sec T.Chance
- b) University A/E Course a good source of new members - App Forms left over at Museum to be used (BL and TC)

4. Correspondence

- A) SAAO Annual Report received - also questionnaire from Strasbourg
- b) Program for ASSA Annual Symposium received
- c) Letter received from ADAM MÓDEK in Poland - BL to attend to this

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 930-38
- b) All 1993 Handbooks sold.

6. Stardust

All OK

7. Library

- a) No books borrowed as yet since SD sorted them out with cards etc
- b) List of library books and videos from Pretoria Centre received & interesting
- c) We should consider obtaining some videos - slides to be kept in library but only loaned out to members preparing lectures etc

8. Planning.

August	18/8/93	Adult Educ course VII
	21/8/93	Viewing with Astrology group - 5.30pm at Midmar
Sept	1/9/93	Adult Educ course VIII
	8/9/93	Spectral classifications (TC and JW) - Centre Meeting
	15/9/93	Adult Educ course IX

9. Instruments

←—————* NB. SETI for October meeting (BL)

- a) JW to contact A.Scafturis re Centre's 6" reflector
- b) Approach to be made to Univ of Natal (PMB) re use of UKALINGA farm
- c) Agreed that G.Prosser Owms the 10" Dobsonian (Lipschitz mirror)

10. Education

Courses going well - still some slide film available

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 15/9/93

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apols: K.Hampson (has gone to USA for a year)

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Monthly meeting at St.Charles on 8/9/93 a disaster due to A/V room being locked - JW has taken the matter up with St.Charles
- b) A.Scaffuris contacted regarding the Centre's 6" telescope - to be moved to BL's home as soon as convenient.
- c) Following certain enquiries, JW has been advised to write to Dean of Agric faculty at UNP regarding use of UKALINGA for siting of 12" telescope.
- d) Viewing session with Astrology Group a failure due to cloud cover - also rather an irritating evening for various reasons.

3. Membership

- a) New members Michael & Lorraine Christianson Prop S.Dale Sec T.Chance
- b) Sheila Nelson (ex Univ A/E course) attended meeting on 8/9/93
- c) Enquiry from Chris Moore about joining the Centre

4. Correspondence

- a) Thankyou card from Dept of Educ & Culture for effort at Cedara land-camp
- b) Nomination form from Dept of Educ & Culture for annual awards to worthy persons
- c) Information re Tiffindell Lodge (Barkly East) - to go out with Stardust

5. Treasurer's report

Balance on hand R 1282-97

6. Stardust

- a) RJ to liaise with HC regarding use of laser printer next month
- b) Request from Mr Addison (Balgowan) to advertise his 9" telescope for sale.

7. Library

SD to continue search for some more 'attractive' books

8. E.R.O.

BL had response to letter in Natal Witness (Parkinson - odds & ends, Clarence - telescope, Kay - telescope)

9. Planning

October	13/10	Centre meeting - SETI (B.Lawrence)
November	10/11	Video from British Council (T.Chance to book)
December		Xmas party ?

10. Instruments

On hold - sub committee still to be formed

11. Education

- a) Adult Educ course - 4 sessions remaining
- b) RJ conducted a viewing evening at Epworth School
- c) TC has had requests for talks to .ITC (16/9/93)
 - .Settlers Primary (17/9/93)
 - .Nat.Womens Register (21/10/93)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 20 OCTOBER 1993

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 20/10/93

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) JW to draft letter to Registrar at UNP re siting of telescope - hopeful to establish a more 'official' relationship between the Centre and UNP.
- b) A.Scafturis to be contacted again re moving of 6" telescope.
- c) Too late to submit award nomination to Dept of Educ & Culture ?

3. Membership

Nothing to report - no news of St.Charles application to ASSA

4. Correspondence

- a) Details of AGM, Committee etc sent to ASSA Secretary & Handbook Editor.
- b) Postcard received from K.Hampson in Miami
- c) Invitation received to attend Dept of Educ & Culture Awards evening
- d) ASSA Council minutes received - A.Strauss back in S.Africa ?
- e) SAAO report

5. Treasurer's report

Balance on hand R 1462-82 (Secretarial expenses (Jul-Sep) = $\frac{1}{2}$ R 360)

6. Stardust

Better with use of laser printer. Guest articles welcome.

7. Library

- a) 'RACE TO MARS' (ITN 1988) purchased at Bloomsburys for R 17-50
- b) SD to go through books received from donors

8. P.R.O.

- a) Thanks to BL for initiative in submitting letter to Natal Witness
- b) GP to be asked to inspect telescope being offered by Mrs Clarence

9. Planning

November 10/11 Video - I.Schroeder has a full set of COSMOS
December Xmas dinner at Fernhill (near Midmar)
BL to investigate details (dates, cost etc)

10. Education

- a) SD gave a talk to Girl Guides on 15/10/93
- b) BL to give a talk at museum on 21/10/93
- c) TC and BL to talk to Boy Scouts on 29/10/93.
- d) Adult Educ course - 2 sessions remaining - certificates being prepared.
- e) Centre's slides to be kept by Librarian (SD)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 1993

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 17/11/93

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, J.Watson, S.Dale

Apsls: B.Lawrence, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Draft of letter to University perused and amended. JW to finalise it and send to the ~~XXXXXX~~ Registrar in Jan 1994
- b) No further contact with A.Scafturis re 6" telescope.

3. Membership

A.Scafturis & R.Roth both have additions to their families

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Council matters - new editor required for MNASSA - financial incentive to be considered
- b) No news yet of St.Charles' application to ASSA - JW has written to the membership Secretary.
- c) Balance of certificates to be posted to Adult Education participants who did not attend the final session.

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1324-49
- B) Statement of Inc & Exp re Adult Educ course has been submitted to the Dept of Educ & Culture - claiming a shortfall of R 225.

6. Stardust

December issue under way - no publication in January 1994

7. Library

SD to continue search for good books - some of Stephen Hawking's work ?

8. P.R.O.

Try again to get a mention in the Natal Witness in 'The Week Ahead'.

9. Planning

December	16/12	Xmas dinner at Fernhill Hotel - R39 per head - replies to BL by 3/12/93
<u>1994</u> January		No meeting
February	9/2	TC to discuss the topic of Space Stations A look at the year ahead ?

10. Education

- a) TC gave a talk to the Std 2 class at St.Charles on 16/11/93
- b) SD has been invited to give a talk to Womens Institute in Feb 1994

+++++ DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19 JANUARY 1994 +++++

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apsls: H.Chance, B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Letter to University finalised and sent to Registrar.
- b) NMC did not nominate anybody for Dept of Educ & Culture Merit award.
- c) Poor turnout at Xmas party - good evening (suspect stomach upsets ?) - performance of A.Norris re discount not acceptable!
- d) No news from ASSA yet about St Charles' application for membership.

3. Membershin

- a) A.Turton planning to emigrate to UK in March/April.

4. Correspondence

- a) 3 letters received from Kerry Hampson
- b) ASSA council minutes & agenda - not yet informed who our alternate is

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1122-47
- b) Shortfall cheque for R 225 received from Dept of Educ & Culture.

6. Stardust

- a) Slight discrepancy between RJ's computer and HC's computer
- b) Note of appreciation (and correction !) from Bulawayo.
- c) New editor of MNASSA has asked for regular news of NMC

7. Library

- a) New padlock for cupboard - JW to keep spare key.
- b) Large bundle of magazines etc received from A.Gray

8. P.R.O.

No discussion

9. Planning

- a) JW to advise St Charles of meeting dates for 1994
- b) February 9/2 Space Stations (TC) & The Year Ahead (JW)
- March 9/3 Use of Star Maps
- April 13/4 20th Anniversary function ?

10. Instruments

- a) 5" DANCER refractor received from A.Gray - GP to be asked to assess it - letter of thanks to A.Gray from whole committee.
- b) JW to attempt further contact with A.Scafturis re 6" telescope.

11. Education

- a) SD to give talk to Women's Institute
- b) Land Service Camp training weekend 10 - 12 June 1994

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 16 FEBRUARY 1994

Present : T.Chance, H.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apols : S.Dale

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read & accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Letter to University acknowledged.
- b) Letter sent to St Charles advising them of meeting dates for 1994
- c) JW has contacted A.Scafturis again re moving of Centre's 6" telescope.
- d) SD gave a talk/slide show to Hilton Women's Institute on 9/2/94
- e) Letter to A.Gray to be signed by all members of the Committee

3. Membership

- a) A number of potential new members, mainly as a result of the notice in Natal Witness and subsequent attendance at the Feb 9th meeting
- b) Subs defaulters to be sent reminders with March issue of 'Stardust'.

4. Correspondence

- a) Annual registration form with Dept of Educ & Culture to be completed

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1210-18
- b) List of subs defaulters

6. Stardust

- a) A.Turton invited to submit a guest article for April issue.
- b) RJ has been in touch with MNASSA Editor (A.Slotegraaf) - will submit a report on Centre activities for MNASSA by July 11th.

7. Library

- a) ASSA Handbooks for 1994 have arrived
- b) SD has got the Centre's slide collection at home.

8. P.R.O.

- a) Good response to 'The Week Ahead' notice in Natal Witness - starting time of meetings to be revised ?
- b) Is our venue (St Charles) really suitable ? (see what University can offer)
- c) Museum Educ Programme now includes "Solar system & Planets" and "Manned Space Flight".

9. Planning.

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| March | 9/3 | - Constellation of the month - Southern Cross |
| | | - borrow video from R.Forder (ex BBC World Service) of Neptune fly-by |
| April | | - 20th Anniversary function - date to be confirmed |
| | | ↳ function at Royal Hotel |
| | | - invite A.Gray - JW to compile guest list |

10. Instruments

No discussion

11. Education

Nothing further to report

*

NEXT MEETING

16 MARCH 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6 SUNWOOD LODGE on 12/3/94

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, S.Dale, B.Lawrence, J.Watson

Apols : R.Jarman

1. Meeting commenced at 4.00pm - minutes of previous meeting read & accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) No further response from University
- b) Letter received from Headmaster of St Charles (R.Kuhn)
- c) Registration submitted to Dept of Educ & Culture
- d) Subscription reminders sent out with Stardust.

3. Membership

No discussion

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Council minutes - honoraria to be paid to Council executives !

5. Treasurer's report

No details to hand - Centre is solvent

6. Stardust

No April issue as invitations to Anniversary function need to be sent out early and R.J. away on business

7. Library

Committee to consider the pros & cons of acquiring some videos

8. P.R.O.

Aim to get more coverage in Natal Witness - monthly article on Astronomy ?

9. Planning

April 9/4 - 20th Anniversary function

- a) A.Gray here from Friday 8/4 to Sunday 9/4 - flying down - Centre to share cost.
- b) Library auditorium booked from 5pm to 9pm
- c) Invitations to Natal Centre & founder members
- d) Display of photos etc (TC and SD)
- e) Instruments - unveiling of Dancer telescope (JW)
- f) Certificates to founder members (RJ)
- g) Food (BL and HC), wine & glasses (JW) - R10 per head
- h) A.Gray to stay with BL - get together on Friday evening, JW/SD to entertain on Saturday, BL/TC/HC to entertain on Sunday.

May 11/5 - Constellation of the month - Orion

10. Instruments

No discussion

11. Education

Amanzimtoti Beach Festival - first week of May ?

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 20 APRIL 1994

Present: T.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apsls : H.Chance, S.Dale

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

a) JW has contacted University - they are still dealing with our letter

b) 20th Anniversary function

i. TC thanked the Committee for their hard work in making the event a success

ii. A.Gray enjoyed his weekend very much - thanks to BL for hospitality

iii. Poor turnout from NMC members, good support from Durban

iv. Could have done with more archive/reminiscence material

v. R.Joubert claims founder membership - did not receive a certificate.

3. Membership

a) R.Burger (prospect) is moving to Jo'burg, A.Turton has emigrated to U.K.

b) Rev Jim Barrows a prospective new member.

4. Correspondence

a) Letter received from D.Overbeek with greetings for 20th Anniversary

b) Card & Letter from K.Hampson - coming to S.A. on holiday in May

- possibility of NMC naming a star ??

c) Letter from Dept of Educ & Culture re grants for special projects

d) PMB Publicity Assoc 'Heritage Herald' - posted to wrong address

e) Returned post from W.Coombes and ASSA Cape Centre - JW to write letter of complaint to ASSA.

5. Treasurer's report

a) Balance on hand R 1201-03 (Subs reminders have been effective)

b) JW claim for expenses (Oct 93 - Mar 94) of R 392-41 submitted.

c) RJ requested R 9-40 for cost of 20th Anniv photos - approved.

6. Stardust

May issue in hand

7. Library

a) Large Philip's Star Chart to be framed ? - HC to get a quote.

8. P.R.O.

a) Natal Witness invited to 20th Anniv function - did not arrive.

b) BL to contact Publicity Assoc re monthly Calendar of Events.

c) Izinkhanyezi planned for 25-28 August 1994 at Sierra Ranch (nr Mooi River)

9. Planning

May 11/5 - Viewing evening at Collingwood's home

(Back up: Part II of video from R.Forder)

June 8/6 - Constellation of the month - Scorpio

Video or talk as well.

10/6ff - Land Service Camp training weekend

July 13/7 - Annual General Meeting - venue & format ?

16/7ff - Jupiter/Shoemaker-Levy 9 collision - public viewing ?

(preceded by lecture at Museum on 9/7/94)

10. Instruments

- a) All NMC instruments now in caravan at JW's home i.e. Robert's refractor, Dancer refractor and 6" reflector. JW to contact St Charles & follow up on offer of storage.
- b) A.Scafturis to arrange the cleaning up & re-galvanising/painting of the stand of the 6" reflector.
- c) TC wishes to dispose of i) drive motor (for free)
 - ii) large mounting (cash or donation)

11. Education

- a) Amanziatoti Beach Festival - postponed to end of May or cancelled ?
- b) University Adult Education Centre have requested a repeat of the course run last year - possibly in July.
- c) Land Service Training weekend 10-12 June 1994 at Wagendrift (nr Estcourt)
- d) JW has been asked to arrange a talk to PROBIZ Club (Howick) in June

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 18 MAY 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 18/5/94

Present: T.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, S.Dale, J.Watson

Apsls: H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) JW has written to ASSA Secretary about i) St Charles' application to ASSA
ii) NMC alternate on Council iii) Returned post from Cape Centre
- b) R.Joubert not a founder member - application made on 12/11/80
- c) Framing of Star Chart very expensive - TC to investigate lamination
- d) JW and SD met with representatives of University on 13/5/94
 - i) Response to our letter encouraging - they are keen to "sell" Science on the campus
 - ii) No formal affiliation unless an Astro Soc operates on campus.
 - iii) Happy to advertise our activities on notice board(s) in Physics Dept.
 - iv) May be able to offer us a permanent venue on campus - would like to set up an open meeting/lecture etc in August to gauge interest from student body.
 - v) Interested in our long-term plans to set up an observatory - could not comment on use of Univ farm as it is under control of Agric Dept (and has a questionable future ?)
 - vi) Dr T.Anderson would like somebody to give a talk to PINSSA.

3. Membership

Dr P.Tarboton would like to receive Stardust etc from July onwards

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter received from Anne Turton (in UK)
- b) SAAO newsletter received with questionnaire
- c) ASSA Council minutes - our alternate is Mr Bill Bremer

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 780-16
- b) Annual subs to ASSA now R 110-00

6. Stardust

- a) RJ now using a font which is more compatible with laser printer at NPB
- b) Photos of 20th Anniv function to be offered for sale to Centre members

7. Library

- a) Seems to be used very little - circulation of 'Sky & Telescope' somewhat erratic and difficult to control - use the single copy binders again?
- b) K.Hampson has left us 2 videos ('Universe' and 'The Dream is Alive') which BL may be able to copy to PAL system - is this the start of a video library ?

8. P.R.O.

- a) BL has written to Publicity Assoc re calendar of events in 'heritage Herald'
- b) BL also gathering material on the history of the Centre.

9. Planning

a) Enjoyable evening at Collingwood's last week despite impossibility of viewing - suggested that May is too early to arrange viewing evenings.

b) JUNE

- 8/6/94 Centre meeting - Constellation of the month = SCORPIO
- University contact report back
- Intro to Jupiter collision
- Circulation of Sky & Telescope

JULY

- 6/7/94 Talk to Land Service Camp (Cedara)
9/7/94 Public lecture on Jupiter collision at Museum
13/7/94 Centre AGM - venue to be finalised (York's home,
City Computers ,St Mary's centre ?)
16/7/94ff Viewing of Jupiter collision (at Guide Camp ?)
7/7/94 - 2/8/94 University Adult Education course in Astronomy
each Tuesday and Thursday

AUGUST

- 4/8/94 - 6/8/94 Land Service training weekend
10/8/94 Open meeting at University
25/8/94 - 28/8/94 Izinkhanyezi

10. Instruments

- a) Headmaster of St Charles not available to discuss offer of storage
b) TC offering to give a drive motor to the Centre
c) Overall situation regarding instruments somewhat chaotic !!

11. Education

- a) Amanzimtoti Beach festival now 27/28 May - agreed to decline invitation.
b) Univ Adult Education - TC, BL and JW to meet on 25/5/94 to plan the course
at Lawrence's home.
c) Talk to PROBIZ club (Howick) by JW postponed to July
d) RJ assisting St. John's girl(s) with Astronomy project
e) JW to do some viewing with a Cub Pack (from Newholmes) at Guide Camp
on 28/5/94

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 15/6/94

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CRAPEL ST. on 15/6/94

Present: T.Chance, S.Dale, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Apols: B.Lawrence, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

a) JW has received reply from Secretary of ASSA

i) St Charles' application received but no money sent !!!

ii) Cape Centre have had their P.O. Box re-instated

iii) Mr W.A.Bremer will serve on Council as NMC alternate.

b) Lamination of Star Chart will cost R 27-30 - agreed to go ahead.

c) University follow up - letter written to Prof T.Haines

- letter and copy of 'Stardust' sent to Dr C.Graham

3. Membership

a) Letter received from Rev J.Barrow declining membership

b) Post being returned from G.Walker - JW to investigate.

c) News of J & A.Strauss received through friend - JW to drop them a note.

4. Correspondence

a) Usual newsletters from other Centres

b) Invitation/application for Izinkhanyezi - to be copied and sent out to local members

5. Treasurer's report

a) No accurate balance on hand - approx R 600-00

b) Further application to ASSA on behalf of St Charles to be made - agreed to send R 110-00 subs for 1994/5

c) Centre subscriptions may need to be increased to cover running costs.

6. Stardust

a) Due to poor postal service, this should be ready for posting a week and a half before the monthly meeting of the Centre

b) Poor response to RJ's offer to have copies made of 20th Anniv function photos

7. Library

a) Good response to SD's informal discussion at meeting in May, especially the suggestion of setting up a video library.

b) Informal circulation of Sky & Telescope commenced on a trial basis

c) S. de Vos is arranging to have damaged book repaired.

8. P.R.O.

a) Local newspapers have all been notified of public lecture at Natal Museum

~~on~~ on 25/6/94 on the Jupiter/comet collision

9. Planning

JUNE

17/6/94 Public viewing at Ladysmith - nobody going

25/6/94 Public lecture on Jupiter collision at Museum (2.00pm)

JULY

5/7/94 Talk to PROBIZ Club in Howick (12.00pm - JW)
6/7/94 Talk to Land Service Camp (Cedara 7.00pm -JW et al)
7/7/94 Adult Education I
12/7/94 " " " II
13/7/94 Centre AGM at City Computers - business and video
_ coffee and cakes
14/7/94 Adult Education III (viewing)
16/7/94 Viewing of Jupiter collision
19/7/94 Adult Education IV
21/7/94 " " " V
26/7/94 " " " VI
28/7/94 " " " VII

AUGUST

2/8/94 Adult Education VIII (viewing)
4/8/94 - 6/8/94 Land Service training weekend
10/8/94 Open meeting at University
11/8/94 Talk to PINNSSA at Girls High School (7.30pm)
13/8/94 Viewing at 'Mount Shannon', Boston (Sheila Nelson)
25/8/94 - 28/8/94 IZINKHANYEZI

10. Instruments

No discussion

11. Education

- a) Heavy programme ahead !
- b) TC and RJ went to give talk & do some viewing with St.Charles boys at Boston conservancy on 11/6/94
- c) SD to work with Girl Guides at UKALINGA on 18/6/94
- d) TC, BL & JW met on 25/5/94 to finalise Univ Adult Education course - will meet again on 26/6/94 at Lawrence's home
- e) TC contacted by Girls High School (M.Watson) re some assistance with Astronomy.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 JULY 1994

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at City Computers on 13 July 1994 at 7.30pm

1. The meeting was attended by 13 members, with 3 apologies.
2. The Chairman, Mr T.Chance, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and thanked City Computers for the use of their premises.
3. Due to the Centre's minute book having been temporarily mislaid, it was not possible for the Minutes of the 1993 Annual General Meeting held on 14 July 1993 to be read or distributed. It was therefore agreed to accept the verbal report of Mr J.Watson as being correct.

4. Matters Arising

The only matter raised was Instrumentation - Mr T.Chance responded by informing the meeting that this would be discussed later on the agenda.

5. Chairman's Report (Prop: R.Jarman Sec: B.Lawrence)

Mr T.Chance summarised the programme of activities of the Centre during the year. In particular, he made mention of:-

- a) The Centre's 20th Anniversary celebrations in April 1994
- b) Various educational endeavours, including the Adult Education course currently in progress at the University of Natal
- c) The donation of the 5" Dancer refracting telescope by Mr A.Gray, and the now urgent need to control the Centre's instruments and plan for a permanent Observatory.

He thanked the Committee and all others for their support.

6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: B.Lawrence Sec: A.Morris)

Mrs H.Chance presented the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the previous year, which reflected a closing balance of R 481-71, a loss of some R 1000. By way of explanation it was noted that:-

- a) The previous year's closing balance had been inflated due to payment of fees in advance for the Amateur Astronomy course.
- b) Unusual expenditure had been incurred in respect of the Anniversary celebrations.

A proposal was put to the meeting (Prop: R.Joubert, Sec: M.Christianson) that annual membership subscriptions be increased by R 5-00 in each category. This was agreed to unanimously after a short discussion. The revised annual subscriptions will therefore be:-

Members R 30-00 Couples R 40-00 Pensioners & Students R 20-00

7. Election of New Committee

The following members were nominated and elected :-

Mesdames S.Dale, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson and H.Chance

Messrs R.Jarman, T.Chance, M.Christianson, S.de Vos and J.Watson

8. Instruments

Mr J. Watson reported that he had collected all the Centre's instruments (other than those under construction) for the 20th Anniversary gathering, and they were now cluttering up his caravan.

It was agreed that the new Committee would:-

- a) Appoint a Curator of Instruments who would find a more suitable storage place.
- b) Form a sub-committee to seriously explore the possibilities of erecting an observatory, and also to complete the construction of the 12" reflector with the help of Dr G. Prosser.

9. Other business

- a) Links with the local University of Natal have been established, and it is hoped to strengthen these in the future.
 - b) The upcoming Jupiter 'event' has been widely publicised - the Centre will host a 'public' viewing at Worlds View on 16/7/94 (10.00 pm)
 - c) Natal Centre are planning IZINKHANYEZI 1994 in August.
10. The meeting closed at 8.45pm, after which coffee and snacks were enjoyed by all present.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — 13/7/94.

MEMBERS

TIM + HILARY CHANCE.
MIKE + LORRAINE CHRISTIANSON
ARMINE NORRIS
Rusty Jarmain
Rogan Toth.
Jon and Bianca LAWRENCE
Allan Verfeld
ROY JOUBERT
John Watson.
Steve de Vos

VISITORS

APOLOGIES

S. DALE
P. HAWKINS
G. PROSSER

It is once again my pleasure to report on the activities of the Natal Midlands Centre for the past year namely 1993/94.

The Society has had a busy year, with the following activities at scheduled monthly meetings.

- August 93 A presentation on gravity given by John Watson.
- September 93 A bring and share evening on the Electromagnetic Spectrum - co-chaired by John Watson and myself.
- October 93 A talk on SETI - the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence by Bianca Lawrence.
- November 93 Sheila Dale discussed the library, and this was followed by a video "Cosmos" kindly loaned by Ivan Schroeder.
- December 93 Our annual Christmas party took the form of a dinner at Fernhill. There was a disappointing turnout, and also a few upset tummies later.
- February 94 A presentation on Space Stations given by myself, and followed by a brief look at astronomical events in the year ahead by John Watson.
- March 94 A double feature - with an in depth look at the Constellation Crux by the committee members, followed by a video of the Voyager encounter with Miranda, kindly lent by Ray Forder.
- April 94 The highlight of the past year was our 20th anniversary. We held a cheese and wine party in the library auditorium, at which the guest of honour was our founder, Andrew Gray. Attendance was once again poor, although the Durban centre was well represented.
- May 94 A planned viewing evening at Chris and Veronica Collingwood's house was thwarted by inclement weather, but the second half of Ray Forder's voyager tape was a most informative substitute.
- June 94 We had a look at the Constellation Scorpius, preceded by a library report by Sheila Dale and a report back by John Watson and Sheila Dale on the possibilities of greater co-operation between the University and ourselves.

Despite the poor attendance figures at the monthly meetings, membership has grown slightly during the course of the year as we welcomed Steve de Vos, Ivan Schroeder, Michael and Lorraine Christianson to our ranks, while sadly we lost Ann Turton who emigrated to the United Kingdom.

Apart from the monthly meetings, the Society's committee has been very active with various viewing sessions, talks and Adult Education Courses.

Talks have been presented to the Philatelic Society, the Land Service Camp, ITC, Settler's Park Preprimary, the National Women's Register, the Girl Guides, The Probiz Club, the Museum and the Boy Scouts; While viewing evenings have been held with the Guides (clouded out), the Ladysmith Centre, the Land Service Camp, the Saint Charles Boys (at Boston) and the Astrology Society - at Midmar (clouded over - supposed to be a braai - left us standing in the car park with a bag of charcoal and they went to dinner at the hotel).

Two Education Courses have been/are being run with the University Adult Education Centre - this year low turnout.

Public meeting on the Jupiter impact was held at the Museum was well attended by the public, with not much support from members. Planned viewing session this Saturday at the car park of the Girl Guides Camp at World's View.

The society has welcomed the donation of the Dancer telescope, a 5" Reflector, by instruments remain a problem. With the Society's 12" gathering dust. There is a need for an observatory, possibility of a site at World's View Girl Guides camp.

Kerry Hampson in the USA will be arranging to have a star named after the Natal Midlands Centre, but although we suggested renaming Alpha Crux, I don't think we'll get our way.

It now just remains for me to thank the members of my committee, especially my wife, without whose support I wouldn't have been able to be as involved as I have been, and also you the members of the Society for your continued support during the past year.



R.T. CHANCE.

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1994

INCOME

Brought forward 92/93	Bank	1200.42	
	Cash	287.07	
Subscriptions		931.23	
Handbooks		110.00	
Donations		4.00	
20th Anniversary Party		150.00	
Interest		27.97	
Astronomical Course		<u>273.74</u>	
	TOTAL		2984.43

EXPENDITURE

Annual Payments			
ASSA Subscription		85.00	
PMB Publicity Association		30.00	
Post Box Rental		33.00	
Purchase of Handbooks		80.00	
Refreshments		63.78	
Stationery/Photocopying		449.90	
Postage		367.20	
Christmas Party		-	
AGM 92/93		100.99	
Films/Slides/Transparencies		104.76	
20th Anniversary Party		340.82	
Astronomical Course		645.83	
Cheque returned		45.00	
Book - Library		17.50	
Cards, Gifts etc		38.94	
Donation Andrew Gray		100.00	
Carried Forward	Bank	373.58	
	Cash	<u>108.13</u>	
	TOTAL		2984.43

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 20/7/94

Present: T.Chance, H.Chance, S.de Vos, M.Christianson, R.Jarmain, J.Watson

Apols: S.Dale, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Office Bearers for 1994/95

TC welcomed new Committee members M.Christianson and S. de Vos

Chairman	Mr R.Jarmain
Vice Chairman	Mr M.Christianson (and Instruments)
Secretary	Mr J.Watson (and Council Rep)
Treasurer	Mrs H.Chance
Newsletter	Mr T.Chance (and Education)
P.R.O.	Mrs B.Lawrence
Library	Mrs S.Dale
Projects	Mrs S.de Vos and Miss K.Hampson

JW advised the Committee that this is the last year that he will be able to continue as Secretary, and suggested that KH be asked to understudy him on her return from USA

3. Matters arising

- a) G.Walker has definitely moved elsewhere - JW to continue investigation
- b) IZINKHANYEZI invitation copied and sent out - apparently small response so far.
- c) AGM approved the raising of Centre subscriptions by R5-00 in each category
i.e. Members R 30-00 Couples R 40-00 Pens/Students R 20-00
- d) New application for ASSA membership delivered to St Charles
- e) RJ has sent feature on NMC to the Editor of MNASSA

4. Membership

- a) New members Mr Allen Versfeld Prop T.Chance Sec R.Jarmain
Mr Arnold Viljoen Prop R.Jarmain Sec S.de Vos
- b) Letter from Andrew Gray advising address change to Capetown in August

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from Dr C.Graham (UNP) confirming arrangements for meeting on 10/8/94

6. Treasurers report

- a) Balnce on hand R 481-71 (as per AGM report)
- b) Committee approved i) Purchase of video tape (approx R 18) to copy some videos on loan from R.Forder
ii) Donation of R 30 to Girl Guides for use of their parking area for viewing

7. Stardust

- a) TC will be acquiring a Personal Computer in the near future

8. Library

No discussion

9. P.R.O.

Publicity Assoc subs due for renewal

10. Planning

JULY

21/7/94 Adult Education V
26/7/94 " " " VI
28/7/94 " " " VII

AUGUST

2/8/94 Adult Education VIII (viewing)
5/8/94 - 6/8/94 Land Service training (Wagendrift)
10/8/94 Open meeting at University (7.45 pm)
Title A POCKETFUL OF GALAXIES
11/8/94 Talk to PINNSSA at Girls High School (7.30 pm)
(repeat University talk)
13/8/94 Viewing at 'Mount Shannon', Boston (Sheila Nelson)
25/8/94 - 28/8/94 IZINKHANYEZI

SEPTEMBER

14/9/84 Centre monthly meeting

11. Instruments

No discussion

12. Education

- a) RJ due to give talk to Cub Pack in the new term
- b) TC no longer involved with GHS pupil

13. General

Girl Guides have suggested the possibility of us building an observatory on their land at World's View. They have approx 17 acres on a 99 year lease from FMB Corporation, renewable every 25 years. Next renewal date is 2004.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 AUGUST 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 17/8/94

Present: R.Jarmain, T.Chance, S.Dale, J.Watson

Appls: M.Christianson, H.Chance, B.Lawrence, S.de Vos

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) G.Walker located at Azalea Gardens - keen to stay on mailing list
- b) St Charles' application for ASSA membership returned - needs cheque and a seconder before being sent off.
- c) Observatory at Guide Camp (World's View) - plans to be drawn up - invite ideas from members - need to have an official meeting with Girl Guides.
- d) Land Service training weekend cancelled due to poor response.
- e) Izinkhanyezi - 4 members to attend on Friday 26/8/94
- f) RJ has given talk to Cub pack - poor viewing conditions unfortunately.
- g) Monthly meeting at University went well - approx 20 visitors - letter of thanks to Dr Clive Graham.

3. Membership

- a) Les Hunt to resign ? - will send one more newsletter, - JW to contact him.
- b) New members
Mr Mike Imber Prop T.Chance Sec R.Jarmain
Mr Cliff Pooler Prop T.Chance Sec J.Watson
Mr Charles Davis Prop J.Watson Sec R.Jarmain
- c) Prospects Ms Melinda Sharp and all the visitors at last month's meeting

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter from K.Hampson - due back in SA during September
- b) Certificate etc regarding the star that has been named 'Natal Midlands Centre' - in the constellation of CRUX at magnitude + 11 ????
- c) ASSA Council minutes - handbooks to cost R 10-00 in 1995.

5. Treasurers report

- a) Balance on hand R 697-16
- b) 1994/95 subs starting to come in - 1994 handbooks all sold.

6. Stardust

- a) First issue 'under new management' produced on TC's computer - small problem with bulk post resulting in 2 copies returned.
- b) September issue under way.

7. Library

- a) SD to concentrate on videos and 'Sky & Telescope'.
- b) Slides to be returned to library - SD will keep them at home.

8. P.R.O.

No discussion - a teacher at Imbali has been in touch with BL

9. Planning

<u>AUGUST</u>	25/8/94 - 28/8/94	IZINKHANYEZI
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	14/9/84	Monthly meeting - Sagittarius constellation - video 'Our Wonderful Universe'
<u>OCTOBER</u>	12/10/94	Monthly meeting - RJ to run a 'spectacular' quiz.

10. Instruments

All the instruments have been moved to MC's home

11. Education

a) Nothing further planned for this year

b) PINN SSA evening was well attended and most enjoyable.

12. General

RJ queried possibility of using Girl Guide hall (at World's View) as a venue for meetings in the future - St Charles is not wonderful and the University lecture theatre is worse !

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 21/9/94

Present: R.Jarman, T.Chance, S.de Vos, E.Lawrence, S.Dale, J.Watson, M.Christianson.

Apsls: H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) St Charles' application ready to be sent off to ASSA.
- b) Izinkhanyezi - 4 members attended on Friday 26/8/94
- TC gave a talk on Sturday afternnon.
- c) Last monthly meeting (14/9/94) well attended - a good evening.

3. Membership

- a) Anne Turton wishes to continue her membership - now living in UK.
- b) Potential member Ricky Ackerman (scholar) has applied through museum program.

4. Correspondence

- a) ASSA - R.Hurly has phoned about eclipse viewing on 'Drakensberg' in November 94.
- b) Visit of Patrick Moore - MC attended lecture and JW attended social.

5. Treasurer's report

Balance on hand R 371-33

6. Stardust

- a) TC's computer damaged, but now repaired - October issue under way
- b) Invite members to submit plans for an Observatory - competition ?

7. Library

- a) Lot of interest in borrowing S & T at last meeting
- b) Videos (in US format) successfully copied - need to also copy the videos loaned by R.Forder
- c) Donation of lunar maps received - need to be very carefully stored.

8. P.R.O.

- a) BL active in museum program for schools
- b) Suggestions for advertising the November eclipse ? - agreed not to give any public lectures - submit details to the 'Natal Witness'.
- c) BL ^{has been} asked to do a feasibility study regarding the possibility of setting up a Planetarium at the museum

9. Planning

OCTOBER 12/10/94 Monthly meeting - 'Whistle Stop to the Stars' (RJ)
NOVEMBER 9/11/94 Monthly meeting - K.Hampson's year in USA ?
- Variable stars (JW)
DECEMBER Christmas function/party.

10. Instruments

Nothing further to report

11. Education

- a) Voortrekkers (23/9/94 - TC), Girl Guides (7/10/94 - TC)
- b) Talk to Scout AGM (28/10/94 - TC and BL)

12. General

- a) Write up on Natal Midlands Centre has not yet appeared in MNASSA
- b) Continue to look for a better venue - TC to discuss use of Girl Guides hall with them.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 OCTOBER 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 19/10/94

Present: R.Jarman, T.Chance, K.Hampson, S.Dale, B.Lawrence, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Appls: M.Christianson, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted with the addition of M.Christianson's name to those present.

2. Matters arising

- a) St Charles' application with G.Prosser for seconding
- b) R.Clifford has offered help with plans for an Observatory
- c) A.Slotegraaf (MNASSA Editor) has been in touch re write-up on NMC - some more photographs have been sent off to him by SD
- d) Girl Guide's Hall not a suitable venue for monthly meetings
- e) Thanks to RJ for preparation and presentation of slides at last monthly meeting - a stimulating evening, even if rather lengthy.

3. Membership

- a) L.Hunt has resigned due to MOTH activities
- b) P.Tarboton and Mrs Dyer have asked for application forms
- c) Potential member Mrs J.Walker
- d) Secretary (JW) to send reminder to prospective members after 3 months.

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter from D.Overbeek re the NMC star - perhaps it's not as faint as 10.9 mag, or the coordinates given are wrong ?
- b) Newsletters from SAAO and other Centres

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 508-28
- b) Cheque from University Adult Education Dept for R 600-00
- c) Secretarial expenses (July-Sept) of R 107-37

6. Stardust

November issue under way - format to be modified

7. Library

- a) Continued interest at last meeting
- b) Moon maps now stored in sturdy cardboard tube (thanks to MC)
- c) 'Introduction to Astronomy' (Sidgwick) donated by P.Moore - not completely up to date, but good for beginners.

8. P.R.O.

BL presenting Manned Space Flight talks to schools approx every 2 weeks at the museum.

9. Planning

NOVEMBER 9/11/94 - Monthly meeting - 'Stars & Shuttles' (KH)

- Variable stars (JW)

DECEMBER 10/12/94 - Xmas function - 'Bring & Share' braai

- venue to be confirmed next month

FUTURE Winged Spacecraft (TC), Archaeo-astronomy (BL),

Apollo 13 video

10. Instruments

Variable frequency oscillator (VFO) for Centre's 6" telescope to be given to MC for safe keeping.

11. Education

- a) Talks to Voortrekkers and Girl Guides went O.K. - poor skies for viewing and unfortunate breakdown of slide projector !
- b) Talk to Scout AGM (28/10/94 - TC and BL)
- b) Talk to church Youth Group (28/10/94 - JW)

12. General

Continue with 'constellation of the month' presentations next year

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 16 NOVEMBER 1994

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 16/11/94

Present: R.Jarmain, M.Christianson, S.Dale, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apols: T.Chance, H.Chance, B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) St.Charles' application sent off to ASSA
- b) R.Clifford has drawn up some rough plans for an observatory - roll-off roof type - to be considered further by MC and sub-committee ?
- c) Thanks to KH and JW for their contributions at last monthly meeting.

3. Membership

- a) Encouraging turn-out (27) at last monthly meeting
- b) New members Mrs Marie Dyer (Prop: M.Imber Sec: J.Watson)
Mr Roger Clifford (Prop: S.Dale Sec: M.Christianson.)
- c) Prospective new member Mr Wayne Herschel

4. Correspondence

- a) JW has sent details of office-bearers to ASSA Handbook Editor
- b) Letter from D.Overbeek re possible visit/meeting with Dr J.Percy early next year (Jan/Feb) - JW to keep in touch with L.Rens re joint function.
- c) ASSA Council minutes - sad to learn of death of Mr Joe Churms.

5. Treasurer's report

- a) No report submitted
- b) RJ has purchased a 3 hour video tape to record "The Astronomers" off TV 1.

6. Stardust

No report or discussion - JW to pass on info to TC

7. Library

- a) The growing collection of slides (currently with JW) need to be indexed and stored properly - Mrs A.Jarmain to keep a watch out at auctions for 2nd hand filing trays.

8. P.R.O.

No report or discussion

9. Planning

DECEMBER 10/12/94 - Xmas function - 'Bring & Braai' at the home of Ms J.Baxter (Otto's Bluff) - R 5,00 per head to cover costs of salads, rolls & casks of wine

January - possible joint meeting with Durban to meet Dr J.Percy

FEBRUARY 8/2/95 - Monthly meeting - Look around for 1995

- Video ?

10. Instruments

Safe with MC

11. Education

Finished for 1994 - talks to Scout AGM and Youth Group went well

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 JANUARY 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 18/1/95

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, S.Dale, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, S.de Vos

J.Watson

Apols: R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30 pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) No further info regarding visit/meeting with Dr J.Percy - JW in touch with L.Rens of Natal Centre - will phone around if anything transpires.
- b) 14 people attended the Xmas party at the home of J.Baxter - a rather disappointing turnout, but a very pleasant evening - good venue for observing.
- c) Between RJ and SdeV a full set of "The Astronomers" should be available for the Library.

3. Membership

New members	Mr Frikkie de Bruyn	(<u>Prop</u> : R.Joubert	<u>Sec</u> : A.Kroukam)
	Dr Anne Renfrew	(<u>Prop</u> : K.Hampson	<u>Sec</u> : J.Watson)
	Mr Wayne Herschel	(<u>Prop</u> : B.Lawrence	<u>Sec</u> : J.Watson)

4. Correspondence

- a) Letter of thanks from 9th Pmb Scout Group re talk by TC and BL at AGM
- b) Annual questionnaire from Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg to update NMC info in 'Starguides' and 'Starworlds'.
- c) Deadlines for MNASSA contributions in 1995 - article on NMC appears in the latest (Dec 94) issue.
- d) Invitation to subscribe to 'Southern Sky' magazine and/or purchase 'Astronomy 1995' or the Herald-Bobroff AstroAtlas - all from Australia.
- e) Letter from Dept of Educ & Culture re uncertainty of future financial help due to transition/restructuring in 1995.
- f) ASSA Council minutes - National Symposium to be held in Bloemfontein in September 1995.

5. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1198-16
- b) Subs coming in nicely - final demands to be sent out in February.

6. Stardust

- a) TC's computer now in good shape - next issue to go out next week

7. Library

- a) No feedback from A.Jarman re 2nd had filing trays for slides
- b) Collection of videos growing - to be hired out to members ?

8. P.R.O.

- a) BL to submit article to Natal Witness on the 'NMC STAR'.
- b) JW contacted by Natal Witness re "fireball" seen at Impendhle.
- c) Notice of monthly meetings to be sent to Natal Witness for inclusion in 'The Week Ahead' by TC.

9. Planning

FEBRUARY 8/2/95 - Monthly meeting - Look Around for 1995 (JW)
- Video "Spacewatch" (BL)

MARCH 8/3/95 - Monthly meeting - constellation of the month ORION

10. Instruments

Nothing further to report

11. Education

- a) TC to give talk to Boston W.I. on Sunday 12/3/95 (lunch hour meeting)
- b) Natal Museum have asked NMC to run Adult Educ course in July - JW will inform University that we are not available this year.

12. General

- a) Venue - continue at St.Charles until further notice (JW to contact) - in the meantime discuss a more suitable venue with Dr.Graham at the University.
- BL to investigate the purchase of an urn (plastic) and JW to look for a suitable 'tea' table.
- b) Observatory - sub-committee to investigate/discuss all relevant matters to consist of R.Jermain, M.Christianson, T.Chance, S.de Vos and B.Lawrence - G.Prosser to be co-opted as needed.
- c) TC has recently acquired the signatures of Alan Shepard and Jim Lovell.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 15 FEBRUARY 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 15/2/95

Present: M.Christianson, S.Dale, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, J.Watson

Apsls: R.Jarman, T.Chance, H.Chance, S.de Vos

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) 4 committee members had travelled down to Waterfall to meet Dr J.Percy on Saturday afternoon (28/1/95) together with Natal Centre members. His main topic of conversation was Astronomy Education rather than Variable Stars.
- b) RJ has a full set of "The Astronomers" on video.

3. Membership

New members Mrs Jennifer McKenzie (Prop: S.Dale Sec: K.Hampson)
 Miss Angela Ballantyne (Prop: J.Watson Sec: M.Christianson)

4. Correspondence

- a) Letters written to St.Charles and Centre for Adult Education (UNP)
- b) Letters received from :-
 - i) University Library wishing to borrow any posters/charts for a display of approx 2 weeks - RJ is handling this.
 - ii) Mr Addison of Balgowan asking us to advertise his 10" reflector again - to go into 'Stardust' and be sent to MNASSA

5. Treasurer's Report

No report received

6. Stardust

No report

7. Library

- a) Copies of S & T getting dog-eared - we should use plastic holders which were purchased for this purpose some years ago.
- b) Terry Photos still sell filing trays for slides - JW to investigate.

8. P.R.O.

- a) JW to prepare envelope & label for Natal Witness "The Week Ahead".
- b) BL will get info on the 'NMC STAR' from TC

9. Planning.

MARCH 3/3/95 - Monthly meeting - Constellation of ORION (MC,KH,BL,TC,JW)
- 2nd half of video "Spacewatch".

APRIL 19/4/95 - Monthly meeting - open forum on Meteors (BL to convene)

++ NB Date ++ - Constellation of LEO

Future Dianne Grayson talk, meteor shower observing, occultations

(JW to enquire about 'grazing occultation' on 23/3/95) , Internet ?

10. Instruments & Observatory

MC to convene sub-committee - will contact RJ - G.Prosser notified

11. Education

Nothing further to report - Museum dates to be confirmed - notes to be revised/pruned.

12. General

- a) Venue - JW to investigate possibilities at University with Dr Trevor Anderson (who attended the last Centre meeting)
- Plastic urn and tea-table outstanding
- b) St.Charles - ASSA membership confirmed - S & T being received for the school library
- c) 1995 Calendar

April meeting on 19th (1 week late) - school hols & Holy Week

July meeting (AGM) on 12th - go to J.Baxter's home ? - school hols

August meeting on 16th (1 week late) - public holiday on 9th.

December meeting (Party ?) on 13th - school hols.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 15 MARCH 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 15/3/95

Present: M.Christianson, P.Chance, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apsls: R.Jarman, S.Dale, B.Lawrence, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) University library display - RJ has not had much success in getting any suitable material.
- b) Slide tray - the item on sale at Terry Photos is simply a nice box which can accommodate a number of 'universal' slide magazines.
- c) Notice of Centre meeting appeared for the first time in the Natal Witness 'Week Ahead' column - pity it was advertised as an AGM ??
- d) Venue - JW has not yet managed to contact University again
- e) Tea urn - GAME has small steel urns for sale at approx R180 - committee agreed to go ahead and purchase one.
- f) BL still to get info on 'NMC STAR' from TC
- g) Grazing Occultation on 23/3/95 - JW has received diskette from D.Overbeek and has purchased 1:50000 map of the area South of Pmb - plotting of the coordinates shows track crossing Pmb-Richmond road just South of Thornville - JW and MC to make a 'recce' on Sunday 19/3/95.

3. Planning

APRIL 19/4/95 - Monthly meeting - open forum on Meteors (BL to convene)

- Constellation of LEO (MC, KH, TC, Sdev)

MAY 10/5/95 - Monthly meeting - meeting at University ?

- D.Grayson to talk on armillary rings ?

- JW to talk on Dark Matter ?

- show video "The Astronomers" (Part 1) ?

JUNE - viewing evening at the Collingwoods home

JULY - AGM - go out to J.Baxter's home

4. Membershin

a) New members Miss Aarti Panday (Prop: J.Watson Sec: S.de Vos)

Mr Torben Anderson (Prop: J.Watson Sec: K.Hampson)

b) Prospective member Miss Robyn Angus (student) - application sent.

c) Resignations Mr Ray Forder

Mrs Sheila Dale

} JW to write to both, and request S.Dale to reconsider her decision as far as membership of the Centre is concerned.

5. Correspondence

a) Questionnaire from Dept of Educ & Culture to be completed for annual registration.

b) Letter from Bloemfontein inviting NMC to attend ASSA Symposium in September (27-29th) and participate in a 'Bragg' session - committee agreed that we should try and go.

6. Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand R 1361-23

7. Stardust

Next issue in hand - TC concerned about content being too orientated to Space topics - committee disagreed.

8. Library

K.Hampson willing to take over - will visit S.Dale to get more info on procedures. - JW to have an extra key cut.

9. P.R.O.

No report or discussion

10. Instruments & Observatory

No sub-committee meeting as yet

11. Education

- a) TC went to Boston W.I. as planned - gave talk on Space Exploration - average age over 70 years !
- b) JW to assist A.Kroukam with some observing at Russell High School.
- c) Museum dates for Adult Educ course still to be confirmed.

12. General

P.Hawkins has suggested the possibility of a viewing weekend away together as a Centre - suitable venue Spioenkop or other Natal Parks Board camp with chalets - S.deV to make some enquiries.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 26 APRIL 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 26/4/95

Present: R.Jarmain, M.Christianson, K.Hampson, J.Watson

Apols: T.Chance, S.de Vos, H.Chance, B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Tea urn - all sold out at GAME - committee to keep looking
- b) Slide tray - A.Jarmain has found two second-hand ones with a combined capacity of approx 250 slides - more than adequate.
- c) Grazing occultation on 23/3/95 prepared for - clouded/rained out !
- d) Viewing at Russell High with A.Kroukam - clouded out !
- e) Questionnaire completed and returned to Dept of Educ & Culture
- f) Extra key for library purchased
- g) Natal Parks Board camp at Spioenkop closed - S.deV looking for alternatives.

3. Planning

May 10/5/95 - monthly meeting - D.Grayson to talk on armillary spheres
- meet at St.Charles as usual

June 14/6/95 - monthly meeting - viewing at Collingwoods home
- JW to confirm with V.Collingwood

July 12/7/95 - A.G.Meeting - meet at J.Baxters home - JW to confirm

4. Membership

- a) Letters written to S.Dale and R.Forder - S.Dale to remain a member of the Centre.
- b) Membership now up to 58 - attendance average of 25.

5. Correspondence

- a) Confirmed decision to attend ASSA Symposium in Bloemfontein in September and participate in 'Bragg' session - JW to write letter
- b) Annual questionnaire from SAAO - agreed to continue receiving Newsletter and Annual Report.
- c) ASSA Council minutes - annual subs to be increased to R130
- noted with interest the teachers workshop held at SAAO
- d) Note received from Dr.J.Percy thanking us for meeting with him
- e) Invitation from Mr R.R.Arco to attend STAR TRACK in Ladysmith on 13/5/95
- agreed to decline with thanks
- f) Letter from Dept of Educ & Culture re submissions to Arts and Culture Task Group (ACTAG) - too late for written response - JW to phone C.J.van Rensburg.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) No report submitted - subs still coming in - Sec.Expenses R66-18 for 1st qtr.

7. Stardust

Will be going out late(due to holidays etc) for May meeting

8. Library

- a) K.Hampson to meet with S.Dale again - has arranged for access to library cupboard over weekends.

- b) Newsletters from other Centres to be displayed at monthly meetings
- c) C.Lake has 'returned' display material from previous exhibitions etc.
- d) P.Moore has offered old Admiralty Almanacs

a. P.R.O.

No report.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Sub-committee met on 12/4/95 with R.Clifford co-opted
- b) Proposed structure 8m x 4m with roll-off roof - brick and concrete to be used for construction - electricity required
- c) Meeting with Girl Guides planned for 29/4/95 (12 noon) to discuss plans - thereafter to arrange meeting with PMB municipality.
- d) G.Prosser still has the 12" mirror (unsilvered) and other bits & pieces.

11. Education

- a) Exhibition at University Library shelved until further notice.
- b) JW asked to do some viewing at Lexden with Scouts on 8/4/95 - cloded out !
- c) JW has been approached informally re appointment as examiner for Cub badge.
- d) Still no dates for Adult Educ course at Museum

12. General

Nil

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 MAY 1995

Present: R.Jarman, M.Christianson, B.Lawrence, T.Chance, K.Hampson, J.Watson
S.de Vos

Apols: H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted
2. Matters arising
 - a) Letters written to ASSA (re Symposium) and Mr Arco
 - b) Questionnaire returned to SAAG
 - c) JW attended ACTAG public hearing on 7/5/95 at Voortrekker High School - did not find it relevant to our activities, and did not speak.
3. Planning

June 21/6/95 - monthly meeting - viewing at Cullingwood's home
- 1 week late due to full moon
- start at 7.00pm - bring telescopes

July 12/7/95 - A.G.Meeting - JW to confirm date & time with J.Baxter
- pudding party & viewing ? - better on Frid/Sat?
4. Membership
 - a) New member Miss Robyn Angus Prop J.Watson Sec T.Chance
 - b) Subs defaulters to be taken off mailing list
5. Correspondence

Nil
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a) Balance on hand R 1331-91
 - b) Agreed to pay A.Jarman R 20-00 for second-hand slide trays.
7. Stardust

TC preparing June issue - discussion of UFO's ?
8. Library
 - a) KH to be commended on tidying of cupboard & display of pictures etc & availability of newsletters from other Centres
 - b) Posters from Planetarium ? - Archive material - lamination of Star Chart & Moon map
9. P.R.O.

Nil
10. Instruments & Observatory
 - a) Meeting held with Girl Guides on 29/4/95 - site chosen (currently part of a young gum plantation !).
 - b) R.Clifford has drawn plans - PMB municipality meeting to be arranged
 - c) Revive search for suitable tube for 12" telescope.
11. Education
 - a) Adult Educ course at Museum 4/7/95 - 27/7/95 each Tues & Thurs at 7.30pm
 - b) Sub-committee to meet on 24/5/95 at 7.30pm at B.Lawrence's home (House 40B at Cedara)

Present: T.Chance, K.Hampson, B.Lawrence, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apsls: M.Christianson, R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

a) JW to liaise with A.Jarman re slide trays

3. Planning

July 15/7/95 - A.G.Meeting - meet at home of J.Baxter - 6.00 for 6.30pm

- curry/stew to be provided by J.Baxter - salads, rolls, puddings from Committee members - expenses to be borne by NMC

- members to bring drinks, chairs

- business followed by viewing

August 9/8/95 - monthly meeting - forum on Dark Matter, Quarks ?

- video 'The Astronomers I'

- St.Charles or University ?

Future topics - Solar wind, Aurora

4. Membership

Subs defaulters to be taken off mailing list

5. Correspondence

a) Letter from M.Schoch (Symposium convenor) re amount of time required for "bragg" session - we would like 15 minutes (not 5 !)

b) ASSA Council minutes - annual subs to be increased to R 200

c) Letter from Andrew Gray addressed to 'Dear Rusty and members'.

6. Treasurer's Report

a) Balance on hand R 774-80 (ASSA subs for 1995/96 have been paid, 10 Handbooks still to be sold)

7. Library

a) P.Hawkins has borrowed a lot of Sky & Telescope magazines - building a telescope with G.Prosser's assistance.

b) Difficult to access the cupboard except at meetings - approach St.Charles to let us have a key.

8. P.R.O.

a) Slides of members/activities to be prepared for Symposium in September

b) S.de V to liaise with R.J. in this regard

9. Instruments & Observatory

a) Letter of consent received from Girl Guides - copy of same with our covering letter sent to Pietermaritzburg Corporation.

b) MC, TC and KH have ordered new telescopes from Johannesburg Planetarium.

10. Education

a) Viewing at Umgeni Valley (Rotary) at 6.30pm

b) Adult Educ course starts at Museum on 4/7/95 - 12 applications so far

c) Presentation/viewing at Cedara Land Camp on 19/7/95 - approx 200 primary school children

- d) TC has lent Space posters for display at Settlers Park school
- e) BL to give talk on Space Travel to some 200 Merchiston boys at museum

11. Stardust

- a) Compliments to TC received from A.Gray - all ideas welcome.
- b) July issue to include agenda for A.G.M. - JW will include minutes of last year's AGM - members must notify Committee if they are going to attend.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TO BE ADVISED BY NEW COMMITTEE

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the home of Ms. J. Baxter, Otto's Bluff
on 15th July 1995 at 6.30pm

1. The meeting was attended by 13 members, with 8 apologies and 1 visitor.
2. The Chairman, Mr R. Jarman, extended a warm welcome to everyone present, and thanked J. Baxter for the use of her home.
3. Minutes of the 1994 Annual General Meeting held on 13 July 1994 had already been posted to members, and were taken as read (Prop: M. Christianson, Sec: T. Chance)

4. Matters Arising

- a) Instruments/Observatory - all instruments are now safely stored at the home of M. Christianson
- a sub-committee has been formed under the chairmanship of M. Christianson. Considerable progress has been made towards the establishment of an Observatory for the Centre.

5. Chairman's Report (Prop: M. Christianson, Sec: P. Hawkins)

Mr R. Jarman summarised the programme of activities of the Centre during the year. In particular, he made mention of:-

- a) The steady increase in membership
- b) The continued educational endeavours, including the Adult Education course currently in progress at the Natal Museum
- c) The efforts of the sub-committee towards the establishment of an observatory
- d) The hard work of the outgoing Centre committee.

6. Treasurer's Report (Prop: B. Lawrence. Sec: K. Hampson)

Mrs H. Chance presented the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year, which reflected a closing balance of R 816-16, a gain of some R 335.

The Centre's major item of expenditure is the preparation and postage of the monthly newsletter "STARDUST" - the meeting agreed that this was an excellent means of keeping in touch with inactive/elderly members, and that the expense was therefore justified.

A proposal was put to the meeting (Prop: P. Hawkins, Sec: M. Christianson) that annual membership subscriptions be increased by R 5-00 in each category. This was agreed to unanimously after a short discussion. The revised annual subscriptions will therefore be:-

Members R 35-00 Couples R 45-00 Pensioners & Students R25-00

A further proposal (Prop: P. Hawkins, Sec: M. Christianson) that an Observatory Fund be established was also agreed to unanimously

7. Election of New Committee

The following members were nominated and elected:-

Mesdames B.Lawrence, K.Hampson and H.Chance

Messrs R.Jarman, T.Chance, M.Christianson, S.de Vos, P.Hawkins and J.Watson

Office bearers to be decided at a Committee meeting on 17/7/95.

8. Instruments & Observatory

M.Christianson reported as follows:-

- a) Agreement had been reached with the Girl Guides Association to sub-lease a small portion of their land at World's View, which they in turn lease from the Pietermaritzburg Corporation.
- b) A letter has been written to Pietermaritzburg Corporation outlining our plans to establish an Observatory.
- c) R.Clifford has prepared some preliminary drawings of a suitable building.

9. Other business

- a) R.Jarman read a letter from A.Gray, the founder of Natal Midlands Centre.
- b) Fund-raising efforts for the Observatory to be embarked upon - approaches to be made to suitable organisations for donations.
- c) ASSA Symposium to be held in Bloemfontein in September.
- d) Wykeham-Collegiate and other schools keen for viewing evenings - J.Watson going to Land Camp at Cedara on 19/7/95.
- e) Vote of thanks to the Chair.

10. The meeting closed at 7.50pm, after which a delicious supper was enjoyed by all present. Thereafter several members set up telescopes and took advantage of the excellent viewing conditions from the front lawn.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15/July/1995

MEMBERS

Jul Watson.

Jon + Bianca Lawrence.

Mike + Lorraine Christensen

Jim + Hilary Chance.

Ketty Hampson

Sheila Dale

Philip Hawkins

Rusty Jamain

Tan Bates

Steve de Vos.

VISITORS

Gill Wats.

APPEAS

J. Mackenzie

R. Joubert

P. Gardiner

R. Roth

V. Collingwood

M. Imber

R. Clifford

G. Copard.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1994/95

Ladies and gentlemen,

I remember that, at my first AGM as chairman in July 1988, I commenced my report by confessing to an entirely illogical sense of pride in the fact that my year in the chair had been marked by the appearance in the Smaller Magellanic Cloud of Supernova 1987 A. If I have seemed during the year now closing to have been walking a millimetre or so taller, please ascribe it to the fact that I assumed the chair this time round to a veritable cosmic drum-roll as 21 fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 thundered into Jupiter.

It was that momentous event that provided the impetus for our first viewing session of the year, held at the Girl Guides' campsite near World's View in the hope of observing a spectacular pyrotechnics display as the first fragment struck home. Unfortunately, conditions deteriorated during the course of the evening to the extent that, by the time the anticipated "zero hour" arrived, Jupiter was seen at best sporadically and even then rather hazily owing to a superabundance of water vapour in the atmosphere. Still, I am happy to be able to report that several of our number did indeed see the scarring effects of what we came to call the "Great Jovian Jolt" during private backyard viewing sessions held during the week that followed.

A most pleasing feature of the year is the steady increase in membership that has taken place. The most probable reason for this is thought to be our programme of adult education courses held over the last few years. These would also no doubt account for the high general standard of our new membership in terms especially of genuine enthusiasm, as reflected by the happy fact that attendance at our monthly meetings has consistently numbered well in excess of 50 percent of our total membership. Unfortunately, however, the increase in our numbers was offset by the resignation during the year of Les Hunt and Ray Forder - neither through any drop-off in enthusiasm but for genuine personal reasons. We were distressed too when Sheila Dale, one of our staunchest members ever since our inaugural meeting 21 years ago, gave notice of her intention to resign - a decision, happily, which she was subsequently persuaded to reconsider. She did, however, step down from the committee, on which she had served on and off innumerable times during the years of the centre's existence.

During the year it was decided to resurrect our "Project Palomar," aimed at establishing our own observatory. Having spent some years in limbo, the project now seems to be firmly on track with a sub-committee having been formed under the able chairmanship of Mike Christianson. A major advance was made by securing virtual assurance that a corner of the site leased to the Girl Guides Association will be made available to us for the building. We are fortunate too in having attracted to our ranks a professional architect in the person of Roger Clifford, who has already done commendable work in drawing up a preliminary set of plans. Much work lies ahead, though, not the least of it being the clearing of a sizable tract of real estate, presently stocked with closely spaced gum trees - assuming, of course, that the City Forestry Department will agree to the clearing of those trees several years prior to their scheduled felling date. But no project, least of all one as ambitious and far-sighted as this one, was ever completed by shying clear of every obstacle and we look forward to the future with optimism.

Our monthly meetings have been characterised by a wide variety of interesting topics and activities, a résumé of these being as follows:

August: "A pocketful of Galaxies:" a slide-supported presentation by John Watson and Tim Chance, held in the main lecture room of the Department of Physics at the local university.

This meeting was well attended by university staff and students and gave rise to a gratifying measure of interest amongst the student body which has been reflected repeatedly by the presence of several of their number at subsequent meetings through the year.

September: (i) Constellation of the Month: a look at Sagittarius, with members of the committee discussing various aspects of the constellation and some of the objects which it comprises.

(ii) "Our Wonderful Universe:" a showing of a video tape kindly donated to the centre by our "Foreign Correspondent," Kerry Hampson, during a regrettably brief period earlier in the year while home on leave from Miami.

October: "Whistle-stop to the Stars:" a programme of slides during which your chairman took members on an imaginary tour of the cosmos, looking en route at a selection of planets, stars, clusters, nebulae and galaxies.

November: (i) "Stars and Shuttles Forever:" Kerry, now home (we hope permanently) from a year's sojourn in America, entertained us with a most interesting account of her States-side experiences, which included watching the launch of a space shuttle.

(ii) "No-name Brand Dissertation on Variables:" a fascinating and extremely well informed talk by John Watson on the sundry types of variable stars.

December: Our meeting for this month made way for our traditional Christmas function, which this year took the form of a most enjoyable braai at the lovely home of Jan Baxter. Thanks to the vagaries of a superannuated internal combustion engine, I was denied the pleasure of attendance.

February: (i) Look-around for 1995: John Watson gave a preview of astronomical phenomena expected during 1995 and Tim Chance followed this with a look-ahead at the space flights scheduled by NASA during the same period.

(ii) "Spacewatch:" Bianca Lawrence kindly gave us the loan of this excellent video tape from her well stocked library. Owing to its length and the lateness of the hour, it was decided to watch only the first half, leaving the second in abeyance till the next meeting.

March: (i) Constellation of the Month - Orion: a look at various aspects of the celestial Hunter, led again by members of the committee.

(ii) "Spacewatch:" a viewing of the second half of Bianca's tape.

April: (i) Open Forum on Meteors: a bring-and-share session, convened by Bianca, at which members took turns in imparting what amounted to an impressive assortment of knowledge on shooting stars.

(ii) Constellation of the Month: your committee yet again gave evidence of their indubitable worth by dispensing information on a prominent sector of the sky, this time the constellation Leo.

May: The Armillary Sphere: Diane Grayson gave a most interesting talk on this ancient astronomical device, its history and application. I might mention that I derived especial enjoyment from her contribution, as I had undertaken to build a sphere from plywood to make the demonstration practically possible. I found the project extremely interesting and eminently satisfying, never having laid claim to any but the most rudimentary skill in the field of handicraft.

June: A viewing session was held at the home of Veronica and Chris Collingwood, with some 30 members in attendance. The sky was brilliant and the chill of the evening more than compensated for by the warmth and conviviality of the occasion. Many thanks indeed to Chris and Veronica for yet again placing their home at our disposal.

Earlier in this report I made mention of the programme of adult education courses presented over the past few years. I am happy to report that the fourth such course is presently in progress, this one under the auspices of the Natal Museum, with sterling work being done by the team of lecturers, comprising John Watson, Tim Chance, Bianca Lawrence and Mike Christianson. Apart from these formal courses, talks are frequently given by our members to schools, Scout and Guide troops and other organisations. Judging by the frequency with which requests are made for such talks and by the comments and questions that ensue, it may safely be stated that they are highly successful and much appreciated. The centre's thanks are due to all those members who give of their time and effort in sharing their knowledge in this way.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the committee for their hard work during the past 12 months. In particular I must thank John for his unflagging work as secretary, a post he has held, if memory serves me right, for an unbroken spell of seven years. His minutes have always been of the highest order, business attended to with unimpeachable efficiency and correspondence dealt with with immediate dispatch. My especial thanks are also due to Tim for relieving me of the editorship of our newsletter at a moment when I felt certain that final departure of the last vestige of inspiration was imminent. He has maintained an excellent standard of penmanship and his articles have been notable for a well-nigh perfect blend of humour and informativeness. Moreover, he has done my self-esteem a world of good by qualifying his every reference to the centre chairman with an assortment of adjectives ranging from "intrepid" through "industrious" and "ingenious" to ... wait for it ... "indomitable!!!"

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

R M Jarmain

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1995

INCOME

Brought forward	Bank	373.58	
	Cash	108.13	
Subscriptions		1180.00	
Handbooks		143.00	
Donations		60.00	
Interest		31.60	
Cheque w/b		159.00	
University of Natal - Course		<u>600.00</u>	
	TOTAL		2655.31

EXPENDITURE

Annual Payments			
ASSA Subscription 94/95		110.00	
95/96		200.00	
PMB Publicity Association		30.00	
Post Box Rental		50.00	
Purchase of Handbooks		260.00	
Refreshments		155.95	
Stationery		133.06	
Photocopying		177.81	
Postage		523.00	
Video		65.59	
Subs - St Charles		110.00	
Maps (Occultation)		18.24	
Key		5.50	
Carried Forward	Bank	800.80	
	Cash	<u>15.36</u>	
	TOTAL		2655.31

Present: R.Jarman, P.Hawkins, T.Chance, M.Christianson, K.Hampson, S.de Vos
J.Watson

Appls: B.Lawrence, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Office Bearers for 1995/96

RJ welcomed new Committee member Mr P.Hawkins

Chairman	Mr M.Christianson
Vice-Chairman	Mr T.Chance
Secretary	Mr J.Watson
Treasurer	Mrs H.Chance
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarman
Library	Ms K.Hampson
Education	Mrs B.Lawrence & Mr T.Chance
P.R.O.	Mr P.Hawkins & Mrs.B.Lawrence
Instruments	Mr M.Christianson
Projects	Mr S.de Vos
Council Rep	Mr J.Watson

3. Matters arising

- a) Slide trays paid for and given to KH
- b) Letter re "bragg session" at Symposium sent to M.Schock
- c) JW to approach St.Charles re a key to audio-visual room.

4. Planning

August 16/8/95 - monthly meeting - forum on 'Dark Matter' (JW to chair)
- video 'The Astronomers I' (RJ to bring)
- meet at St.Charles

September 13/9/95 - monthly meeting - Quarks etc ?
- meet at University (JW to arrange)

Future topics - Solar wind, Aurora

5. Membership

- a) Potential new member - Mr Lionel Hedder
- b) Application forms given out at Adult Educ course
- c) Subs defaulters to be taken off mailing list (EC to notify JW)

6. Correspondence

- a) ASSA Council minutes - names of new Committee to be sent to ASSA by 20/8/95
- b) RJ to reply to letter from A.Gray

7. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 851-16
- b) Subs renewal notices to be sent out with August edition of 'Stardust'.
- c) St Charles' subs to ASSA to be paid again ? - need to find out exactly what they are, as membership only commenced in Jan 95

8. STARDUST

- a) RJ happy to take over after a year's break
- b) Planning a series of articles on observing hints, lens cleaning etc.

9. Library

- a) Non-availability of a key during school holidays and use of alternate venues has meant low-key activity.
- b) Duplicate material (especially S & T magazines) to be cleared out/sold.

10. P.R.O.

Slides being prepared for ASSA Symposium in September (SdeV and RJ)

11. Instruments & Observatory

- a) No response from Pietermaritzburg Corporation / Umsinduzi TLC as yet
- b) KH's telescope on its way - MC's and TC's on back order at factory.

12. Education

- a) Adult Education course in Basic Astronomy well under way - between 25 and 30 attending.
- b) Viewing at Umgeni Valley clouded out - showed slides & answered questions
- c) Presentation at Cedara Land Camp on 19/7/95 - JW & TC to go.
- d) Request from D.Humphry at Wykeham Collegiate - TC to follow up
- e) JW to give talk at St.Annes' on 12/8/95 at The Forum (8 am ?)

13. General

- a) Vote of thanks to J.Baxter for use of her home for the AGM - JW to write suitable letter.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 22 AUGUST 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 22/8/95

Present: M.Christianson, P.Hawkins, R.Jarman, K.Hampson, T.Chance, S.de Vos
J.Watson

Apsls: B.Lawrence, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) All slides belonging to the Centre given to KH by JW
- b) JW has spoken informally to Bursar of St Charles about a key - no problem.

3. Planning

September 2/9/95 Viewing evening at Ladysmith

13/9/95 Monthly meeting - at UNP Physics Dept (L1 L/Theatre)

- Dr A.Ilchev 'Particle Physics & Cosmology'
- no arrangements for tea

27-29/9/95 - ASSA Symposium in Bloemfontein

October 11/10/95 Monthly meeting - Symposium report-back

- remainder of Astronomers I video ?
- forum on Solar Wind ?

Future topics - look at new telescopes when they arrive from USA

4. Membership

a) New members - Peter & Bettwsy Tarboton	<u>Prop:</u> K.Hampson	<u>Sec:</u> R.Jarman
Laetitia Delamere	" T.Chance	" K.Hampson
Martin Lowry	" T.Chance	" P.Hawkins
Annette Dybwad	" T.Chance	" J.Watson
Adrian Dybwad	" T.Chance	" M.Christianson
Raymund Lamprecht	" M.Christianson	
Elizabeth Lamprecht		" P.Hawkins
Raymund Lamprecht (Jnr)		

- b) Resignations - John Dye, Dudley & Brenda Morton, Graeme Walker (died)
- JW to write to family of G.Walker

5. Correspondence

- a) RJ has written reply to A.Gray
- b) JW has sent info to ASSA Secretary & Handbook Editor, and also written letters to J.Baxter, Dr C.Graham and Dr A.Ilchev.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1207-53
- b) Subs coming in well as result of renewal notices being sent out in August
- c) St Charles have not had an account from ASSA yet

7. Stardust

- a) September edition ready - TC will edit October edition in RJ's absence

8. Library

- a) Videos now in library - what about PC software for lending out ?
- b) Appeal for missing books in 'Stardust' and at monthly meetings
- c) KH prepared to open library at 7.00pm when possible

9. P.R.O.

No discussion

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Reply received from Umsinduzi TLC and Municipal Forestry Dept
- b) MC has drawn up a sub-lease agreement to submit to Girl Guides Association
- c) K.Hampson's new telescope has arrived

11. Education

- a) TC still to contact D.Humphry
- b) JW spoke to St Anne's FORUM on 12/8/95 - religious education ?

12. General

- a) Larger attendances putting a strain on tea-making facilities - MC will provide extra kettle
- b) Also need washing-up equipment - KH to organise

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 19/9/95

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, K.Hampson, B.Lawrence, J.Watson

Apsols: R.Jarman, P.Hawkins, H.Chance, S.de Vos

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Key for audio-visual room at St Charles being arranged by P.Truter
- b) Sympathy card sent to family of Graeme Walker

3. Planning

September 27-29/9/95 - ASSA Symposium in Bloemfontein

October 11/10/95 - Monthly meeting - Symposium report back
- remainder of Astronomers I video

November 8/11/95 - Monthly meeting - Solar wind
- Telescopes (involve G.Prosser)

December Xmas Party - BL to make enquiries re venues & prices

4. Membership

- a) New members - Shaheem Harridave Prop: K.Hampson Sec: B.Lawrence
Vijay Samuel Prop: M.Christianson Sec: J.Watson
Joel Samuel Prop: M.Christianson Sec: K.Hampson

b) Resignations - Steve Tongue - will write to Secretary

c) Prospects - Dr O.de Lange, Mrs J.Hare, Mr R.Kell

d) BL agreed to revamp Membership Application form

5. Correspondence

Copies of info re Dancer telescope received from overseas forwarded to R.Jarman by Andrew Gray. - *handed over to MC.*

6. Treasurer's Report

a) Balance on hand R 1503-71

b) An amount of R 547-50 received from Natal Museum i.r.o. Amateur Astronomy course to be put into Observatory Fund.

c) KH has purchased equipment *for washing up.*

7. STARDUST

TC planning a follow-up article on 'Particle Physics' for October issue

8. Library

a) List of missing books prepared for printing in 'Stardust'.

b) Duplicate copies of S&Telescope to be sold to members at R 2-00 each.

c) Books need 'Ex Libris' labels - TC to organise

9. P.R.O.

a) Letter from Iris Bornman (Natal Museum) thanking the Centre for the Amateur Astronomy course in July

b) BL and TC planning a display/public lecture to coincide with the opening of 'APOLLO 13' film at local cinemas.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Sub-lease agreement to be amended - all reference to City Council of Pietermaritzburg to be replaced by "The Lessor" - Girl Guides agree.
- b) M.Christianson and T.Chance have both received their new telescopes.

11. Education

- a) FC has contacted D.Humphry and discussed possibilities of some viewing at Wykeham-Collegiate
- b) JW to talk to YFC interns out at L'Abri on 23/9/95.

12. General

- a) BL has purchased video of history of manned space exploration entitled 'SPACE' - prepared to let us borrow/view/copy it for the library.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 1995

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 17/10/95

Present: T.Chance, B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apsls: M.Christianson, H.Chance, P.Hawkins

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

a) MC and JW attended the ASSA Symposium in Bloemfontein - most enjoyable and informative.

b) Key for audio-visual room at St Charles received - KH to guard it.

3. Planning

November 8/11/95 - Monthly meeting - Solar wind (KH to convene forum)
- Telescope display (MC, TC, KH, GP)

December 2/12/95 - Xmas function - agreed to formal dinner at the
Victoria Club (approx R35 per head)
- replies by 27/11/95 to B.Lawrence
- each member to bring gift (approx R5)

4. Membership

a) Resignations - Steve Tongue confirmed

b) Prospects - Mr R.Ginslove (ex Natal Centre)

c) After perusal, agreed on revamped application form prepared by BL.- many thanks to her for hard work in preparing 6 alternatives.

5. Correspondence

a) SAAO Newsletter for October 1995 b) ASSA Council minutes 21/8/95

6. Treasurer's Report

a) Balance on hand R + 1600

b) JW has purchased urn - committee agreed to contribute R150 towards it.

c) JW requested permission to purchase multi-plug at approx R30 - agreed.

7. STARDUST

a) Thanks to TC for filling the breach in October, and for most informative article on Particles.

b) Main article for November issue ready.

8. Library

a) No response as yet regarding missing books - repeat appeal in Stardust.

b) 9 duplicate copies of S&T sold - there are more available from J.Barker's collection.

c) Copy of A.Gray's book on history of Astronomy in Natal to be kept at Natal Museum.

d) G.Walker's report & documentation re 1957 Bloemfontein Moonwatch handed over to Natal museum with 2 telescopes in 1988 - agreed to make 2 copies, one for our Library and one to go to R.Hurly in Capetown.

e) RJ to make copy of 'SPACE' video on loan from BL.

9. P.R.O.

- a) APPOLLO 13 film - opening on 20/10/95 - several committee members to attend.
 - TC and BL to mount display at Natal Museum and give a public lecture on 2/11/95
 - TC preparing a suitable press release.
- b) BL has written to Natal Witness regarding the plans for an observatory.

10. Instruments & Observatory.

- a) Sub-committee met on 9/10/95 - agreed on design and siting of building
- b) R.Clifford will draw up plans for submission to Pmb City Council

11. Education

- a) Nothing further from D.Humphry
- b) BL to give talk to Settlers Park pre-primary.

12. General

- a) Invitation to join with Natal Centre at Amanzimtoti Bird Park for a picnic on 29/10/95.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1995

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, R. Jarmain, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apols: B.Lawrence, H.Chance, P.Hawkins

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Thanks to KH et al for last Centre meeting
- b) Multi-plug purchased at cost of R37 - five 15amp sockets.
- c) Copies of Moonwatch report made - 1 copy sent to R.Hurly
- d) Copy made of 'SPACE' video
- e) 37 people attended public lecture on APPOLLO 13 on 2/11/95
- f) BL gave talk to Bisley school (not Settlers Park primary)

3. Planning

- December 2/12/95 - Xmas function - dinner at Victoria Club
- arrangements made & invitations sent out with Stardust
- February Monthly meeting - 'look around' for 1996, Video ?

4. Membership

- a) Newsletter etc being sent to Magda Streicher in Pietersburg
- b) Peter Moore (ex member) murdered in his shop on 10/11/95

5. Correspondence

- a) Annual registration with Dept of Educ & Culture to be completed
- b) ASSA Council meeting - subs&handbook increases, postal address
- c) MNASSA - note that Tvl Centre receive annual grant from Dept Educ&Cult.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1299-12 and Observatory fund R 636-50

7. STARDUST

December edition ready - obituary to P.Moore - send out early

8. Library

- a) No response re missing books - S&T still selling well
- b) Photos of Symposium to be put in Scrapbook

9. P.R.O.

Nothing further to report

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Obs site cleared & stumps poisoned (area 80m x 120m)
- b) Small correction to lease agreement - plans given to P.Vigar for checking.
- c) G.Prosser to be assisted in completing 12" telescope - is there a need for some telescope making classes.- contact L.Barendse (Victoria)

11. Education

- a) Should we be offering an 'Advanced' course ?

* DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 16 JAN 1996.

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, K.Hampson, B.Lawrence, S.de Vos, J.Watson
P.Hawkins

Apols: R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Most enjoyable Xmas Party at Victoria Club - pity, more members did not go.
- b) Sympathy card sent to family of P.Moore

3. Planning

February 14/2/96 - monthly meeting - plans for Observatory during 1996
- 'look around' the skies for 1996
- video 'Planet X' - BL to supply

March 13/3/96 - monthly meeting - constellation of Gemini

Future - TC prepared to talk on Winged Spaceflight

4. Membership

- a) New members - Lionel Hedder Prop: S.de Vos Sec: J.Watson
Peter Raftery Prop: M.Christianson Sec: P.Hawkins
- b) Marie Dyer died from cancer just before Christmas

5. Correspondence

- a) Newsletters etc from other Centres
- b) Council minutes - new Address and new Application form
- c) Izinkhanyezi application from Natal Centre - planned for 16-19/5/96.
- d) Dept of Educ & Culture - annual registration completed & posted
- JW to investigate an annual grant

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand as per previous meeting
- b) Account to be sent to E.Kleinmans re Xmas party - did not arrive as promised.

7. STARDUST

RJ has agreed to prepare next edition on his return from holiday

8. Library

- a) 'Ex Libris' labels have been prepared by TC
- b) PH made contact with collector of old Astro books in Florida USA - is keen to buy and/or exchange for other Astro material.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Natal Witness - no response to letter sent in November re observatory
- will send a further letter re observatory, and also to offer contributions to 'Dates in History' and a monthly astronomy feature
- b) Public lecture last week - poorly supported, but 7 prospective members
- c) Letter written to Howick 'Village Talk' & also to Mr Hanau (Sci & Tech)

- d) Radio interview arranged for MC on SAFM programme 'Lifestyle' - due for broadcast on 25/1/96 at 1.30pm - publicity for observatory.
- e) Observatory fundraising - plan an Astronomy Evening for 18/5/96

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Plans have been passed by Mzinduzi TLC
- b) Much fundraising effort required - estimated cost R 30 000.
- c) Telescope-making classes - PH to contact L.Barendse (Pretoria Centre)

11. Education

- a) Advanced Astro Course - TC to consider all the pros & cons & content.
- b) JW gave slide shows to Scouts and Cubs at their pre-Xmas camps at the World's View campsite.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 19 MARCH 1996

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 20/2/96

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, R.Jarman, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, S.de Vos
J.Watson

Abs: P.Hawkins, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted except for the Date of next Committee Meeting which should have read 20/2/96.

2. Matters arising

- a) Sympathy card sent to family of Marie Dyer
- b) Proposed Astro Evening date will clash with Izinkhanyezi - reschedule for 15 June 1996.
- c) JW has spoken to K.J.van Rensburg at Dept of Educ & Culture re financial assistance - funds frozen at present, but will advise us if any become available.
- d) Interview with MC on SABC 'Lifestyle' programme went well
- e) Disastrous video at last monthly meeting - must preview in future.

3. Planning

<u>February</u>	24/2/96	Meet at Observatory site at 3.00pm
<u>March</u>	13/3/96	- monthly meeting - News/Forum - Observatory fundraising plans - Constellation of GEMINI (committee)
<u>April</u>	10/4/96	- monthly meeting - News/Forum - Observatory progress report - Winged Spaceflight (TC)
<u>May</u>	16-19/5/96	- IZINKHANYEZI at Everglades (speakers required)
<u>June</u>	15/6/96	- Astro Evening at Worlds View - observatory publicity and fundraising.

4. Membership

- a) New members - Martin Prozesky Prop: T.Chance Sec: M.Christianson
 Robin Kell Prop: T.Chance Sec: M.Christianson
 Avril Veitch Prop: T.Chance Sec: M.Christianson
- b) Membership stands at 66 - approx 95 newsletters being sent out.

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter to St Charles with schedule of meeting dates for 1996.
- b) Letter from St Charles confirming dates are OK - also letter written to St Charles by C.Turk querying their subs payment - JW to reply.
- c) ASSA Handbooks received - R15 each - rather late! - JW to follow up.
- d) Invitation from Harare Centre to Zambezi Star Party - RJ to mention it in Stardust.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1265-48 Observatory fund R 703-13
- b) Shortfall of R 295-00 on Xmas dinner - accounts to be sent out for drinks and 'no-shows' - Centre to pay the unexpected Staff gratuity.

7. "Stardust"

March edition in hand

8. Library

- a) 'Ex Libris' labels are all in place
- b) KH has unearthed a 1945 Astro book for PH's contact in USA.
- c) Photo album needs more contents !

9. P.R.O.

- a) Plans for Astro Evening in June
 - use of Girl Guide premises ? Displays ? Slide show ?
 - fundraising - food & drink ? raffle ?
 - visit Observatory - viewing etc
- b) Letters to Natal Witness published - no response as yet.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) R.Findlay has an instrument for sale - belonged to Mr Reiners ?
- b) P.Tarboton keen to contribute to observatory fund.
- c) P.Truter (St Charles) has a planetarium for sale.
- d) G.Prosser working on completion of 12" reflector

11. Education

- a) TC and JW to draw up list of possible topics for an Advanced Astro course.
- b) Basic Astro Course to be run at Umgeni Valley this year ? - RJ to liaise with J.Stewart
- c) BL to present a paper to the S.A.Naming Society in September.

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DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 MARCH 1996

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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 19/3/96

Present: M.Christianson, T.Chance, P.Hawkins, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson

Apols: B.Lawrence, R.Jarman, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) JW has written to K.J.van Rensburg at Dept of Educ & Culture re financial assistance when money becomes available.
- b) Monthly meeting in Feb went well - A.Norris keen to help raise money for observatory.

3. Planning

April 10/4/96 - monthly meeting - News/Forum

- Observatory progress report
- Winged Spaceflight (TC)

May 8/5/96 - monthly meeting - discuss plans for Astro evening in June and elect a sub-committee

- Constellations of Virgo, Corvus & Crater

16-19/5/96 - IZINKHANYEZI at Everglades

June 15/6/96 - Astro Evening at Worlds View - observatory publicity and fundraising - sub-committee to meet well beforehand.

July Basic Astro Course at Umgeni Valley

4. Membership

- a) New member - Lorraine Karg Prop: J.Watson Sec: K.Hampson
- b) Subs defaulters to be culled from mailinglist.

5. Correspondence

- a) Letters to and from C.Turk re St.Charles subs - cheque for R200 sent to bring them up to date. Copy of latest ASSA constitution also received.
- c) Letter to Mr W.Bremer thanking him for his services as alternate on Council.
- d) TC requested that a letter be written to Natal Witness asking them to refer 'crackpot' calls to the UFO Society (Kitty Smith on 964007)

6. Treasurer's Report

- a) Balance on hand R 1590-19 Observatory fund R 713-13
- b) JW has 6 months worth of Secretarial expenses to claim !

7. STARDUST

TC to inform RJ of all important matters for next issue - comet sightings now and also in May to be mentioned.

8. Library

- a) Duplicate copies of old S&T not selling - approach A.Jarman to dispose of them at the Market.
- b) Photo album needs more contents and narrative/comments.
- c) Slides are all labelled and indexed except for a few - JW to assist.

b) Nice long letter from Andrew Gray - he is now our alternate on Council

- d) Agreed to expenditure of R40-00 for copies of some of TC's planetary slides (1 film's worth) before they are packed away.
- e) R.Joubert has asked Centre to consider the purchase of 'Journey through Time' - KH to investigate source and price.

9. P.R.O.

Excellent photograph and write-up in Natal Witness

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) R.Findlay has sold Mr Reiners instruments
- b) Planetarium (P.Truter) has been donated to St Charles
- c) TC still has 'as new' 3" reflector for sale - R600 a fair price
- d) TC also wants to get rid of 16"/17" mirror (ex J.Campos) before going to UK.
- e) JW to contact A.Scafturis re parts of mounting for 6" reflector which he took away to clean up approx 2 years ago !
- e) Dr C.Graham enquiring about the 'Roseveare' telescope loaned to the Centre years ago ? - no record of same- maybe he means the Roberts Refractor ? - the whole situation at the University seems hazy.
- f) Need to set a TRUE North/South line at the observatory site and clear the area enough to mark out foundations - PH has a contact with a surveyor - committee to meet at site on Thursday afternoon/evening (21/3/96).
- g) TC has been given 1000 second-hand bricks - dumped in his garden !

11. Education

- a) Advanced Astro course ? - TC & JW to draw up list of topics.
- b) J.Stewart (Wildlife Soc at Umgeni Valley) keen to set up a meeting to plan Basic Astro Course in July.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 16 APRIL 1996

=====

Present: T.Chance, R.Jarman, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, J.Watson

Abs: F.Hawkins, H.Chance, S.de Vos, M.Christiansen.

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Letter written to Natal Witness re UFO Society
- b) JW still to make contact with A.Scafturis re missing telescope parts - has tried a couple of times without success.
- c) Defaulters not yet culled - JW to meet with HC to finalise list
- d) Nothing further from University re 'Roseveare' telescope - C.Lake confirms that the 'Roberts' refractor came from Durban (Natal Centre).
- e) Talk at last meeting excellent - well done Tim Chance!

3. Planning

- May 8/5/96 - monthly meeting - News/Forum/Astro Evening in June
- Constellations of Virgo, Corvus & Crater
- 16-19/5/96 - IZINKHANYEZI at Everglades
- June 15/6/96 - Astro Evening at Worlds View - observatory publicity and fundraising
- July Basic Astro course at Umgeni Valley
A.G.M. - never too early to start thinking about this ?

4. Membership

- a) New member - Charles Pert Prop: R.Jarman Sec: K.Hampson
- b) Prospects - Dr Gerald Baldrey, Graham Barratt, Duncan Blackhurst

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from A.Arnold re lack of interest in Izinkhanyezi, and also a further appeal for lecturers.
- b) Chatty note from Bulawayo Astro Soc - obviously not aware that TC is leaving S.Africa - JW to write and tell them.

6. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1665-19 Observatory fund R 713-13
- b) Secretarial expenses claim R 363-24.

7. STARDUST

- a) May 96 edition well in hand
- b) RJ will be away in June - TC has agreed to prepare June issue before he leaves at end of May.

8. Library

- a) Not possible for A.Jarman to sell old duplicate copies of S&T - suggest advert in Natal Witness 'Under R100' column - KH to let RJ know the dates of the S&T that are available.
- b) TC's planetray slides have been copied - no charge, as they were included in the same film used for talk on Winged Spaceflight

- c) 'Journey through Time' too expensive at this stage - all resources going towards building of observatory.
- d) R.Ginslove has borrowed books etc from library, but has not yet become a member of the Society - must only lend out to ratified members - JW to write him a stern letter.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Sub-committee for Astro Evening/'Star Party' in June was elected at last monthly meeting (10/4/96) - will meet on Sunday 21/4/96.
- b) Letter from BL to be printed in May edition of STARDUST re fundraising for the observatory, together with a sheet of raffle entries to each member.
- c) Letters written to
 - i) SABC asking for TV coverage
 - ii) Radio Maritzburg for publicity
 - iii) Corobrick, asking for materials
- d) Letters to be written to other Pietermaritzburg companies/businesses ? - refer to Observatory sub-committee.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) RJ looking at 3" reflector - P.Tarboton also interested.
- b) G.Prosser may be interested in 16"/17" mirror
- c) PH has contacted surveyor Ricard Boote (w-453520,h-460988) who is willing to assist.
- d) TRUE North/South line has been set as planned - group to meet at site on 20/4/96 to mark out foundations - thereafter the digging starts !!
- e) Good work done on 13/4/96 by volunteers clearing the young wattle/gums.
- f) JW has arranged for a man from Sweetwaters to take away firewood, but he doesn't appear to have done much yet ?

11. Education

- a) RJ to contact/set up meeting with J.Stewart (Wildlife Soc) re Astro course in July.
- b) Advanced Astro Course - TC and JW to draw up list of topics.
- c) JW to give illustrated talk to Henley Midmar Yacht Club on 4/5/96 on the topic 'On a clear night you can see forever' - also include some tips on astro navigation.

12. General

Cutting from Natal Witness re "Bird House" to be sent to Andrew Gray.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
=====

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 1996

NB - NB - NB - NB ----->

By special request of the Chairman
& other committee members who cannot
meet on Tuesday as usual.

Present: T.Chance, R.Jermain, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, S.de Vos, J.Watson, P.Hawkins

Apols: M.Christianson, H.Chance

Visitor: L.Christianson

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted after the inclusion of M.Christianson's apologies.

2. Matters arising

- a) A.Scafturis contacted - he still has the telescope parts, and would like to renew his membership.
- b) Defaulters culled from mailing list.
- c) Letter to Natal Witness re UFO Society published
- d) Last monthly meeting went O.K. - minimal participation from the floor ?

3. Planning

- June 12/6/96 - monthly meeting - finalise last minute details of the Astro evening on 15/6/96
 - video from BL's collection
- 15/6/96 - Astro evening - to be held at Midmar Historical Village
 - to be called 'A Journey to the Stars'
- July Basic Astro course at Umgeni Valley - 2/7/96 to 25/7/96
- 13/7/96 - Annual General meeting - at the home of MC or KH
 - braai etc ? - viewing ?

4. Membership

Good to see G.Gopaul at last meeting - A.Scafturis to rejoin.

5. Correspondence

- a) Letter from A.Gray re Council Meeting on 22/4/96 and also news of coming events, plus good wishes for Izinkhanyezi.
- b) A.Gray also phoned RJ to thank us for sending cutting about the renovation of 'Bird House' in Loop St.
- c) Diskette and note from D.Overbeek - good occultation on 21/9/96 - possibly involve the Natal Centre
- d) Ask the Natal Witness to publish notice of our monthly meetings as the 'Astronomical Society' rather than 'ASSA'.

6. Treasurer's report

- a) Balance on hand R 1243-06 Observatory fund R 963-13
- b) Secretarial expenses of R 563-24 paid (extra R 200 being St Charles subs)
- c) Raffle sheets starting to come in.

7. STARDUST

RJ not away in June as anticipated, so June edition will be a combined effort with guest article by TC.

8. Library

- a) Video and copies of S&T retrieved from R.Ginslove
- b) Bound copies of S&T to be split and sold at Astro evening in June.

9. P.R.O.

- a) Astro Evening - logistics under way - posters to be put up.
 - next meeting of sub-committee on 23/5/96 at home of BL
 - inspect site at Midmar Historical Village at 5.00pm on Friday 17/5/96
 - computer 'shareware' for sale ? (C.Collingwood to assist)
 - telescopes, mini-planetarium, slides, videos, displays.
 - raffle to be drawn - prizes from sponsors.
- b) No response to letters written to Pmb businesses - more to go out
 - building suppliers etc.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Foundations have been dug and approved by Municipal inspector
- b) Mr Webb has agreed to set steel pins to indicate depth of concrete.
- c) Approx 7 cubic metres of concrete required - this will cost approx R 2500 from READIMIX
- d) Clearing & de-stumping continues - roadway to site cleared.
- e) G.Prosser has bought 16"/17" mirror from TC, and is thinking about the 12" telescope (for the observatory) again !

11. Education

- a) Basic Astro Course - agreed to go ahead with plans to run it at Umgeni Valley (Wildlife Soc) each Tues & Thurs from 2/7/96 to 25/7/96
 - JW agreed to co-ordinate and liaise with J.Stewart
 - proposed advert/handbill drawn up by W/L Soc needs a more appropriate title and higher charge
 - agreed to ask for a donation of R 100 per session
- b) Amangintoti Rotary - will run leadership course at Umgeni Valley from 8/7/96 to 12/7/96 (contact: Yvonne Williams via RJ)
 - should they join the course for one evening ?
- c) TC & MC gave talk to Brownies on 12/5/96
- d) TC to also give talks to Epworth Primary, Settlers Park Pre-primary and Cindy's play-school before he leaves.
- e) JW to address St Annes Forum (Std 9 students) on 25/5/96

12. General

- a) A.Dybwad has painted a pen-and-ink sketch of the Observatory surmounted by a collage depicting the 9 planets, and has asked for a title. Committee agreed to suggesting "First Light"

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT CITY COMPUTERS, CHAPEL ST. on 13/6/96

Present: M.Christianson, B.Lawrence, K.Hampson, P.Hawkins, R.Jarman, J.Watson

Appls: S.de Vos, T.Chance, H.Chance

1. Meeting commenced at 5.30pm - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

- a) Natal Witness have obliged by advertising our activities as 'Astronomy Society'.
- b) 'Journey to the Stars' a resounding success - thanks to all concerned and especially to B.Lawrence as convenor of the event.

3. Planning

July Basic Astro course at Umgeni Valley - 2/7/96 to 25/7/96
13/7/96 - Annual General meeting - to be held at home of KH
- curry supper at R5 per head
- bring own drinks etc
- business and viewing

22/7/96 - first meeting of new committee

August 14/8/96 - monthly meeting - Quiz and/or video - KH and PH to plan

Future D.Grayson to repeat her talk on the Moon (from Izinkhanyezi).

4. Membership

- a) New members - Francois Davel Prop: J.Watson Sec: R.Jarman
Cheryl Hauptfleisch Prop: J.Lawrence Sec: I.Schroeder
- b) Applications - Dr D.Kossove - not signed
- Misses M.Wilbraham and C.Wilbraham - parent/guardian consent required
- c) Prospective members - Mr J.Pennie and Ms.P.Rossington.

5. Correspondence

- a) Good wishes and donations from R.Field and M.Streicher
- b) Letter of thanks from Henley-Midmar yacht club
- c) Friends of Kwazulu-Natal Land Service award - JW attended function in Durban to receive this
- d) Letter re closing of observatory (Specola Cidnea) in Brescia (N.Italy) received from A.Ilchev (Physics Dept- UNP) - RJ and KH to respond.

6. Treasurer's Report

Not received. (Estimated income from Astro evening R1800)

7. .STARDUST

July issue in hand

8. Library

- a) "Handbook of Telescope Making" purchased second-hand by TC
- b) Box of loose S&T magazines not sold - what to do with them ?

9. P.R.O.

- a) Astro evening attended by approx 71 adults and 34 children.
- b) Excellent support from East Coast Radio
- c) Slides and Telescope viewing very popular

10. Instruments & Observatory

- a) Foundations have been poured (Readimix - two loads)
- b) Bricks need to be transported from home of TC to site, and cleaned of old mortar. Mr Webb will use bricklayers to build to floor level.
- c) P.Tarboton arranging for the site to be de-stumped.
- d) Telescopes to be moved from home of MC to home of KH.
- e) G.Prosser working on tube for 12" telescope - 'Dancer' tube at home of JW.

11. Education

- a) Basic Astronomy course at Umgeni Valley
- b) Amanzimtoti Rotary - extra evening for them at Umgeni Valley on 10/7/96
- c) Land Service Camp - astro evening at Cedara on 11/7/96
- d) BL to give public lecture at Kloof Town Hall on 19/7/96 - Man & Space ?

12. General

- a) Good to have Sheila Dale at the Astro evening - needs encouragement.
- b) Candidates for new committee:-
(J.Watson, R.Jarmain, K.Hampson, P.Hawkins, S.de Vos, A.Kroukam,
A.Dybwad, P.Tarboton, R.Roth)

=====

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY 22 JULY 1996

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ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the home of Miss K.Hampson,
10A Abelia Rd, Cleland on Saturday 13 July 1996 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was attended by 16 members of the Centre.

3 apologies were received, and there were 4 visitors.

1. The Chairman, Mr M.Christianson, welcomed ev^erybody and thanked K.Hampson for her hospitality in providing a pleasant venue.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

A copy of these had been sent to each member of the Centre with the 'Stardust' newsletter for July 1996. It was therefore agreed unanimously to take them as read Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: B.Lawrence

3. Chairman's Report (M.Christianson)

Mr Christianson reviewed the activities of the Centre during the past year, and thanked all those members (committee & other) who had worked hard to make the year a successful one. He made special mention of the educational activities of the Centre, and also gave an extensive report on the excellent progress made in the building of an observatory at World's View.

Prop: R.Jarmain Sec: P.Hawkins

4. Treasurer's Report (H.Chance)

A Statement of Income and Expenditure was presented reflecting a closing balance for the year of R 677,36 (a shortfall of some R 139)

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: L.Christianson

A separate Observatory Fund had been established during the year, and this currently had an amount of approx R 3000 in it resulting from donations and special fund-raising event 'Journey to the Stars'. Proceeds from the Basic Astronomy training courses would also go to this fund.

5. Election of Office Bearers

The following members were nominated and elected:-

Messrs J.Watson, R.Jarmain, R.Roth, P.Hawkins, S.de Vos, A.Versfeld
Miss K.Hampson.

Mr P.Tarboton was also nominated, but subsequently withdrew.

6. Other Business

a) Increased subscriptions - it was agreed to revise these as follows:-

Members R 40,00 Family R 50,00 S/Citizens R 25,00
Students R 25,00

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: H.Chance

b) Observatory fund - it was agreed that an amount of R 400,00 be transferred from General Funds to this fund

Prop: P.Hawkins Sec: H.Chance

c) Mrs L.Christianson - proposed that further public information and viewing evenings be held to raise funds for the observatory.

- new committee to consider this

d) Mr P.Tarboton - asked for an estimate of the amount needed to complete the observatory

- M.Christianson responded that an additional amount of approx R 5000 would be required to finish Phase I of the building.

e) Mr J.Watson - proposed a vote of thanks to Mr M.Christianson for his leadership over the past year, and wished him well for his retirement and move to Capetown.

7. Meeting closed at 8.50pm, after which all present enjoyed a curry supper together and some excellent viewing from K.Hampson's back garden.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 13 JULY 1996

MEMBERS

Jon & Bianca Lawrence
Annette Dybwad.
Hilary Chance
Philip Hawkins
Kerry Haupser
Jeff Ross.
Lorraine Christiansen
Rusty Jarmain
Allen Gifford
Roger Roth.
Jennifer McKenzie
Joyce Watson.
Peter Tarboti
Steve de Vos
Mike Christiansen

(16)

VISITORS

Gill Watson.
Aurelia Hawkins
Anne Jarmain
PAT MCKENZIE

(4)

APOLOGIES

MIKE IMBER.
ARMINE' MORRIS
Tim Chance.

**NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE - ASSA
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 1996**

Ladies & Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chairman's report for the year ended June 1996. It has been a successful year from many points of view thanks to the hard work and dedication of your committee members and some of the members of the Centre.

The year started with the running of an astronomy course at the Museum and is now ending with a new course starting at Umgeni Valley. These courses are a major source of new members and also bring in funds for the centre.

The other major event of the year, was the start that was made in building our own observatory. During October 1995 we signed a sublease with the Girl Guides in order to secure 1 hectare of their leased Municipal land for this purpose. In November the site was cleared of trees and in December the plans were submitted for approval which was finally received in February 1996. During March after an area had been cleared and the centre of the site marked by a group of members, the North/South line was established by Rusty finding Sigma Octantis for us and pointing out the direction of Celestial South. In April a start was made - we marked out the foundations position with help from Roger Clifford and then digging commenced. On 10 June the foundations were cast and we are now up to floor level and should be able to progress from here to roof height in a short while. With a bit of luck and some good support the observatory will be completed this year (financial) and I am confident it will be a real boon to the centre. In June a fund raising function was held at Midmar which brought in ± R2 000. More is needed however and further effort will be required. During the year regular monthly meetings were held and with the exception of May (20) and June (17) these were well attended.

In August a forum on Dark matter and video formed the topics. In September the meeting was at UNP and Dr Ilchev talked on "Particle Physics".

Also in September the ASSA Symposium was held in Bloemfontein and JW and MJC attended.

In October there was the symposium report back and a video.

In November a forum on Solar wind and Telescope display were featured.

In December the Christmas party was held at the Victoria Club and was well attended.

In February a look around for '96 and video were featured.

In March there was a discussion on the Constellation Gemini followed in April by Winged Space Flight by Tim Chance.

In May the topic was Virgo, Corvus and Crater. Also the Natal Centre Izinkhanyezi was held and several from our centre attended and participated. In June discussion on our fundraising programme and a video were featured. Also of course of "Journey to the Stars" was held at Midmar.

I shall be leaving Pietermaritzburg at the end of September. So I wish the centre well. I hope you make easy progress in completing the Observatory and I wish you clear skies.

M. CHRISTIANSON

13 JULY 1996

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1996

INCOME

Brought forward	Bank	800.80	
	Cash	15.36	
	Subscriptions	1785.00	
	Handbooks	210.00	
	Donations	50.00	
	Interest	43.99	
	TOTAL		2905.15

EXPENDITURE

Annual	ASSA Subs (St Charles)	200.00	
	Publicity Association	50.00	
	Post Box Rental	60.00	
	Purchase of Handbooks	150.00	
	Refreshments	116.46	
	Postage	588.79	
	Stationery	66.65	
	Photocopying	387.32	
	Film Dev & Print	43.48	
	Multi plug	39.84	
	Slide Tray	20.00	
	Purchase of Urn	150.00	
	Journey to the Stars	220.00	
	Christmas Party	135.25	
	Carried forward	Bank	548.14
		Cash	129.22
	TOTAL		2905.15

H. CHANCE

13 JULY 1996.

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

1996/1997 COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr J.Watson
Vice-Chairman	Mr R.Roth
Secretary	Miss K.Hampson
Treasurer	Mr P.Hawkins
Newsletter	Mr R.Jarmain
Library	Mr S.de Vos
Education	Mr J.Watson
P.R.O.	Mr R.Jarmain
Instruments & Observatory	Mr R.Roth
Projects/Viewing	Mr A.Versfeld
Council Rep	Miss K.Hampson

Addresses & Telephone numbers

Mr J.Watson	P.O.Box 330,Hilton,3245	0331-433646 (h) 0331-452510 (w)
Mr R.Roth	P.O.Box 100210,Scottsville,3209	0331-442635 (h) 0331-2605130(w)
Miss K.Hampson	P.O.Box 101202,Scottsville,3209	0331-966772 (h) 0331-426773 (w)
Mr P.Hawkins	1 Ashbourne,Harwin Rd, Pmb 3201	0331-460303 (h)
Mr R.Jarmain	42 Mills Circle,Pmb 3201	0331-65455 (h)
Mr S.de Vos	P.O.Box 2468, Pmb 3200	0331-946724 (h) 0331-554672 (w)
Mr A.Versfeld	62 Thornhurst Drive, Pmb 3201	0331-68684 (h)
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All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
A.S.S.A. (Natal Midlands)
P.O.Box 2106
Pietermaritzburg
3200

1996 - 1997

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THE HOME OF MR. & MRS. P. HAWKINS
on 22/7/1996

Present : J. Watson, R. Roth, R. Jarmain, P. Hawkins, S. de Vos, K. Hampson
Apols. : A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2000Hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

Allocation Of Office Bearers

Chairman	- John Watson
Education	
Vice Chairman	- Rogan Roth
Instruments	
Secretary	- Kerry Hampson
Council Rep.	
Stardust Editor	- Rusty Jarmain
P.R.O.	
Treasurer	- Phillip Hawkins
Library	- Steve De Vos
Projects	- Alan Versveld

2. Matters arising

- a. R.J. sent post card to Mayor of Brescia (N. Italy) stating N.M.C. grave concern to the closure of their observatory.
- b. Thanks to K.H. for holding A.G.M. at her Res. - total 16 members & 4 guests attended.

3. Planning

August 14/8/96 - monthly meeting - Astro. Quiz. + prizes! P.H. & K.H. have planning in hand. R.R. to chair meeting J.W. away.

September 11/9/96 - Talk on Astro photography by R.R.

Future - D. Grayson to repeat talk on the moon (from Izinkhanyezi).

4. Membership.

- a. New member Johan Kotze Prop. R. Roth Sec. P. Hawkins
- b. Dr D. Kossave has not sent back unsigned application!
- c. Mike Imber - ? resigning or not- says is committed to attend another meeting on same night as N.M.C.
- d. Subs renewals to go out with Stardust Newsletter
- e. Procrastinators to be taken off mailing list - Angela Ballantyne, Laetitia De La Mare, S. Harridave, W. Herschell, Lamprecht Family, A. Panday, V. & J. Samuel.

5. Correspondence.

- a. Thank You Letters to go to:-
Land Service for R100.00 donation to observatory building fund
St Charles Junior School for loan of Planetarium at Journey to the Stars.
Bryan Jarmain for loan of his bakkie to cart bricks.
University Principle- Prof. Maughn for allowing photocopying of advert leaflets for journey to the Stars.
- b. List of new office bearers, minutes of A.G.M., & financial statement to go to A.S.S.A. before 20/8/96

6. Treasurers Report

- a. Subs raised to - R40.00 single members
R50.00 couples
R25.00 Pensioners & students
R35.00 Pensioner couples
- b. Secretarial costs still owing to J.W.
- c. R50.00 owing to K.H. for A.G.M. has been paid.
- d. K.H. to be second signature if needed in financial matters

7. Stardust

- a. R.J. has in Hand
- b. R.R. to do photocopying if necessary while J.W. away

8. Library

- a. To try to build up library of video tapes & computer soft ware - charge a fee when these loaned out.
- b. Make up gaps in slide collection - planets + their satellites,

8. Library cont.
& differnt space probes etc. -R.J. & R.R. to do photo slides from magazines .
c. To investigate binding of unbound Magazines.
9. P.R.O.
No report
10. Instruments & Observatory
 - a. approx 2000 bricks moved by J.W., R.J., K.H., & M.C. to J.W.house
 - b. Telescopes + equipment being kept by J.W. & K.H.
 - c. G. Prosser has 12" telescope in hand & is assesing ways for mounting it.
 - d. Need to call a meeting for hand over from M. Christianson before he leaves - re Observatory & observatory site. R.R. to organize.
 - e. General proposal for I. Schroeder to be appointed observatory grounds/garden manager.
 - f. Suggestion by R.J. for a sundial to be erected in observatory garden.
11. Education
 - a. Final week of Basic Astronomy course at Umgeni Valley- approx 14 students attended - financial outcome to be discussed with J.Stuart.
 - b. Amanzimtoti Rotary evening for approx 30 students- J.W. lectured telescopes R.J., K.H. J.W. .not good viewing clouds +++
 - c. Landservice camp at Cedara - J.W. gave slide show & talk.
 - d. ? Church Group, D. Robenheimer in charge 1 hour viewing session for students attending science camp.-telescopes R.J.&K.H.
12. General
 - a. J Schroeder- Christian group wants Astronomy talk.
 - b. Friend of K.H. member of Mensa. says group would like Astronomy evening.
 - c. Tuesday evenings 2000hrs decided better time for committee members.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Tues 20/8/1996 2000hrs at P.H, home.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR. & MRS. P. HAWKINS
on 20/8/96

Present ; R.Roth, P. Hawkins, S. de Vos, K. Hampson

Apols. : J.Watson, R. Jarmain, A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2000hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matters arising.
Thanks to P.H. & K.H. for organizing quiz at August meeting.
3. Planning
September 11/9/96 - monthly meeting - Talk on Basic Astro Photography by R.R.
 N.B.a. slide projector needed R.J. or J.W.
 b. K.H. to organize overhead projector with St. Charles librarian.
 c. R.J. to suggest in Stardust for members to bring own cameras to meeting.
October 9/10/96 Di Grayson willing to repeat talk on moon & Phases (from Izinkhanyezi) K.H. to confirm
 R.J. to remind members (in Stardust) to bring reflecting balls!!
Future meeteorites & impact crators - R.R.
 Video on Past & Future-Evolution verse Creation Sde V. to arrange
 Ask members at meeting what they want to hear about orlearn
 General Dicussion - End of year party - bring up at next meeting.
4. Membership
 New members : Herman & Christine Buchler
 Eric & Winnie Strydom
 Mike & Laura Parkes
 Blaze Hollingworth
 David Kain
 Nice to see Charles Davis back at meeting
 P.H. to find out if Mike Imber has resigned or not
5. Correspondence
 Thank you letters were written + letter to A.V. confirming his committee membership - says he is willing-will need help with Projects; while away
 J.W. sent list of office beares, minutes of A.G.M. & financial statement to A.S.S.A.
 R.J. to mention in Stardust, Tim's letter & excerpt from Andrew Gray's letter
6. Treasurers Report
 Observatory fund - R403.31 left M.C. has been paid back R3377.55 owing to him
 N.M.C. fund -R745.24
 J.W. has been paid secretarial costs up to June 96
 K.H. & J.W. to put in claims for secretarial, printing & postage etc. quarterly.
 Book present to M.&L.C to come out of N.M.C. fund R145.00
 K.H. as second bank signature still to do
 No need to transfer bank accounts as branch willing to accept new signatures
7. Stardust
 R.J. has in hand
 Telescope advert to put in Stardust - 110mm Refractor + drive & equitorial mount. Contact E.G.(Ted) Gathercole ph.0331 472844

8. Library
 S.de V. To build up video tape collection - can get blanks for +R12.00 - charge fee when loaned out -towards observatory fund.
 S.deV., K.H., J.W., R.J., R.R. to discuss slides needed to make up gaps in collection. R.R. & R.J. to do Photography
 Binding of magazines to put on hold -due to finances-S. de V. to see if he can locate discarded covers at work
 S.deV. & K.H. to investigate outstanding S&T's R.J. to make request in Stardust for members not to keep S&T's out longer than 6 months!
 Books outstanding- Ages in Chaos -I. Velikovsky -J Dye
 Race to Mars -Frank Miles & N. Booth-letter to Anne Turton
9. P.R.O.
 R.J. to contact B.L. re contacts etc for P.R.O. eg. East coast radio , Natal Witness etc.
10. Instruments & Observatory
 R.R., M.C. R.C., I.S., & K.H. met at Observatory site Sat. 18th
 M.C. Handed over to R.R.
 Compaction of floor nearly done. M.C. says will get it done.
 Floor casting - plastic sheeting + 16 metres cost R90.00
 Weld mesh 2 metres - R238.00
 Ready mix concrete 2.5 to 3 metres cost R373.18
 cubic metre
 Need + R1500.00 to complete floor
 R.R. & I.S. to move rest of new bricks to R.R. home ? Sat. 31st
 ? ask I.S. to be groundsman for Observatory site ? form sub-committee
 Telescope advert see 7. Stardust
11. Education
 John Schroeder - All Saints church - want Astronomy talk -
 Topic - Perspective of the Universe J.W. & R.J. to arrange
 Ladsworth Junior School (Std 1 & Std 5 pupils) want Astronomy evening - (covered in curriculum) J.W. & K.H. to arrange.
 Both contacts above say willing to donate towards observatory
12. General
Fundraising - R.J. has made up Astronomy Crossword puzzle
 send out to other centres maybe even wider distribution
 ? sponsorship for prize ? R5.00 entrance fee
 - Future competition Astronomy Cartoon 2 picture
 spot the difference - Annette Dybwad , S.deV. , R.J. to draw cartoons
 - R.R. idea to make Astronomy calender -photo's of observatory site , PMB. etc - months depict not only moon phases, but other Astronomical data to be seen eg. Constellations, where planets will be during months etc - need year advance warning to compile. K.H. to find out cost from friend who runs small printing works in JHB.
 K.H. still to find out cost of laminating Moon Map + other large posters also framing of Annette Dybwad's painting FirstLight
 Ask club members at next meeting to come forward with ideas to raise funds for observatory.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING _ Tues 17/9/1996 2000hrs at K.H. home

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MISS K.HAMPSON
on 17/9/1996

Present : J. Watson, R.Roth, P.Hawkins, R.Jarman, K.Hampson.

Apol. : S. de Vos, A. Versveld.

1. Meeting commenced at 2000hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.
2. Matters arising.
Thanks to R.R. for talk on Basic Astro Photography and running September meeting.
P.H. suggested to A. Kroukam to join committee - but declined
3. Planning.
October 9/10/1996 - monthly meeting - talk on Moon & Phases by Prof. Di Grayson. R.R. to remind members in Stardust to bring reflecting balls! K.H. to organize with D.G. re copy's of Moon Phases
November 13/11/1996 - J.W. Cosmological talk.
December - End of year/Christmas party at Observatory site -bring & share braai etc bonfire! Tent/marquee to arrange
Dates suggested Sat. 7th or 14th - Bring to attention of members at next meeting.
Future Meeteorites & impact crators -R.R.
4. Membership
New members : Bidy & Robin Hall
Confirmed - Mike Imber has not resigned
Resignation - Martin Lowery has resigned
R.J. queried country members to pay less fees-
descision against as fees to cover cost of Stardust & postage.
5. Correspondence
Thank you letter for thank you letter received from Prof.Maughn-Brown!
Thank you letter from Mike & Lorraine Christianson - put up at next meeting for members to see.
6. Treasurers Report
General fund R1209.27
Observatory fund R403.31
P.H. wants to transfer funds from General fund to Observatory fund
Committee in agreement
St. Charles A.S.S.A. Fees not payed P.H. to rectify
J.W. & P.H. to contact A.S.S.A ? N.M.C.'s payment 96/97
P.H. & K.H. to write out tactful reminder of membership fees -
to send to members defaulting as per P.H.'s list
K.H. to get A.S.S.A./N.M.C. stamp made for P.H. for receipt book
7. Stardust
R.R. has in hand
P.H. knows of another telescope to advertise ^{for sale} -will give R.R. details
8. Library
S.de V. looking for cardboard to bind unbound S&T's
P.H. suggests to use old binders from other books
R.R. suggests - budget to set aside money to bind present years & previous year- then next year do same + 1 year back - bring up at next committee meeting.
J.W. to phone J. Dye re Book Ages in Chaos
S.de V. & R.J. to copy video Astro tapes -bring to committee to view for approval - committee will then make funds available
cost of blank tape ± R14.00
Committee to sort out which slides still needed in collection
9. P.R.O.
No report

10. Instruments & Observatory

Projector screen - now being kept by K.H. - A.J. still owed R10.00
R.J. made out invoice for P.H. - to rectify
Telescope for sale - see 7. Stardust
J.W. has a 6" reflecting telescope-donated by daughter & Son-in-law
of Mr. Parkinson. J.W. has offered to clean it up & get it working
and make a dobsonian mount. -give it to Umgeni Valley Jeanette
Stewart will look after it. -committee in agreement
Observatory - Floor has been compacted -cement slab still to be
thrown - R.R. to organize apertures in floor for telescope mountings
before slab thrown -reinforcing needs to be cut through.
M.C. has a contact doing ready mix concrete -says any left over
concrete from a job (eg 3 cubic metres) will take to observatory
site & lay the slab in sections -instead of waisting the concrete -
R.R. will dicuss with M.C.
Remainder of bricks have been moved to R.R.'s home still a few left
R.R. will collect these + 100
Ivan Schroeder list of estimates of cost to dig trench & lay electric
& water cables to site & cost of steel door to R.R.
John Lawrence to take soil sample from site for testing at Cedara
will tell N.M.C. what type of grass will be best to grow.

11. Education

R.J. contacted John Schroeder at All Saints re Astronomy talk -
? Sat. 5/10/96 will contact J.W. -members of N.M.C. invited &
spouses to have supper with them -donation will be given to
N.M.C. for Observatory.
Ladsworth School Astronomy talk confirmed for 25/9/96 1830 -2030
Telescopes needed J.W., R.J. & K.H. - pupils will donate to Obser-
vatory fund.

12. General

Fundraising - R.J.'s crossword puzzle & explanatory letter on
back - 5 copies to be sent to each centre with Stardust - R5.00
to enter competition -ask centres to make more copies if members
interested - prize R50.00 book voucher - N.M.C. members can enter
for fun & smaller prize -R2.00 to enter -closing date Feb. 1997.
Draw of correct enteries at Feb. 1997. meeting.
For later competitions - Spot difference cartoon drawn by A.D.
& Starsearch by R.J.
Calendar - R.R. showed monthly starmaps, which can be used & dates
filled with astronomical information for viewing, photographing etc.
K.H. to phone friend, printing works owner for costing
Postcards - with astronomy information & starmaps is another idea
for fundraising R.R.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Tues. 15/10/1996 2000hrs J.W. home

* Committee in agreement that gas & batteries
will work just as well as electricity to start with
when observatory built.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR. & MRS. J.WATSON

on 15/10/1996

Present : J.Watson, P. Hawkins, S.de Vos, R.Roth, K.Hampson, A.Versveld.
ApoIs. : R Jarmain

1. Meeting commenced at 2000hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted with addition to 10. Instruments & observatory i.e. Committee in agreement that gas & batteries will be much cheaper & will work just as well as electricity to start with when observatory built.

2. Matters arising

K.H. to write note of thanks on stardust to D.G. for Moon phases talk.
R.R. to put thank you to D.G. in Stardust.

3. Planning

November 13/11/1996 - NMC to join Natal Centre (Durban) for bring and share supper 1900hrs for First Light mirror wetting of their revamped 12" telescope at St Henry's (Marist Brothers)- J.W. to give details of directions to R.R. for stardust. -members going to meet at 1800hrs at St. Charles & share cars.

December 7/12/1996 - end of year party - lunch braai -bring & share time 1200hrs +continue into afternoon & evening for viewing if weather good (members can bring gardening tools to do some clearing if they want!)
J.W. has a tarpaulin, R.R. to check on borrowing tarpaulin from varsity.
K.H. to ask Robin Hall & R.J. re Flee market Canopies (Gazebo's)
R.R.&A.V.& J.W. skottel Braai's -? gas Braai's
NMC to donate Charcoal,snacks, wine & fruit juice?cokes etc

4. Membership

New Members - Harry Tunmer
Resignation - Denis Gilman

5. Correspondence

Thank you letters written to:
Denis Gilman for R40.00 donation on his resignation
Ladsworth school Std. 1 pupils for their R100.00 donation
Get well card sent to Mike Christianson from members
letter from Andrew Gray -has been elected as alternate to Council
President - NMC's new council alternate member is B.du Preez
K.H. to get his address for J.W. to put on mailing list

6. Treasurers Report

R400.00 sent to ASSA -subs for NMC & St. Charles
J.W has been paid for outstanding secretarial costs
General fund R1464.53
Observatory fund R403.31
Rubber stamp - R.R. to give stamp kit to P.H. , P.H. will organize the letter part of stamp

7. Stardust

R.R. has in hand -needed heading logo - J.W. gave R.R. ASSA emblem +
R.R. to type in rest on computer.

8. Library

S&T binding - University will bind any number(size) for R20.00
Take up R.R.'s suggestion & bind years 94&93 = 4 volumes =R80.00
J.W. still to phone J.Dye re Ages in Chaos
K.H. still to locate W. Herschel re July 95 S&T
S.de V. to video Astromomy collection "The Astronomers -2 video tapes
cost R28.00 - for library cupboard

9. P.R.O.
No Report
10. Instruments & Observatory
Projector screen paid for out of pettishash
Telescope sold
Aperture for telescope mountings on floor of observatory marked out
R.R. to mention need for tree pulling i.e re deforestation at site in Stardust
R.R. to contact, contact of Mike Christianson re concrete ready mix slab.
J. Lawrence has taken soil for soil sampling
Merit in what I. Schroeder said at meeting re. idea of approaching municipal council & investigate giving a grant to NMC -J.W. will make enquiries of council.
11. Education
Ladsworth School talk, slide & viewing session a success
All Saints talk on 21/10/96 1800 for 1830 -Journey to the stars
David Kain is the contact now
12. General
P.H. requests -beginners course/guide i.e space in Stardust for guide for beginners
Robin Hall will photostat more R5.00 Crossword copies & give to boys at Michaelhouse to do.
A.V. wants copy of Starcross to try out
K.H. spoke to friend re calender -says would like to see 'proofs' before able to give a cost
Ask R.J. to go to Publicity Association & ask if they would be willing to sell calenders etc. for us
N.B.
Natal Center Durban to host ASSA symposium for 1997 NMC to help
+ August -Discuss with Natal Centre at Nov. meeting
P.H. suggests Rondalia at Hibberdeane a good venue
Durban University also a likely venue

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Tues. 19/11/1996 2000hrs at S.de V. Home

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR S. DE VOS

on 19/11/1996

Present : J.Watson, R.Roth, P.Hawkins, K.Hampson, R.Jarmain, S.de Vos.
ApoIs. : A.Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2006hrs, - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted,
2. Matters arising
Very pleasant evening spent with our fellow Natal Centre Astronomers for their mirror wetting evening of the revamped 12" telescope, 9 members went from N.M.C.
3. Planning
December Saturday 7/12/1996 confirmed end of year party date
Lunch braai at observatory site - time 1200hrs onwards
J.W. has a tarpaulin - R.R. can't get one
R.R. has 'gazebo' and Bidy & Rob Hall say can bring one as well
Skottel/Gas braais R.R., R.J., J.W., P.H., A.V. to bring
Members to bring & share food and chairs & tables
N.M.C. to supply charcoal (R.R.) wine 2 boxes (P.H.) juice 1 box
chips 4 pkts. (K.H.) box chocolates prize for local crossword (K.H.)
January
No meeting
4. Membership
Resignation - Jan Baxter
Anne Turton (Friends Mr. & Mrs Meyer will continue paying for her membership) K.H. to write to her
J. McKenzie has payed R50.00 & asks if husband Pat can also be a member - proposed K.Hampson seconded P, Hawkins
5. Correspondence to :-
All Saints Mens Fellowship - Thank you letter for R155.80 donation (K.H.)
Andrew Gray - Thank you for R100.00 donation
Congratulations re appointment to council
Re Mike Christianson being our council rep.
Re discussion with Peter Cramb & Arthur Arnold about Symposium next year. (J.W.)
Dr. J. Londt - Director - Natal Museum - re establishment of Planetarium and opportunity for discussion (J.W. - D.Kain)
PMBurg - Msunduzi Trans. Local Council - re establishment of Astronomical observatory + complete Astro. Education centre including planetarium + what N.M.C. has already done + possibility of one time grant or annual grant for maintenance etc.
P.H. suggests if no quick reply - send a copy to Rob Haswell - Deputy Town Clerk (J.W. - D.Kain)
6. Treasurers Report
Observatory fund R410.71
General Fund R2031.85
Committee in agreement - all donations must be transferred into observatory fund + R575.75
Authorization from J.W. for K.H. as alternate signatory for Perm. accounts x2 - hand in copy to Permanent Bank Hayfields Branch (P.H.)
P.H. wants to spend R40.00 on computer accounting package - committee in agreement.
K.H. will give secretarial costs to P.H. at end of November
7. Stardust
Thanks to R.R. & congratulations for superb Nov. copy of Stardust
R.J. says Dec. issue will be ready on time
P.H. suggestion - corner for beginners e.g. suggested easy viewing of stars or constellations for beginners to find during the month.
Natal Centre to duplicate crossword & put in Indaba for N.M.C.

Stardust cont.

Extension of time for local crossword entrants to Christmas party notify members in stardust -draw to be made at party - have photo-copies at party if members want to try there.

8. Library

Nothing done yet for binding S&T's -K.H. & S.de V to sort out all unbound copies from ± 1980 onwards
2 video tapes purchased - copying still to be done (S. de V.)
K.H. still to locate W. Herschel
S.de V. has slides
J.Dye says Ages in Chaos was returned for him to library by Frikkie de Bruin

9. P.R.O.

No report - still a phantom!!!
Calendar -R.R. showed ideas for monthly ~~tear-off~~ ^{tear-off} portions with astronomical events for days + e.g. starmap for month on back etc - picture for calendar pref. Black & white less cost for photo copy. R.R. needs ideas for months
K.H. to contact Pat Booth -editor of handbook for phenomena for 1997 & 1998 + letter explaining reason why we need it.
Pied Blageek + 2 paintings to be sent to S&T, Astronomy, Astronomy Now, MASSA, & Australian Astro. Magazine - ? pay NMC.in £&S's for publishing -committee agrees worth a try.K.H. & R.J.to go ahead.

10. Instruments & observatory

Building

Use present money in observatory fund to cast floor of building Natal Centre treasurer - works for Frankie Pile(sp)-will instruct Ready Mix to donate & deliver!! NMC. to set a date. Find expeert & offer to pay to lay floor -need reasonably smooth floor -R.R &R.J. able to be free during week to be on site.
R.R. knows handyman who may be able to help - J.W.'s neighbour may be able to do it during Builders holiday.
J.W. will contact Natal Centre treasurer to confirm the offer.

Site

Tree clearing R.R. brother has a chain saw to lend & Herman Buchler says has a chain saw & willing to help.

Soil

Soil samples have been analysed -John Lawrence still to give J.W. analysis on what grasses to plant etc.
Committee decision to reform observatory Sub committee - callextra observatory meeting before end of November, on site ,pref. weekend
Subcommittee Rogan Roth Ivan Schroeder Roger Clifford
Goeff Prosser John Watson Steve de Vos
Rusty Jarmain Kerry Hampson (tea maker)
R.R. to organize meeting

11. Education

Nothing more on schools calender
R.R. - has had query from Brownies/girl guides -interested in a lecture
All Saints Mens Fellowship evening a success
Letter to J.W. from Dept of Culture & Education re we are able to apply for funds for 1997 - J.W. will write a motivation to Ulundi

12. General

Nil -see 9.P.R.O.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR. & MRS P. HAWKINS
on 21/1/1997

Present : R. Jarmain, J. Watson, K. Hampson, P. Hawkins, R. Roth
Apols. : S. de Vos, A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2000hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted.

2. Matters arising..

December Lunch braai party at observatory site a success
17 members attended + 6 guests
NMC (local) Crossstar Puzzle drawn - Raymond field won the box of chocolates. Chris Lake delivered them to him.
Members enjoyed seeing the progress at the site
Well done works party members clearing +++ more trees!

3. Planning.

February 12/2/1997 J.W. introduction talk for 1997
+ progress on observatory + targets for the year
+ Video "Genesis in Stone" Hancock & Bauval confirmed
Annette Dybwad has & can lend it.

March 12/3/1997 R.R. Meteorites & Impact Craters, PH magnet over roof
Future K.H. from Astronomy Now - Absolute Beginners' article meteorite pickup
Active Galaxies, Quasars, Blazars, Jets, Seyferts
Galaxies etc, all same type seen at different angle's
from earth observer's line of sight!

Rob Ginslove willing to give talk & show telescope he has built.

Carl Botha - willing to talk about U.F.O. sighting!

K.H. to give St. Charles a schedule of dates of meetings for 1997

4. Membership

Resignations - Anne Renfrew - has gone to Angola K.H. to send letter with copy of Stardust + Handbook when stocks arrive

Veronica Collingwood - K.H. to check out reminder re subs - still to stay a member. All procrastinators to stay members just not to be sent Stardust if don't pay subs.

Prospective Members. - Dr. Albrecht Scheuer, Miss Leanne Hearmon, Mrs. Truter, Mr Thor Jensen.

Colin McKay, K.H. to let know of viewing evenings

5. Correspondence

Letters received - from Tim & Hillary chance
PMB.T.L. Council for application for Grant-in- AID 96/97 Acknowledgement

Minutes of ASSA Council meeting - Dany Duprez now alt. rep for Natal Centre! J.W. to investigate Rejection letter from S&T for Pied Blageek

Letters written - Slides + poem + covering letters of Pied Blageek sent to 3 other magazines Astronomy, Astronomy Now, Souther Sky's.

P.H. sent letter to brother to send copy's of Australian magazine Southern Sky's

J.W. letter to Dept. Education & Culture requesting financial assistance for R800.00.

K.H. Thank you letter to St. Charles Headmaster re use of audio visual room for meetings + dates of meetings for 1997

Letters to be written - K.H. to Anne Renfrew - see Resignations

K.H. Thank you letter to Dany Overbeek & Andy for book "Small Astronomical Observatory's"

K.H. Thank you note with Stardust to Herman & Christne Buchler for clearing so much of site.

Suggestion from R.R. - to send R.J.'s article + cartoon from Oct 6

6. Treasurers Report
 R780.00 to be transferred to observatory fund
 R.J. contacted by Yvonne Williams from Amanzimtoti -cheque for R450.00 in post
 R50.00 donation from Scripture Union
 Entry to Crosstar Competition G.A. Secretan-Cox R5.00
 Donations in lieu of entry to crosstar competition
 K.Wade-Helman R20.00
 Angela Banks R20.00
 P.H. bought rubber stamp cost R28.00
7. Stardust
 R.J. Has well in hand
8. Library
 S. de V., K.H., R.R., P.H., to sort out S&K's for binding whichever two years complete will bind.
 Danie Overbeek & Andy donated a book Small Astronomical Observatories - see correspondence
 R.R. asks can N.M.C. buy book on Sundials & Moondials Advert.in S&K - Committee in agreement to buy.
 K.H. to try again to contact W Herschel re S&K still in his possession
9. P.R.O.
 R.J. contacted Sue at Publicity Association- she says it will be a pleasure for them to sell calendars etc. for N.M.C. also let them know any functions we are planning & they will advertise for N.M.C. Calendar - R.R. has hand book for 1997 (N.M.C. copy) for phenomena for 97 trial calendar - waiting for Skymap computer discs - reason for delay . K.H. & Bidy Hall each willing to buy trial calendar 97
 K.H. to contact Pat Booth for obtaining Phenomina for 1998 calendar
 Pied Blageek & slides & copy of letter to magazines & covering letter to be sent to MNASSA to tell what we have done
 J.W. Interview & photo in Newspaper "Vrydag" re Astronomy
 J.W. -Natal Witness to do feature type articles on P.M.B. societies starting with Astronomy - J.W. to Edit reporters copy!!! need photos of observatory site etc contact S de V. to give slides to J.W. Dept. Education & Culture running a training course in July.
 N.M.C. to another star party to raise funds for 1997-? July Hols.
10. Instruments & Observatory
 J.W. Irene Ross (Natal Centre) Accountant at Franky Pile -working on Hullets site -promised to phone J.W. back to confirm date to pour & float slab
 Subcommittee meeting was held at observatory site 4/12/1996
 ? co.opt Herman Buchler onto subcommittee as -consultant
 2/3 of trees cleared from site by Dec. 1996 - need more works parties to continue the work ? tog.labour
 Mrs Mitchell (Henry Mitchell's widow) keen to get rid of astronomical instruments (bits & bobs) will contact J.W.
 J.W., R.R. & B.L. had meeting with Dr. J. Londre planetarium museum will support if educational- IF motivated plenty of money available - N.M.C. need to do more homework eg.price, where to put it, requirements, training etc..
 Linked to museum ,N.M.C. would have access to it to give show to public for funds
 J.W. to write to Prof. J. Ferrail re information on Planetariums
11. Education
 Thank you to K.H. for giving talk to Scripture Union on journey from Sun to Alpha Centauri
 Science & Technology Festival to be held in Grahamstown April 1997
 N.M.C. to run a course during July 1997 Umgeni Valley a good venue
 J.W to talk to Janet Stewart
12. General
 Nil

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Tues. 18/2/1997 2000hrs at R.J. home.

Present : J.Watson, R.Jarmain, R.Roth, S.de Vos, K.Hampson

Apols. : P.Hawkins, A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2000hrs. - minutes of previous meeting read & corrected & accepted.

2. Matters arising.

R.J. has drafted a copy of Octobers Stardust article as suggested by R.R. - copy's handed to committee members for comment please. Apology from R.J. re Toti Rotary Cheque for R150.00 not R450.00 Natal Witness feature on N.M.C. did appear -with mistakes! although J.W. did correct it for them ,apparently no notice paid to corrections Correction of time of meeting did appear in later issue at J.W's insistence. Lovely photo of our astronomers did give good publicity! + interview with J.W. -Lots of interest & questions from public. PMB. Model Engeneering Society want a talk & maybe a viewing evening R.R. to organize.

3. Planning.

March 12/3/1997 R.R. Meteors, meteorites & impact crators

April 9/4/1997 J.W. Cosmology for beginners

Discussion re problem with St Charles audiovisual classroom & alarm system - J.W. to speak to Bursar & Headmaster.

4. Membership

New members -Dr albrecht Scheuer, Miss leanne Hearman.

Prospective members - Mrs Beryl Lavender, Mr Guy Lavender
Mr. Stan Tyrer

Committee in Agreement - Geography Dept. University. to be made honorary member - send Stardust for students to read ,K.H. to tell Prof McGie.

5. Correspondence

Letters Received - Brian *Wilmot* + Grahamstown SCIFEST Brochures - brochures handed out at meeting

- J.W. received Occultation Floppy disc from Danie Overbeek

Letters written - to Headmaster St Charles + meeting schedule
Thank you letter to Danie & Andy Overbeek for book present
Pied Blageek slides+poem+ covering letter to Editor MNASSA

Letters still to write - Return letter to Tim & Hillary Chance + paper cutting of Natal Witness feature
Thank you letter to Toti Rotary club for Donation

Contact with outside World

Complaint to ASSA re 1. Handbook never being out by December of preceeding year.
2. Quality of Diagrams in Handbook very poor
R.R. to make copy's using own soft ware
K.H. & R.R. to draft letter to accompany this with our complaints.

Symposium

J.W. had phone call from Louis Barendse -Pretoria Centre querying why no Symposium. J.W. told him he had spoken to Natal Centre & mentioned it to Andrew Gray in a letter. J.W. to find out what is going on from Natal Centre.

6. Treasurers Report

Gen Fund now R1 415.75

Scrap S&T renewal notice get S&T through ASSA

25 Handbooks sent - only 20 charged for by ASSA -committee in agreement to pay for 20 less 20% as stated in Invoice

6. Treasurers Report Cont.
K.H. to pay invoice from Publicity Association for NMC membership.
7. Stardust
Meeting Attendance -16 members(2 being new), 4 visitors, 1 apology
R.J. for sees no problem
R.J. to continue with format of stardust. J.W. to get copy reduced
& then photocopy
8. Library
S.de V. started to tape Astro. Programmes
Goeff Prosser has book Small Astronomical Observatories -still to put
library label in it
Dr. Bary Lewis says he will ask his brother to bring out from U.S.A.
History & practice of Sundials for us in May NMC will pay him then
Bary also says we may borrow his other books on Sundials if we wish
K.H. to organize
W.Herschel still not contacted K.H. to get phone number from J.W.
Still to sort out S&T binding
9. P.R.O
R.J. wrote to Editor of Natal Witness re incorrect diary advert for
NMC. -had phone call back from Mrs. Joan Mathewman -now in charge
of Witness diary - says she will sort it out.
??? Outreach to other race groups
10. Instruments & Observatory
Success at last after no result phone calls to Irene Ross -J.W.
had phone call to say phone Reddimix & tell them what day we want
concrete - they will get an order number from Frankipile
Need help to float slab -? Sat A.M. or late one week afternoon
J.W., R.R., R.J. Ivan Schroeder Herman Buchler contact to help
Plastic sheet needs replacing -has been degraded by sun -R.R. to
organize.
Fantastic clearing progress with trees made by D.Kain ,R.J. R.R.
& Ivan Schroeder
R.R. has received through E. Mail information on Planetarium &
Projects in Japan
11. Education
Brian Wilmot (Grahamstown) says plenty of money available for
science centres being set up around country - if NMC. serious
about observatory centre - says think big, plan a science centre
with it, money will be available!
Hayfields church wants a repeat talk & show Distance to the stars
P.H. to organize
12. General.
R.R. approached by Dr Grainger from Botany Dept.- asks if he can
take 6 bags of humus from observatory site for project on Fungi
No objection by committee if a donation to observatory fund

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 18/3/1997 at J.W. Home ,

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR.&MRS.J. WATSON
on 18/3/1997

Present : J.Watson, R.Roth, K.Hampson, P.Hawkins
ApoIs. : R.Jarmain, S.de Vos, A.Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2015hrs - minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.

2. Matters Arising

R.J's October Stardust revised article read by committee & commented upon.

Nothing more heard from Model Engineering Society - will let R.R. know closer to time when they want NMC. to meet them - May, June, July Handbooks arrived reasonably good time - end of January! R.R.&K.H. still to write a complaint - R.R. has done work on it re Sky Map.

3. Planning

Vote of thanks to R.R. for his super lecture on Meteors, meteorites & impact craters.

April 9/4/1997 J.W. lecture on curious galaxies

May 13/5/1997 Telescope Dust off session - Rob Ginslove unusual telescopes, J.W. to phone Geoff Prosser + bring Dancer, + Herman Buchler P.H. to phone.

No problem re St Charles Audio Visual room - cupboard moved successfully.

Future - ? Sundial Building - Bary Lewis K.H. to ask

4. Membership

Prospective members Heather & Patrick Reynolds, Ruth Crippen, Douglas Hall.

K.H. to speak to Prof McGee re Address for Stardust to Geog. Dept.

R.R. to post Stardusts internally to Grayson, Graham (physics) & Kotse

5. Correspondence

Letters Written ; To Tim & Hillary + Newspaper Cutting of Telescopes & Astronomers at observatory

Letters Received: From JHB centre ? from Danie Overbeek

From Tracy Baving - still wanting to become a memb

Update on SCIFEST brochure from Brian Wilmot

If need official Programme to send R10.00 J.W. mic

Applications for Financial Assistance from Dept.

of Culture & Education - J.W. will attempt to fill!

it in - to be sent by 31/3 - & to contact Andries Botha.

Letters to write : Thank you letter to Toti Rotary club
To Anne Renfrew

To Post : Cheque to ASSA - for Handbooks

To send back : J.W. To return Occultation Disc to Danie Overbeek
J.W. will attempt to plot some for Lunar or minor planets occultations later in year.

Symposium : Definetly No symposium this year

6. Treasures Report

Have paid ASSA for handbooks R240.00

Have sold 19 handbooks

Have paid publicity Association for NMC membership 1997 -R55.00

Gen. Fund R1330.00

Obs. Fund R1200.00 - after deductions of payment for plastic +condi

Toti donation R150.00 to go to observatory fund

K.H. sold Telescope belonging to her nephews Mother-in-law for R1000

Mrs. Baris will donate R200.00 from this sale

7. Stardust

R.R. to write shortened Stardust -J.W. to write report of R.R. tal
put in Stardust

8. Library

Nothing to report

S de V. says he will buy some video tapes when he is paid for his new job & start taping videos for the library

Dr. Bary Lewis's brother not coming on a visit now -will still buy & send Sundial book

Cupboard moved successfully

K.H. contacted Wayne Herschell he says he will send back Sky & telescope July 95.

P.R.O.

Outreach to other race groups - maybe through museum

Instruments & Observatory

Plastic bought & put down & conduit for telescopes in place

All ready for concrete floor to be poured

Ventry of Telescopes + ~~ACCESSORIES~~

K.H. has screen & wooden box

R.R. has box of accesories 2 equitorial mounts, 6" telescope *Newtonian*
cover for Dancer + counter wait & box of eye pieces

J.W. has Dancer tube & suitcase of eyepieces

Education

Dates set for running course at Umgeni Valley in July 1st.-24th
viewing as part of every night after lectures

To ask R.J. to work out advertising for course

Tues. & Thur. booked with Jeanette Stewart charge R10.00 an evening
R60.00 for entire course

Wickham Collegiate want star viewing evening⁺ middle of June97

?venue? Umgeni Valley J.W. to contact Jeanette Stewart & Pam
Esterhuizen Geog. teacher.

12. General

Insurance for NMC equipment - esp. when observatory working +
security.

6" Newtonian telescope to be sold to members in parts - committee
in agreement to agree on price.

Dr. Granger, Botany Dept. says thanks for Humus from site - but
no donation!!

Herbicide "Garlon" to clear up wattles R.R. brother says works well
? cost.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 15/4/1997 at R.R. Home

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF Mr. & Mrs R. ROTH
on 15/4/1997

Present : R.Jarmain, R.Roth, S.de Vos, K. Hampson, J. Watson
ApoIs. : A Versveld, P. Hawkins

1. Meeting commenced at 2015hrs. -minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.
2. Matters Arising
Comments on R.J. October Stardust article J.W. gave R,J. his ideas - agreed that R.J. must send it to S&T for a try at Focal Point article.
P.M.B. Model Engineering Society meeting Mon. 23rd June -want a practicle demonstration & talk on telescopes and telescope making group to take'scopes with them - contact Goeff Prosser.
R.R. &K.H. still to write complaint to Editor of Handbook.
3. Planning
Vote of thanks to J.W.on superb lecture on curious galaxies.
May meeting 14/5/1997 - Telescope dust off session - J.W. has contacted Rob Ginslove will bring unusual telescope. J.W. has contacted Goeff Prosser ,may be able to come. J.W. will bring Dancer Tube.
K.H. to phone Herman Buchler re to bring his telescope & anything else he has + committee & anyone else to bring theirs. R.J. to mention in Stardust.
June meeting 7/6/1997 - Star party -viewing venue - Umgeni Valley + combined with pupils from Wykham Collegiate N.B.this is a SATURDAY July A.G.M. 12/7/97N.B. SATURDAY -K.H. to confirm with Annette Dybwad venue at her home + viewing
K.H. to contact St. Charles Librarian re being able to go to Audio Visual classroom over weekend without triggering alarm.to sortout S&T
K.H. still to ask Barrie Lewis re lecture on Sundials
4. Membership
New members Heather & Patrick Reynolds, Beryl Lavender, Guy Lavender.
Prospective Members - 14
Geog.Dept.Natal University Honory Membership
? re Country membership fee to be brought up at A.G.M.
5. Correspondence
R.J. letter to natal Witness re Hale Bopp for where readers can see it
Letter from Dr. John S. Fisser (missionary) at Scottburgh - to Editor of Stardust re R.J. Wormwood article & enormous comet on head on collision course with earth this year 1997!!! - R.J. to reply -tried to phone Tim Cooper head of comet section ASSA. for any enlightenment re this comet-but he has gone overseas. R.J.will contact him again.
Letters from - Prof.McGee thanking NMC for Hon. Membership forGeog. Dept.
- P.M.B. Trans.Council No grant in aid awarded(J.W. has letter.
Letters still to write - Thank you to Toti Rotary club
Thank You to Penny Baris for R200.00 donation
Contact with Ann renfrew
K.H.to sort out Angela Banting's P/O with Perm hayfields - if no luck
J.W. to go to higher personel.
J.W. sent back Occultation documents to Danie Overbeek + letter
No reply needed to Technology editor of Mail&Guardian Newspaperre cutting edge weekly phocus on science.
J.W, sent application to dept of Education & Culture applying for R800.00 aid.

6. Treasurers REPORT
 K.H. sold another handbook R15.00
 S.de V. still owes R15.00 for handbook)-5 still unsold
 Gen. Fund R1451.13
 Obs. Fund R1215.24 + K.H. owing R200.00 donation made by Penny
 Baris for sale of Telescope
 Greg Gopul paid subs at meeting
 R50.00 book voucher - to be sent to Mrs G.Secretan Cox for winning
 cross star puzzle + list of answers.
7. Stardust
 Congratulations to R.R. for March Stardust + big thank you from R.J.
 his hand is better.
 R.J. says will write a guest article every now & then when living
 at Jeffreys bay.
 May Stardust in hand.
8. Library
 R28.00 for 2 video tapes K.H. to withdraw from Gen. fund & give to
 S.de V. to buy video tapes to start recording Astronomer series.
 K.H. to contact St Charles librarian re problem to go to audio
 visual classroom during weekend.
9. P.R.O.
 R.J. has written letter to Natal Witness telling readers about
 Hale-Bopp comet where to find it + table including relevant dates
 + map of sky from sky map.
 J.W. made comments on R.J article from October Stardust.
10. Instruments & Observatory
 J.W. going ahead with contacts re laying obs. floor
 R.R. & Ivan Schroeder have trimmed reinforcing & put in Electrical
 conduits
 R.R. to investigate further contact re bricklaying.
 R.R. to contact Doug Bowden or Ricky Potts re wattle control scheme
11. Education
 PMB Model Engineering meeting 23 June 1997
 Land Service Camp ? date during July
 1st May Thurs. Bianca Lawrence giving talk on space travel to
 St Annes needs Binoculars ? time for committee members
 7th June meeting combined with Wykham Collegiate at Umgeni Valley
 venue to be confirmed
 2nd July replay of Journey to the stars at All Saints
 Course at Umgeni Valley confirmed 8 sessions + viewing Tues & Thurs
 July 3rd-29th - 2 members interested Leanne Hermann & Heidi Snyman
 cost R60.00
12. General
 R.R. says PMB model Engineering soc. says Trans Council rethinking
 about allowing long leases -NMC leasing from girl guides -no problem

NEXT COMMITTEE 20/5/1997 at K.H. home

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF K. HAMPSON
on 20/5/1997

Present : R. Jarmain, R. Roth, P. Hawkins, K. Hampson, J. Watson

Apols. : S. de Vos, A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 1955 hrs. minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.

2- Matters Arising.

R.J.'s. October Stardust article + original cartoon sent to S.&T.
Edited version sent to MNASSA

Model Engineers evening Mon 23rd June ± 7.30pm

R.R. & K.H. still to write complaint re Handbook - P.H. says he will try & word a complaint

No apologies from Rob Ginslove or Goeff Prosser for not comming to the meeting with telescopes

3. Planning

Good May meeting - no viewing plenty of telescopes

June meeting N.B. Sat. 7/6/1997 - Star Party at Umgeni Valley with Wykham Collegiate pupils J.W. to confirm time.

July A.G.M. 12/7/1997 confirmed with Annette Dybwad at her home 8A Grimthorpe Ave. + food + viewing,

K.H. still to contact St Charles Librarian re triggering alarm if go to library cupboard over weekend

Barrie Lewis says he will give lecture on Sundials with help re histroy etc. will talk only on how he made his Sept, ?Oct. 1997
21/5/1997 Geog Dept - viewing from Roof weather permitting

4. Membership

New members: Heidi Snyman, carlos de Silva, D. Stevens & son Christopher

Resignation : Michael Schreuder

Suspects.: Hilton College, D. Pitcher, Joan Baxter wants to join again

5. Correspondence

Letters sent : donation thank you's to Penny Baris, & Toti Rotary club
Answer Anne Renfrew farwell letter

Letters received: from G. Secretan-Cpx for Starcross prize

Mr P. Mihalik asking for information on Hisory of N.M.C. & our activities R.J. to answer

R.J. responded to Dr. Fisher 's letter re comet crashes - outcome dr Fisher worried about Hale-Bopp!!

K.H. wrote letter to ASSA re difficulty & short notice with subs & S.&T. subs

6. Treasurers Report

Gen. Fund R656.25

Obs. Fund R1215.24 S. de Vos still owes R15.00 for Handbook

R560.00 uot to ASSA for N.M.C. & ST Charles Subs & S.&T.

R.J.'s expences re Oct, Stardust article & postage to be refunded from petty cash cost of book voucher has been refunded.

7. Stardust well under way - lead article (Hale-Bopp) complete

8. Library

K.H. did not pay S. de V. for videos tapes

R.R. & K.H. to sort out S&T's for binding

New book Sundials - History Theory & Practice bought via Barrie Lewis - to refund him R100.00 to review when gets exact price from his brother

9. P.R.O.

R.J.'s letter to Natal Witness got front page re Hale Bopp
+ 2x revamped pct. Stardust article sent to S&T & MNASSA
Pied Blageek printed in MNASSA
R.J. will write to Mr.Mihalik re History of N.M.C. etc,

10. Instruments & Observatroy

R.R. taking Handyman to Observatry site Thurs.22/5/97 to see iif
he can lay floor & continue with walls J.W will try & go too
P.H. made an offer to R.R. for N.M.C's 6" telescope (old & damaged)
committee accepted his offer of R150.00
R.R. has not contacted Doug Bowden or Ricky Potts yet
Jon Lawrence says will cost ± R500,00 for seeds to grass coverarea
Ivan Schroeder says does not feel safe to go to site to work on
his own - security of site a big problemto be solved

11. Education

Correction/Course at Umgeni Valley to be run from 1st to 24th July
Model Engineering evening Mon 23rd June 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Landservice camp still no dates
Ladsworth Primary School evening ? Fri. 13th ,K.H. to confirm with
Anne Powell- committee to take telescopes J.W to take slides
Geog Dept. 21/5/1997 bring Binoculars 1730 hrs depending on weather
Isipingo/prospection Rotary club evening 30th June at Umgeni valley
Replay of Journey to the nearest star at All Saints 2nd July

12. General

~~Discussion~~ re charge to country members

R.J. to suggest to Dr.Fisher he join as Senior Citizen

P.H. suggests increase in subs Fullmember R50,00

Family member 60.00

Sen.Citizen/Student R30.00

to bring before A.G.M.

N.B. Agenda for A.G.M. for next committee meeting + any nominations
for committee

R.R. suggests to have an award for non committee member for hard
work done forN.M.C. suggests Ivan Schroeder 1st to be awarded
Floating Trophy award ? what to be

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING 17/6/1997 at R.J. home

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT HOME OF MR. & MRS. R. JARMAIN
on 17/6/1997

PRESENT : K. Hampson, R. Jarmain, P. Hawkins, R. Roth, J. Watson

APOLS. : S. de Vos, A. Versveld

1. Meeting commenced at 2005hrs. minutes of previous meeting read & accepted
2. Matters Arising.
Still no complaint written yet re. Handbook
Model Engineers evening still on for 23rd. June 1930hrs.
3. Planning.
Viewing from Geog. Dept. - weather not too "hot"! & steel structure moved & shook while viewing.
June meeting at Umgeni Valley not well attended except for Whykham-Collegiate Girls approx. 13 members in all.
Ladsworth Evening for 18/6/1997 J.W. will organize time.
July AGM. 12/7/1997 confirmed at Annette Dybwads home 1830hrs. for 1900hrs. 8A Grimthorpe Ave. Telescopes & binoculars for viewing. Food bring & share - bring own Drink & share Cups/mugs coffee, tea, sugar bring from Astronomy cupboard. Chairs for sitting outside when viewing.
4. Membership.
2 New members Tracy Baving
Dr. Fetti Ahmed
5. Correspondence.
R.J. Replied to Mr. Mihalik + copy of MNASSA article on NMC. 1994
R.J. P.R.O. letter to Witness re Advertising June Meeting
Reply from KwaZulu /Natal Arts & Culture Council re Application for funding for NMC.
2 returned Stardusts ? 1 incorrect Address
6. Treasurers Report
Gen. Fund R472.64
Observatory Fund R1375.41
See increase in Subs suggested in May Meeting to bring up at A.G.M.
P.H. Gave K.H. cheque for R100.00 for Barrie Lewis for Sundial book
J.W. still to give P.H. amount of his expences
7. Stardust
Lead article under way
8. Library
Sunday 22nd R.R., K.H., P.H. to sort out Library cupboard for S&T's to be bound.
P.H. will contact Librarian re opening classroom over weekend.
9. P.R.O.
See 5. Correspondence re advertising June meeting
R.J. will send particulars to Natal Witness re A.G.M.
10. Instruments & Observatory
Handyman still not thrown observatory floor he Phoned R.R. says it will be done before end of June & A.G.M. his quote is R450.00 to do floor & R5 600.00 to complete the building to roof.

11. Education

Astronomy talks given by J.W. to Voortrekker school+ viwing with committee members R.R.,K.H., R.J.

to Brownie group
to Scouts at Northdale

Talks & viewing for June&July

Ladsworth school -talk slides + viewing 18/6/1997

Model Engineers - talk on telescopes + viewing 23/6/1997

Isipingo/Prospection Rotary club -Talk slides +viewing 30/6/1997
at Umgeni Valley

All Saints church - Review of Journey to the Stars 2/7/1997

Astronomy course at Umgeni Valley Tues. & Thurs 1/7/1997 to
24/7/1997 approx 14 students

12. General

Annette Dybwad says Bishopstowe club will allow N.M.C. to use it as a venue for viewing -not much light pollution

TVL. centre holding Astro."weekend"! at Swinburne 6-9/7/1997

A.G.M

R.J. to put Agenda in Stardust

Resolution made to propose increase in subs

Full members/Couple members R50.00

Senior Citizens/Students R30.00

R.R. will act as secretary for K.H.

R.J. to state in Stardust, meeting open to family members

Members to lobby for coming onto committee -

Bianca Lawrence

Roger Clifford

Robin Kell

Charles Pert

Herman Buchler

Christine Buchler

Ivan Schreuder

David Kain

Harry Tunmer

Jeanette Stewart

R.J. to say Farewell to NMC.

Prize for Extraordinary effort to Ivan Schreuder R50.00 gift voucher

Next Committee ^{DATE +} (~~Tuesday 15/7/1997~~) venue to be discussed at A.G.M.
~~MEETING~~

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the home of Mrs Annette Dybwad of 8A Grimthorpe Avenue, Lincoln Meade on Saturday, 12 July 1997 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was attended by 9 members of the Natal Midlands Centre ('the Centre'). 4 apologies were received and 2 visitors were present.

1. The Chairman, Mr John Watson, welcomed everybody present and thanked Mrs Dybwad for allowing the Centre the use of her very comfortable home.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were read and accepted unanimously. No comments were forthcoming.

Prop. P. Hawkins Sec. R. Jarman

3. Chairman's Report

Mr Watson reviewed all the activities of the Centre for the past year and thanked the outgoing committee and members for making the year a very successful one. Points discussed were:

- i 25 new members joined the Centre, 5 resignations. The Centre bade farewell to four valuable members during the year: Mike and Lorraine Christianson (to Cape Town) and Tim and Hilary Chance (to England).
- ii A wide variety of very successful educational programmes were embarked upon during the course of the year. Contact with other Centres included a successful inauguration of the Natal Centre's new telescope facility in Durban. The annual symposium, ~~Frankenysa~~ **ASSA**, did not get off the ground in Durban as planned.
- iii Sadly the Ladysmith Centre had to close down due to several pivotal members leaving the Society.
- iv Some hefty expenses were borne by the Centre during the year, mainly going towards the construction of the observatory. Fortunately finances are still fairly healthy.
- v Stardust is not as big or as expensive to produce as other Centre's newsletters (a plus in our favour) but has been more than good enough thanks to the Editor.
- vi Many audio-visual programmes were presented to audiences at schools, clubs, Scouts, Rotary and various other organisations during the year. Funds for the observatory project were forthcoming in the form of many cash donations.
- vii Several new books were purchased for the library. Binding of previous volumes of Sky & Telescope is in progress
- viii The observatory floor has been completed. Sufficient bricks are present for the next phase of the project. Control of the wattle regrowth is a continuing problem - many thanks are due to certain members for spending many hours of hard labour clearing the site. A 'Meritorious Service' award for 1997 was presented to Mr Ivan Schroeder for his contribution in this regard.
- ix Telephonic communication with the general public led to much free publicity for the Centre during the year. Preliminary

discussions are in progress with the Natal Museum re. the establishment of a planetarium facility.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Centre, bade a fond farewell to Rusty and Anne Jarmain who's immense contribution to the Society over the years cannot adequately be expressed in words.

Prop. P. Hawkins Sec. S. de Vos

4. Treasurer's Report

A statement of Income and expenditure was presented reflecting a closing balance of R1549-09 (R568-65 in the General Fund and R929-54 in the Observatory Fund).

Prop. R. Roth Sec. A. Norris

It was proposed that the annual subscriptions be revised and simplified:

Single and Family Membership R50-00
Senior Citizen and Student R30-00

Prop. P. Hawkins Sec. R. Roth

5. Election of Office Bearers

As there was a general paucity of members present at the AGM only five members were nominated and elected to serve on the committee for 1997/98. They are:

Messrs P. Hawkins, R. Roth and J. Watson,
Ms K. Hampson and L. Hearmon.

Prop. R. Jarmain Sec. P. Hawkins

6. Other Business

a) The Chairman thanked Mr S. de Vos for his contribution to the Society over the past year as he was no longer able to occupy his position on the Committee.

b) Mr P. Hawkins proposed that the Society spend it's efforts and finances at establishing a planetarium rather than an observatory as this would be more accessible to the general public and would 'put Pietermaritzburg on the map'. Mr C. Lake then suggested that the Society stays with the observatory idea and purchase a selection of educational videos in lieu of an expensive planetarium. Mr Rusty Jarmain then pointed out that a planetarium projector can be fabricated from a cistern float and a few tobacco cans (!).

On this rather interesting note Mr P. Hawkins thanked the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, for his dedication and hard work through the year.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm and all present partook in a light supper and some successful stargazing from Mrs Dybwads patio.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

AGM 1997

12/7/1997

Members

- Aminé NORRIS
- Heanne Harmon
- Philip Hawks
- John Watson
- Seve de Vos
- Kusty Jannain
- ~~Rossie Roth~~
- ~~Steve de Vos~~
- Annette Dybweed

Visitors

- Anne Jannain
- Margaret Lake

APOLs

- (K. HAMPTON
{ willing to stay a committee
as librarian (lib.) }
- J. Stewart
- Jour Bianca Lawrence
- Veronica Collingwood

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

CHAIRMANS REPORT 1996/97

1. Membership

25 new members joined the Centre during the year, with only 5 resignations being recorded. We also sadly said goodbye to Tim and Hilary Chance (to U.K.) and Mike and Lorraine Christianson (to Capetown)

2. Monthly Meetings

As usual, a wide variety of programmes have been arranged, ranging from quizzes through slide/video presentations to star parties.

3. Contact with other Centres

It was good to get together with Natal Centre for their November meeting to christen their re-furbished telescope. Unfortunately, the Annual Symposium scheduled for May 1997 did not materialise, and we are sad that the Ladysmith Society is folding up.

4. Funds

Despite some fairly hefty expenses, together with rising costs of administration, you will be glad to see that our finances are healthy for now.

5. Stardust

Although not as large as the newsletters produced by other Centres, ours has been more than adequate, and of exceptional quality thanks to the faithful efforts of our editors.

6. Education

Talks/slide shows/star parties have been presented to many and varied groups on a fairly regular basis. Our 5th course in Basic Astronomy is currently in progress with some 24 students.

7. Library

Apart from the monthly Sky & Telescope and MNASSA, one or two new books have been purchased, and videos are currently being added. The library has been well used, and old copies of Sky & telescope are earmarked for binding in the near future.

8. Observatory

The building is now completed to floor level, and a sufficient quantity of bricks is available to commence the next phase. Control of gum/wattle regrowth continues to be a major problem, and sincere thanks are due to those loyal members who have spent hours in keeping this under control.

9. General

- a) The two comets that have paid us a visit during the year have aroused a lot of public interest, not to mention the Mars Pathfinder. This in turn has given us quite a lot of free publicity.
- b) Preliminary discussions have been held with the Natal Museum regarding the establishment of a planetarium in Pmburg.
- c) A number of ideas regarding fund-raising have been discussed by your committee, not least of which is an Astronomical Calendar for sale to the public in 1998.

In conclusion, may I on behalf of all the members of the Centre say a very big thankyou to the committee which have worked so hard to make this another memorable year

John Watson

CHAIRMAN

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

(NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS AS AT 2 JULY 1997
GENERAL FUND

INCOME

BALANCE AT BANK AS AT 30 JUNE 1996		548.14
	SUBSCRIPTIONS	2531.50
	SALES	464.00
	DONATIONS	1520.80
	INTEREST	60.36
	TOTAL	5124.80

EXPENDITURE

	TFR; TO OBSERVATORY		
	FUND	1275.80	
	STATIONERY	250.47	
	REFRESHMENTS	60.45	
	TELEPHONE CALLS	28.01	
	POSTAGE	787.35	
	HANDBOOK PURCHASES	240.00	
	PHOTOCOPYING	379.82	
	BOOK PURCHASE	100.00	
	SUBSCRIPTIONS (ASSA96/97)	400.00	
	(ASSA97/98)	560.00	
	(PMB. PUBLICITY ASS)	55.00	
	SUNDRIES	419.25	
	TOTAL	4556.15	
BALANCE AS PER BANK BOOK AS AT	2 JULY 1997		568.65

OBSERVATORY FUND

BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 1996		2838.14	
INCOME	TFR; FROM GENERAL FUND	400.00	
	DONATIONS	1405.80	
	SALE OF EQUIPMENT	150.00	
	INTEREST	48.01	
	TOTAL	4841.95	
	EXPENDITURE BUILDING MATERIALS & LABOUR TOTAL	3912.41	
BALANCE AS 2 JULY 1997			929.54

PETTY CASH

CASH ON HAND AS AT 1 JULY 1996		129.22	
DISBURSEMENTS	PHOTOCOPYING	16.60	
	SECONDHAND SLIDE SCREEN	10.00	
	CLUB PHOTOS	49.00	
	QUIZ PRIZES	2.72	
	TOTAL	78.32	
CASH ON HAND AS AT 2 JULY 1997			50.90
TOTAL CASH ASSETS AMOUNT TO			<u>1549.02</u>

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

1997/1998 COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr J. Watson
Vice-Chairman	Mr R. Roth
Secretary	Miss L. Hearmon
Treasurer	Mr P. Hawkins
Newsletter	Mr R. Roth
Library	Miss K. Hampson
Education	Mr J. Watson
P.R.O.	Miss K. Hampson
Instruments & Observatory	Mr R. Roth
Council Rep	Miss K. Hampson

Addresses & Telephone numbers

Mr J. Watson	P.O. Box 330, Hilton, 3245	0331-433646	(h)
		0331-452510	(w)
Mr R. Roth	P.O. Box 100210, Scottsville, 3209	0331-442635	(h)
		0331-2605147	(w)
Miss L. Hearmon	16 Holder Rd, Bisley, Pmb 3201	0331-461206	(h)
Mr P. Hawkins	1 Ashbourne, Harwin Rd, Pmb 3201	0331-460303	(h)
Miss K. Hampson	P.O. Box 212095, Oribi, 3205	0331-966772	(h)
		0331-426773	(w)

.....

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
A.S.S.A. (Natal Midlands)
P.O. Box 2106
Pietermaritzburg
3200

NB Additional members to be co-opted
onto a sub-committee for our
observatory building project.

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR & MRS P HAWKINS ON 21 JULY 1997**

PRESENT: K Hampson, P Hawkins, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. Meeting commenced at 19:55. Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.
Positions of committee members were delegated as follows:
J Watson - Chairman, Education
R Roth - Vice chairman, Stardust, Instruments
P Hawkins - Treasurer
K Hampson - Library, PRO, Council rep.
L Hearmon - Secretary

- Projects to be covered by all committee at this stage.
- Bianca Lawrence will help with setting up of functions.
- Chris Lake will help with the observatory.
2. **Matters Arising**
AGM was poorly attended & it was proposed that a mini AGM be held at the next monthly meeting - as 2 further committee members are needed. Thanks were expressed to A Dybwad for her hospitality at the AGM.
Report back: - Letters were received from Laddsworth school to J Watson thanking him for speaking to them on the 18 June 1997.
- 23 people are attending the course at the Umgeni Valley Project.
3. **Planning**
Next meeting on the 13 August - J Watson suggested a Mars evening incorporating a discussion on Mars & the pathfinder & possibly Mir. A Dybwad has a video to be shown on the subject.
Subjects for the September & October were also discussed these included:
- A talk about sundials etc. by Barry Lewis.
- J Watson will try to organise something with a certain Prof. of computer science from the University who is knowledgeable on astronomy.
4. **Membership**
3 new members: Mr K Schutz
Mr & Mrs Broli (Brian & Doreen)
- Dr D Grayson has moved & therefore been taken off the mailing list.
- It was agreed to stop sending news letters to Harare, Bloemfontein, Cape, Windhoek, Namibia & Rhodes.
5. **Correspondence**
Incoming Mail:
- Letter received from Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society thanking the society for the talk given on 23 June 1997.
- A Renfrew wrote thanking for correspondence & requesting a handbook.
- SA Astronomical Observatory annual report received.

- Letter from the Ladysmith Astronomical Society, which ceased to exist midnight 30th June 1997, was received. Their remaining funds of R250,87 will be donated to the ASSA Midlands Centre in Pietermaritzburg.

Outgoing Mail:

- Thank you letter sent to Frankpile SA (Pty) Ltd for concrete for the observatory.

6. Treasurers Report

General Fund R568,65

Observatory Fund R929,54

- An amount of R250,87 to still be donated from Ladysmith Astronomical Society.

- J Watson still to speak to Wykeham Collegiate about money still owing.

7. Stardust

Lead article under way by our new editor R Roth.

8. Library

S & T magazines have been sorted out by K Hampson, P Hawkins & R Roth & are in the process of being bound. R Roth is taping the series 'Cosmos' off the TV for the library. No S & T has yet been received for July.

9. PRO

K Hampson will liaise with The Natal Witness for advertising in the 'Friday' supplement etc.

10. Instruments & Observatory

The slab has been thrown & paid for at the observatory!

Possible sub-committee to be formed to help with organisation at observatory & keep growth of wattles under control.

11. Education

Talks at Laddsworth school & Model Engineers have been completed, & the astronomy course is on track.

- It has been decided to give the students on the course a certificate & this has been drawn up by R Jarman.

- J Watson has been approached by Beth McGladdery to possibly speak to 110 pupils of the University Science foundation bridging course.

12. General

R Roth suggested that the calender & sky maps he produces are embellished a bit to make them more attractive & easier to read. He will approach A Dybwad in connection with this & ask for ideas & express his at our next general meeting.

Meritorious Service award is to be presented to Mr I Schroeder.

Several ideas were discussed at AGM concerning a planetarium at the museum & this will remain on the agenda.

Meeting closed at 21:40. Next committee ^{meeting} to be held on 18 August 1997 at the home of L Hearmon (16 Holder Rd).

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MISS L HEARMON ON 18 AUGUST 1997

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, P Hawkins, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:45. Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.
2. Matters Arising
J Watson presented Mr Ivan Schroeder with his meritorious service award at the last monthly meeting. There was a good turnout at the last meeting.
J Watson still to get in touch with Wykeham Collegiate.
3. Planning
The 10th September meeting will be an evening on 'Space Stations, past, present & future'.
 - J Watson will ask Bianca Lawrence to host the evening &/or bring material on the subject, & if any other members have any information/pictures to bring. A Dybwad also has a video to show on Mir.
 - P Hawkins asked if R Roth will highlight the upcoming eclipse in Stardust & perhaps use different print.
 - The October meeting will be held at the University campus, with a talk by Prof. Peter Warren who has a PhD in astronomy.
4. Membership
1 new member: Mr J Loughlin
 - Dr D Grayson has moved to Pietersberg but would, however, like to stay on as a member.
 - A Stardust is also to be sent to Mr D Gilman.
 - The address of Mr T Anderson has been confirmed by J Watson & back issues of Stardust & his account will be sent to him this month.
 - It was confirmed the news letters were not sent to Harare, Bloemfontien, Cape, Windhoek, Namibia & Rhodes.
 - Mr R Kell has resigned.
5. Correspondence
Incoming Mail:
 - Letter received from Mr G de Beer from the Ladysmith Astronomical Society with a cheque for R245,39.
 - News letters received from Johannesburg centre & Durban centre.Outgoing Mail:
 - J Watson replied to Mr G de Beer thanking him for the donation & informing him that a complimentary membership has been awarded to him.
6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R2684,51
Observatory Fund	R 931,71

 - An amount of R245,39 donated from the Ladysmith Astronomical Society is to go into the observatory fund, along with donations received from members in excess of R300.
 - Umgeni Valley Project money to go into observatory fund.
 - R Clifford discussed how the sub committee will obtain their money, either by float or claiming the money afterwards, but this will be discussed at their sub committee meeting.
7. Stardust
Main article for September will be on Mars.

- An article has also been included by K Hampson on the library.
- R Clifford also has an enclosure to put into Stardust on the progress of the observatory.
- P Hawkins asked R Roth to include a reminder to members to pay their subs.

8. Library

S & T magazines, 1991/92, have been bound & the posters have been laminated.
The S & T magazines for July & August 1997 have been received.

9. PRO

Rusty Jarman's article to appear in the next issue of Mnassa.

10. Instruments & Observatory

Sub committee was elected at last monthly meeting, it is as follows:

Chris Lake

Roger Clifford

Ivan Schoeder

Lionel Hedder

- Targets will be set at their meeting.

- They will find out how many bricks & cement are needed, so far we have approximately 3000 bricks.

- Water is the problem now & it was dicussed how to overcome this. J Watson will speak to the property owners. C Lake is working on getting drums for water.

- Prison labour was suggested by R Clifford, for clearing of wattles, & he will find out how much this will cost. He will also follow up advice on how to keep wattle growth down.

- R Roth suggested that the wattles are stacked neatly & left to form compost.

11. Education

- J Watson to speak to the University bridging group at the University on 21 August at 19:30, R Roth, K Hampson & R Jarman to attend aswell

- Back to Laddsworth one evening with telescopes, as the first evening was clouded out.

12. General

Around the middle of next month the society has been invited to Pat Mitchell's home in Pennington to look at some astronomical equipment she has for sale.

- R Clifford brought an ad from Port Edward about an astronomy display, this will go on the notice board.

- Planetarium & the embellishing of the sky maps still to remain on the agenda.

Meeting closed at 21:20. Next committee meeting to be held on 15 September 1997 at the home of L Hearmon.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MISS L HEARMON ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1997

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: P Hawkins

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40. Minutes of previous meeting read & accepted.
2. Matters Arising

Last meeting was discussed & it was agreed that it could have been better, & the video had not been arranged due to a communication breakdown.

 - J Watson has got in touch with Wykeham Collegiate & cheque is to follow shortly.
3. Planning

J Watson has tried to get through to the University to confirm next month's meeting but has had no luck. He will continue to try.

 - It was suggested for November's meeting that we have a video evening. K Hampson will contact A Dybwad for a video & J Watson will ask S de Vos for his videos, 'The Astronomers'.
 - The Christmas meeting was also discussed and this will probably be in the afternoon, at the observatory, with a braai extending into an evening viewing session.
4. Membership

J Watson sent a letter to Dr D Grayson with her Stardust.
Mr D Gilman & Mr T Anderson also received their copies of Stardust.
5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

 - MNASSA, September's S & T & newsletters from Durban, Johannesburg & Port Elizabeth were received.
 - The 1997 Almanac from Zimbabwe was received from Mr K Curtis (this will go into the library) with copies of their newsletters; information on the new 'Working Group' along with their new newsletter 'African Skies' was sent to the society. The University sent a letter, with a donation to J Watson (thanking him & R Roth, K Hampson & R Jarman for speaking to the University bridging group.

Outgoing Mail:

 - Thank you notes were sent to those members who gave donations.
6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R3015,70
Observatory Fund	R 214,71

 - Proposal From P Hawkings to transfer R1304,22 into Observatory fund.
 - R200 is still to be cleared from Bulawayo.
 - A reminder about payment of subs will be put in the Stardust. Those who have still not paid by next month will get a reminder with their Stardust, if still no payment is received no Stardust will be sent.
7. Stardust

R Roth was unsure about the enclosure on the observatory development, suggesting it was a bit expensive & extravagant, but was assured that there is no problem.

R Roth had the following suggestions to make:

 - That we try to get better quality photocopies of the Stardust, or
 - he will investigate the idea of having a firm advertise in Stardust & as payment, print the Stardust.
8. Library

K Hampson will include an article in next months Stardust about the library.
She will also attempt to sort out all books & cards ect.

- It was discussed that we need to start building up the video section of the library.

9. PRO

K Hampson to liaise with Mrs Matthewman of The Natal Witness.

10. Instruments & Observatory

R Clifford brought the minutes of their sub committee meeting & the enclosure for Stardust on the latest development of the observatory & asked what money is available to them.

- J Watson discussed the treasurers report which revealed an amount of R1518,93 in the Observatory fund.

- More bricks are still needed at the site. L Hedder will be available next week to transport bricks in his bakkie. Even with the bricks R Roth & J Watson have supplied, still more are needed & may need to be purchased.

- Cement needs to be bought & this was given the go ahead.

- R Clifford obtained a quote for the roof construction & this will be approx. R8000, he also suggested that a small generator is used for electricity.

- Negotiations are underway about spraying the area to keep the grounds under control, & wattles still need clearing.

- R Clifford said that to complete the entire project it will cost approx. R 10 000.

-J Watson commended the sub committee on their hard work.

11. Education

R Roth has been approached by a school group to see if the society would be interested in giving a talk to the pupils (approx. 11 years old). J Watson said he would be willing to do it & R Roth will also attend.

12. General

The trip to Pat Mitchell's is confirmed for the 28th September, a small group will be going to look at the equipment & have lunch then return later in the afternoon.

- J Watson spoke about the literature received on the United Nations Working Group for space science in Africa, he will read through it again to find out exactly what it is all about.

Meeting closed at 21:15. Next committee meeting to be held on 13 October 1997 at the home of R Roth.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR R ROTH ON 13 OCTOBER 1997

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40.
2. Matters Arising
Some corrections were made to last month's minutes, they are:
 - 'quote' in item 10, changed to 'estimate'.
 - 'cash' from Wykeham Collegiate, not a 'cheque'.
3. Planning
 - Next meeting is on 12 November 1997. A video evening is arranged.
 - We have received 'The Astronomers' from S de Vos for the next meeting, L Hearmon will watch the tape & choose 1 episode to watch at the meeting.
 - K Hampson spoke to A Dybwad about obtaining a video from her & this is arranged, but will be confirmed.
 - K Hampson has been in contact with Michealhouse & they have offered us the use of their computer department & software. It was suggested by them that it not be our Christmas meeting but perhaps January 1998. They will provide food, & a donation will be required, but this will be generously donated to our observatory fund. Robin Hall will get in touch with J Watson about this.
 - Our Christmas meeting was discussed & it will probably be on the 13th December, however, this is not confirmed as yet.
4. Membership
No new members.
However, application forms were given to 2 interested people at the last meeting.
5. Correspondence
Incoming Mail:
 - MNASSA, October's S & T & newsletters from Durban, Johannesburg & Bulawayo received.
 - A letter, with a donation, was received from Mr A Gray.Outgoing Mail:
 - Thank you notes were sent to members who gave donations.
6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R1711,48
Observatory Fund	R 912,92

 - P Hawkins to give money to R Clifford of the sub-committee on receipt of proper documentation.
 - J Watson handed in money for the sale of handbooks.
 - The R200 from Bulawayo has been cleared.
 - The amount in the observatory fund includes a donation from Mr A Gray.
 - Those members who have not as yet paid subs will be sent a reminder next month with no Stardust.
7. Stardust
Lead article is finished.
 - B Lawrence would like a regular column, & this was agreed upon.
 - So far there has been no success in finding better photocopiers or firms willing to print Stardust in return for advertising space, but will continue to try.
 - R Roth suggested that P Hawkins' name be on the front page of Stardust instead of his, it was also suggested that just the committee's names, position & phone numbers be printed - this will be looked into.
8. Library
Several donations have been made to the library, they are as follows:
The Astronomers - a video from S de Vos.
Cosmos - a video from R Roth.

Field Astronomy - a text book from R Clifford.

The Illustrated A Brief History of Time - book from R Roth

- K Hampson to start sorting library cards & making new ones.

9. PRO

- K Hampson has been in touch with Michealhouse about their offer (mentioned above).

- The fundraising event for next year was discussed & K Hampson will speak with B Lawrence about it

10. Instruments & Observatory

Progress is being made, bricks are being laid - R Roth's bricks have been delivered to the site & sand has been delivered. J Loughlin is doing a tremendous job at the observatory.

- Some problems with the cement delivery has been experienced but hopefully this will sort itself out.

- So far no news has been heard about the spraying of the area but R Clifford will try to contact Mondri again.

- R Clifford has been in contact with S Mills about the steel, Mr Mills already has the drawings & has estimated R15 000 for the supply & erection of it. P Hawkins has offered to investigate a cheaper price for the steel. Some steel should be delivered next week.

- In addition timber, water, fibre glass ect is still needed.

- R Clifford will arrange another meeting with the sub-committee.

- R Clifford had some suggestions to make about the observatory - he suggested that the outside walls have panels of mosaic depicting some constellations & the centres logo. A Dybwad does mosaic & could possibly be interested in this.

- On the inside walls, paintings could be hung - R Clifford has some of his own paintings showing the Hubble pictures. The committee were very enthusiastic about his ideas.

- R Jarman has donated an armillary sphere to the observatory which he made himself.

11. Education

- R Roth & J Watson went to K Kay's for the evening - they spoke & showed slides to the children & managed to see quite a bit through the telescopes.

- J Watson went for an evening with the Brownies - an astronomy theme was arranged by them which was very well organised & the children were able to look through the telescope.

- K Kay has approached R Roth saying she is willing to try to arrange more group talks for us with other groups of children. This will certainly be very greatly appreciated.

12. General

A small group of people (approx. 5) went to P Mitchel's on the 28 September to see the equipment, unfortunately some of it was not in very good condition, however, J Watson has made an inventory list & this will be sent out with Stardust at a later date for interested buyers.

- Mr Tumner is interested in the old S & T magazines & an equatorial mount, these will be given to him at no charge in light of his recent generous donation.

Meeting closed at 21:25. Next committee meeting to be held on 17 November 1997 at the home of P Hawkins.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR P HAWKINS ON 17 NOVEMBER 1997

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40.
2. Matters Arising
Rusty Jarman & his wife have left & safely arrived in Jeffrey's Bay.
3. Planning
 - P Hawkins suggested that in the future, not many braais should be arranged, he also said that video evenings should be scarce.
 - R Roth replied in saying that occasionally a video evening should be held.
 - P Hawkins further offered that the tea break should be half way through the meeting, & that there should be a mention of what can be seen in the sky in that respective month.
 - R Roth suggested that there be 2 workshops on telescope making.
4. Membership

1 new member: Adv. G Nel

 - Fees for joining at half year will be half price.
 - Mr D Du Prez is to come off the mailing list as he is no longer our council representative.
5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

 - Scifest information, MNASSA, newsletters from Bulawayo, Durban, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth & the November 1997 S & T.

Outgoing Mail:

 - A thank you letter to Prof. P Warren for speaking at our meeting.
 - To Mr K Curtis in Bulawayo for his generous donation. J Watson has offered to send our training course notes to Mr K Curtis as he is planning a course himself.
 - A letter to Mr A Gray acknowledging his letter & generous donation.
6. Treasurers Report

General Fund	R1679,70
Observatory Fund	R 915,25

 - With the current problems at Perm Bank the committee have given permission to P Hawkins to explore our options at other banks.
 - R50 was received from Wykeham Colligate.
 - Mr Tunner has been given the equatorial mount & the old S & T's will be sold to him at R110 for the 106 copies he as requested.
 - This money can then be put towards binding more S & T's.
7. Stardust
 - R Roth was complimented on the wonderful job he is doing on Stardust.
 - B Lawrence has her regular column.
 - A regular column will also be given to J Watson.
 - Through P Hawkins, Minolta are interested in doing the Stardust at only the price of the paper & with a small advert in it. P Hawkins will follow up on this.
8. Library
 - K Hampson has started sorting out cards & will make new ones, however, still more work is needed.
 - 3 videos have been given to the library & 'Cosmos' taped by R Roth is still to come.
9. PRO

K Hampson spoke to B Lawrence & she has suggested an event in Cedara. More about this will be discussed at a later date.
10. Instruments & Observatory

More bricks have arrived at the site & work is in progress.

 - R Clifford has been in touch with Mr Cousins about steel & is presently waiting to hear more .

- The sub-committee is still waiting for feedback on various steel prospects.
- R Roth suggested that tubular steel be used for the roof, this was discussed & will be considered.
- The spraying of the site has been done by Mondi & they have also offered to burn the wattles,
- R Clifford suggested that they be invited to the Christmas party as a thank you.
- R Clifford brought examples & diagrams, of the panels of the observatory, with his ideas about the mosaic which could be done on them. These were very impressive.
- R Roth said that the variable frequency generator for the telescope driver has been received.
- Mr P Cramb from the Natal Centre has been in touch with J Watson about Izinkhanyezi & has suggested a fork mounting for the 12 inch telescope.

11. Education

- J Watson spoke at a Rotary meeting lunch at the Imperial Hotel recently.
- J Watson is hoping to get in touch with Mr van Rensburg, ASSA Education Officer, who has been training teachers, & find out what he is doing.

Rijsdijk.

12. General

- R Roth suggested that badges be made with our logo on it & space for the wearers name. These can be made at R4 & sold for R5. The committee thought this to be a good idea.
- It was decided that more viewing evenings are needed.

Meeting closed at 21:10. Next committee meeting venue to be discussed at a later date.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR J WATSON ON 19 JANUARY 1998

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: None

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 20:05.

2. Matters Arising

Our December 1997 meeting was mentioned & although not a lot of members attended it was an enjoyable evening.

3. Planning

The February meeting was discussed & it was decided that R Roth & P Hawkins will give a talk. on telescopes ect. like that of the one they gave at Model Engineers.

- J Watson will speak of any new matters arising as well as give a preview of the year.

The March meeting was also discussed & it was decided to devote the evening to talking about the life cycle of stars including our Sun, however, this will be confirmed.

4. Membership

No new members but newsletters will be sent to 2 interested people this month.

- P Hawkins gave the committee the list of defaulters who have not paid their subs.

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

Mnassa, handbooks, S & T's up to February, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb & Zim have been received; as well as the Izinkanyezi notice.

Outgoing Mail:

Letter to St Charles school, J Watson wrote to the PMB Msunduzi TLC & Operation jump start asking for funds for the society. K Hampson also sent a Christmas card to Hilary & Tim Chance.

6. Treasurers Report

General Fund R1151,96

Observatory Fund R 400,11

- R623,97 was given to R Clifford for funds for the observatory.

- A total of R320 has been paid to Assa for the handbooks.

- P Hawkins has transferred the society's money into an NBS savings account (opened on 10 Dec 1997). The government levy on this account is costing a bit so he suggested that should anyone need money to let him know in advance so he can make one withdrawal.

- J Watson has sorted out the rent for the observatory with the Girl Guides & this is paid up.

- The costs of the course at Umgeni were discussed & as it proved to not be very profitable, this will be looked into.

- P Hawkins gave notice that he will not be available for reelection as treasurer as from the next financial year but will be willing to stay on the committee.

7. Stardust

P Hawkins has spoken to Minolta & they are willing to print Stardust at only the price of the paper & a small advertisement. R Roth is going to contact them.

8. Library

Two video tapes have been submitted by R Roth, they are: Reality on the Rocks & Cosmos.

R Clifford has also donated 2 books: Black Holes by J Taylor & The concise Planetary Ephemeris for 1950 to 2000 AD at noon.

- P Hawkins is also going to donate some books in the near future.

9. PRO

K Hampson pointed out an article in the new Mnassa as 1998 being the year of science and technology & that an organisation has been formed to promote this. Astronomy has been chosen as one of the so called thrust areas & she suggested that we write to them to ask for funds for our society. This will definitely be looked into.

10. Instruments & Observatory

R Clifford brought the minutes of their sub-committee meeting & the following topics were discussed:

- Electra Manufacturing have been chosen to do the roof as they quoted the lowest price.
- To get the ball rolling on the roof R Clifford has generously offered to sponsor it.
 - Also mentioned was the still further costs involved at the observatory eg. gable end enclosure with clear perspex, painting & telescope mounts etc. P Hawkins suggested that we should approach H Buchler to help with the telescope mountings. The matter of the mountings will be pursued.
- R Clifford suggested that a further sub-committee is formed to deal with the instruments.
- Sand & stone is at the site for the basis & a mixer is hopefully going to be obtained. The weekend of the 31st Jan & 1 Feb from 9am has been set aside to mix the concrete. The committee will try to get a hold of as many members as possible to come & assist.
- The constellations that will be depicted on the observatory walls have been decided, they are as follows: Taurus, Orion, Gemini, Southern Cross (gable wall south), Sagittarius, Scorpio, Virgo, Leo & the Solar System (gable wall north).

11. Education

P Hawkins is an acquaintance of the PRO of the museum, & they are interested in acquiring a Planetarium.

- J Watson is in the process of considering the astronomy course for this year.
- J Watson is to give a talk to the Minerva club at Golden Pond on the 17 June 1998.

12. General

R Roth brought examples of badges that could be worn by society members. These will be shown at our monthly meeting next month to get the members opinions. They will be sold eventually for R4 each.

- K Hampson will look into arranging something for the members to see the planetary occultation on the 14 feb.

Meeting closed at 21:45. Next committee meeting to be held at the home of Miss K Hampson on 16 February 1998.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MISS K HAMPSON ON 16 FEBRUARY 1998

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, J Watson

APOLOGIES: R Roth

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40.

2. Matters Arising

Our February meeting was discussed, mainly the problems experienced with it. J Watson has been in touch with St Charles, with no satisfactory response, about the problem of us not being able to get into the room at the school on the night of our meeting, not to mention our library being moved & things missing out of it. We have been asked by St Charles to submit an inventory list of things missing. K Hampson has already compiled a rough list.

- J Watson will write a letter to the headmaster to strongly express our grievances.

3. Planning

Our March meeting will be given by J Watson on the life cycle of stars accompanied by part of a video relating to the subject. This will probably be spread over 2 meetings, however, not necessarily consecutive.

- As our April meeting falls in the school holidays the meeting will be later, on the 15th & the committee meeting on the 20 April.

4. Membership

1 new member: Jean-Paul Lassel

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

S & T March, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb & Zim have been received. A response to J Watson's letters to Pmb TLC & Lotto have been received. Both offer no assistance at the moment but the TLC will send applications forms some time & Lotto require some proof that the society is exempt from tax which will be looked into.

6. Treasurers Report

Bank Balance R1393,42

- 3 more members have paid their subs for the year.

- R100 was received from H Tumner for old S & T's that he bought.

- P Hawkins suggested we write to NBS on an official letter head asking them to lessen their monthly fee.

- Also he asked if it's possible to have our AGM earlier in the year. K Hampson will write to A Gray to apply for this.

7. Stardust

It will be mentioned in this edition of Stardust that members will need to bring their own mugs to the meeting, as ours are missing from the library cupboard.

8. Library

- P Hawkins has donated 2 books: Amateur telescope making - Advanced (no's 2 & 3).

- With regard to the library cupboard at St Charles, which was in a mess, K Hampson & L Hearmon have made a start to tidy it up.

9. PRO

K Hampson will contact Ms M Joubert, the contact person for The Year of Science & Technology campaign, to ask about acquiring funds for the society.

- K Hampson is to get in touch with B Lawrence to ask her help in organising a star party. J Watson suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to arrange this.

- It was discussed who else we could approach for funds. P Hawkins suggested the Std Bank as they support Art & Culture.

10. Instruments & Observatory

The concrete pouring on the weekend of the 31 January was a great success, all the work was done & fun was had by all those who came & helped.

- Electra Manufacturing has been given the job & the steel is being assembled.

- Next job will be to paint the steel & the weekend of the 14 & 15 March has been set aside to do this. Members will be asked to bring a paint brush, cloth cleaning materials ect with them.

- H Buchler still to be approached about helping with the telescope mountings.

- R Clifford showed us photos of his paintings to be displayed at the observatory, these were commended by the committee as well as all his hard work with the observatory construction.

11. Education

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MISS L HEARMON ON 16 MARCH 1998

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, P Hawkins, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: Nonc

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:45.

2. Matters Arising

A new venue for our meetings was discussed, & it was decided to continue to hold our meetings at City Computers until a suitable venue is found. A number of suggestions were put forward & these will be looked into.

3. Planning

The April meeting will be on the 15th, & it was decided that R Roth will give a talk on telescope mountings. K Hampson, in the meantime, will approach Barry Lewis to give a talk to the society on sundials.

- It has been confirmed that there will be no problem to have our AGM in June instead of July.

4. Membership

1 new member: L Moodley (paid up)

- No other money for subs has come in this month from the defaulters list.

- J P Lassale to get an account this month, L Hearmon to write one up.

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

S & T April, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb, PE & Zim have been received. The TLC have sent application forms, which P Hawkins will fill in, to apply for financial assistance.

Outgoing Mail:

J Watson has written to the Bank to ask for a reduction in their fees charged, & to the revenue service to acquire documentation stating that the society is exempt from tax - this will enable us to apply to Lotto for financial assistance.

6. Treasurers Report

Bank Balance	R1420,08
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7. Stardust

Everything running smoothly so far.

8. Library

The committee will be on the lookout for somewhere to keep our library for a while until we find a permanent place to hold our meetings, & space for our cupboard there.

9. PRO

K Hampson contacted Ms M Joubert, The Year of Science & Technology campaign, to ask about acquiring funds for the society.

- With regard to the star party K Hampson will discuss this with B Lawrence & possibly arrange a sub-committee to organise it.

- Izinkanyezi: R Roth & K Hampson will help J Watson to get some slides, & R Clifford offered some drawings & star charts etc that he has also. Plans are still in the pipelines about arranging a group to go to Izinkanyezi for a day trip.

10. Instruments & Observatory

- Electra Manufacturing has completed the job & have been paid.

- A group went to paint at the observatory last weekend & this weekend has also been set aside to go up & finish off the job.

- All the 'stars' have been made by R Clifford & are ready to put on the walls.

- Also a letter will be written to Mr D Burden of Mondi to thank them for arranging to have the wattles sprayed.

11. Education

J Watson will start organising for the Astronomy course for this year. Ms H Snyman has offered to retype the whole course.

12. General

P Hawkins read a letter he had received from a gentleman in Arizona regarding some telescope parts he would be sending to him.

Meeting closed at 21:05. Next committee meeting to be held at the home of R Roth on 20 April 1998.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR R ROTH ON 20 APRIL 1998

PRESENT: K Hampson, L Hearmon, R Roth, J Watson

APOLOGIES: R Clifford, P Hawkins

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:40.

2. Matters Arising

The poor turnout of this months meeting was discussed as was the problem of acquiring a permanent venue for it. J Watson will be sending letters to Varsity College, Natal College of Education & The Red Cross Hall requesting a venue for our meetings.

- A porcelain doll has been donated to us by Mr K Schutz' wife to be raffled.

3. Planning

May meeting will be on the 13th with a continuation of J Watson's talk, from 2 months ago, on the stars. K Hampson has spoken to Barry Lewis & unfortunately he will not be able to speak to the society.

- The AGM was discussed & although the venue & programme are still to be finalised, the date was set for the 10th June 1998.

4. Membership

No new members this month.

An account was sent to Mr Lassale for his annual subs.

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

S & T May, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb, PE & Zim have been received. The Receiver of Revenue has replied to J Watson's letter with a list of documents & formalities which need to be completed.

6. Treasurers Report

None

7. Stardust

R Roth changed to font slightly of the logo on the Stardust. to which the committee was all in favour of.

- A raffle sheet will be sent in Stardust to all members to sell tickets for the porcelain doll.

8. Library

Books & magazines are being stored at J Watson's office: some of the bound S & T's are still in the cupboard.

9. PRO

With regard to the star party, various suggestions were put forth but nothing definite has been arranged.

- Izinkanyezi: R Roth & K Hampson will help J Watson to get photos etc for his talk, & R Clifford has lent J Watson some drawings & star charts etc. A small group will be going to Izinkanyezi for the day on Saturday 2 May 1998.

10. Instruments & Observatory

Some priming to be done still. The steelwork is all painted & John Loughlin has finished the plastering & is working on the entrance.

R Clifford has done more work on the 'constellations'.

11. Education

J Watson will start organising for the Astronomy course for this year.

12. General

None

Meeting closed at 21:00. Next committee meeting to be held at the home of J Watson on 18 May 1998.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF
MR J WATSON ON 18 MAY 1998

PRESENT: R Clifford, K Hampson, L Hearmon, J Watson

APOLOGIES: P Hawkins, R Roth

1. J Watson welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 19:50.

2. Matters Arising

The committee was pleased at the good turnout of the last meeting. A permanent venue has still to be decided upon but J Watson does have a few possibilities.

The raffle is going well & the draw for it will be in August.

3. Planning

AGM will be at city computers on 10 June. Some form of entertainment was discussed, J Watson will contact Mr Field for slides he presented at Izinkanyezi.

- The committee also agreed to have snacks & wine on the evening, K Hampson & L Hearmon will arrange the organising of this.

4. Membership

1 Resignation - M Imber

2 interested people to whom Stardust will be sent.

5. Correspondence

Incoming Mail:

S & T June, newsletters from Dbn, Jhb, PE & Zim have been received, as well as the a summary of the ASSA council minutes. J Watson also received a letter from R Jarman.

6. Treasurers Report

Bank Balance R985,05

The question of insurance was raised for the observatory & P Hawkins will investigate this

7. Stardust

8. Library

K Hampson has some new photos of the observatory to add to the library.

9. PRO

All went well at Izinkanyezi where J Watson gave a talk about the observatory, & he thanked those who had contributed towards his talk.

Star Party - Sub-committee has been formed consisting of R Roth, J Watson & B Lawrence. They have had a meeting & will meet again on 25 May.

- The star party will probably be held on 15 or 22 August. With regard to venue this is still being looked into, the favourite so far being the polo cross grounds at Bishopstow; others include Cedara Hall & Girl guides hall.

10. Instruments & Observatory

All going well, roof to go on next week.

11. Education

Astronomy course to begin on the 30 June (Tuesdays & Thursdays). H Snyman will be assisting J Watson in this.

- Mrs Tountas of Eston has suggested to J Watson that a viewing evening be held at her farm, with some of the Eston community to attend.

12. General

The application for a grant in aid is under way & the form is nearly completed.

Meeting closed at 20:50. Next committee meeting venue to be discussed at the AGM.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at City Computers
on 10 June 1998 at 19:45 pm

1. The Chairman, Mr J Watson, declared the meeting open at 19:45 & welcomed the 19 members present. A special welcome was extended to 2 visitors from the Natal Centre & to Mr & Mrs Christianson from Cape Town.
2. Apologies were received from 8 members.
3. Minutes of the AGM for 1997/1998

The minutes of last year's AGM were read and accepted unanimously.

Proposed - Mr P Hawkins Seconded - Mr R Clifford

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising with regard to the 1997/1998 minutes.

Mr J Watson brought the meeting's attention to a mosaic of our centre's logo, which was done by Mr R Clifford, which will be displayed on the observatory door.

5. Chairman's Report

Mr Watson discussed the activities of the past year & although it was a year of mixed fortune, the centre continues to strive. He thanked the small outgoing committee for their work this past year.

The following topics were reviewed:

- i) *Venue* - The problems which were experienced with St Charles in February this year have still not been properly resolved & some of our property is still missing. A number of options are available though for a new permanent venue, but for the meantime thanks go to City Computers for providing us with a temporary location.
- ii) *Observatory* - Excellent progress has been made this past year & thanks go to Mr R Clifford & his sub-committee of Messrs L Hedder, I Schroeder, J Loughlin & C Lake.
 - Mr J Loughlin was awarded the centre's Meritorious Service award in recognition of his hard work at the observatory.
 - The official opening is likely to be in August.
- iii) *Monthly Meetings* - Thanks were expressed to those people who presented talks, & to Prof. Warren for his lecture at the university.
- iv) *Treasurey* - Thanks to Mr P Hawkins, our current treasurer, for all his efforts.

The centre is in need of some fundraising now after all the expenses of the observatory. However, some generous donations have been received this last year, taking special note of those received from the Ladysmith & Bulawayo societies.

 - A big thank you was given to Mr K Schutz & wife for their donation of a porcelain doll, to be used as a prize in a competition, with all proceeds coming to our centre.
 - A grant in aid has been applied for which, if granted, will also provide the centre with funds.
- v) *Education* - It has been a busy year for education, with various talks & viewing evenings taking place. The annual training course has been arranged at Umgeni Valley for July & August this year.
- vi) *Membership* - 8 New members & 2 resignations.
- vii) *Library* - Although the library does not have a permanent home at present, because of our problems with St Charles, there have been a number of additions to it over the past year in the form of new books & videos.
 - Some Sky & Telescope magazines have also been bound.

viii) *Stardust* - Thanks were given to our editor Mr R Roth for keeping Stardust interesting & lively, as well as to Mrs B Lawrence for her contributions.

ix) *General* - Although the centre has experienced little contact with other centres this past year, the Izinkanyezi Symposium was very successful & enjoyed by all.

- Mr A Gray, our ^{chairman} council representative, has kept us up to date with council matters.

- Earlier last year some members travelled to Pennington to assist Mrs P Mitchell in disposing of some telescopic equipment belonging to her late husband. The day was enjoyed by all & later proved to be successful.

- Mr J Watson urged members to become involved & assist in future events planned for the society, including the Star Party in August. Lists were provided for people to write their names down who could help at these events.

- In conclusion Mr J Watson wished the 1998/1999 committee every success.

Proposed - Mr M Christianson

Seconded - Mr K Schutz

6. Treasurer's Report

A statement of Income & Expenditure was given out to each present. It reflected a balance as per bank book 6 June 1998 of R684,20.

- Due to the problems encountered with Perm Bank over the last year it was the committee's decision to change to NBS. Only 1 account is operated now with lower bank charges.

- Concern was shown towards the large Sundries amount, this was explained as being observatory costs, ASSA subscriptions, handbooks ect.

Proposed - Mr M Christianson

Seconded - Ms K Hampson

7. Election of Office Bearers 1998/1999

6 members were elected to serve on the 1998/1999 committee. They are:

Messrs. J Watson, R Roth, P Hawkins, I Schroeder, R Clifford &
Ms B Lawrence

- Mr J Watson thanked 2 outgoing committee members; Ms K Hampson for her work on the committee over the past 4 years, & to Ms L Hearmon, the centre's secretary for the past year.

- Mr C Lake made special mention of our Chairman, & thanked him for his hard work & dedication to the centre.

8. Other Business

Mr M Christianson brought greetings from Mr A Gray, & salutations were received from the Durban centre via Mr R Field.

- The question of subs was brought up & after much deliberation it was decided to leave them as is for the time being & be reviewed later on in the year.

- Our guest speaker for the evening was Mr R Field with a slide show entitled 'Grand Tour of the Universe'.

His presentation was enjoyed by all & Mr J Watson thanked him very much for taking time out to come & speak to us.

Mr J Watson declared the meeting closed at 21:45.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

AGM

10/06/1998

members

A. Dybwood.

John Watson

Leslie Harman

Danny Timmes

Jennifer McKenzie

A. Norris

Roger Clifford.

H. Buchler

W. Foster

P. Hawkins

K. Schutz.

R. K. Hill.

Mavis d'Arb.

Patricia Reynolds

Kerry Hampson

Gwan Schraepfer

John Lyndon

M. J. Christensen

Louise Christensen

visitors

Robert de Vries d'Arb. & LK.

Apologies

Dr A. Scheuer

Roy Jacobson

Prof M. Przysty

J. Stewart

J & B. Lawrence

Nicholas

Pat McKenzie

CHAIRMANS REPORT 1997/98

The past year has certainly been one of mixed fortunes for our Centre, but I am happy to report that we continue to thrive as a society, and thereby fulfil the requirements of our constitution.

It has also been a very busy year in various ways, and I must at the outset pay tribute to the small committee who have had a tough time keeping the wheels turning. Thank you for your hard work and support.

1. Venue

As most of you are aware, we were quite unexpectedly denied the use of the audio-visual room at St Charles College in February 1998, and have not yet been able to find a suitable 'home' for regular meetings. Thanks are due to City Computers for allowing us the use of their meeting-room as a temporary measure over the past 4 months. I am sad to report that after submitting a full inventory of missing property to the Headmaster of St. Charles in February, we have not yet received any form of apology or compensation.

2. Observatory

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year has been the remarkable progress that has been made in completing the building at Worlds View. Originally planned as a 4-5 year project, Roger Clifford and his sub-committee have effectively finished the job in just over 2 years. As well as thanking Roger for his enthusiasm and untiring efforts, I must single out John Loughlin for special thanks, as he has virtually laid every brick single-handedly in his own time. We hope to arrange the official opening of the observatory during August at a public 'star party' which will double as a fund-raising effort.

3. Monthly Meetings

A variety of programmes have been arranged during the year, and thanks are due to those members who prepared & presented talks. We were also grateful to Prof Warren (University of Natal) for his well prepared and stimulating lecture.

4. Funds

Philip Hawkins has kept a tight grip on the purse strings despite some fairly heavy expenditure on the observatory, and we thank him for his efforts in keeping us in the black. There is however a need for some serious fund-raising to repay the money that has been so generously loaned for the completion of the building. I must also

make mention of all the generous donations that have been received from members, and in particular, donations received from the Ladysmith and Bulawayo astronomical societies. In the meantime, we await the outcome of an application for a grant-in-aid to the Pietermaritzburg-Msunduzi TLC.

5. Education

Once again, regular talks/slide shows/star parties have been arranged for various organisations, and our annual training course in Basic Astronomy will be held in July at Umgeni Valley.

6. Membership

8 new members joined the Centre during the year, with only 2 resignations being recorded. It was however necessary to remove some 15 names from the mailing list due to non-payment of subs. We also sadly said goodbye to Rusty and Ann Jarman (to Jeffreys Bay) after his many years of loyal service and editorship of 'Stardust'.

7. Library

Although currently in limbo, there have been some new books and videos added to our collection, and some volumes of Sky & Telescope have been bound for convenience.

8. Stardust

Thanks to the efforts of Rogan Roth, this monthly newsletter continues to be an interesting and easy-to-read publication. Thanks also to Bianca Lawrence for her regular contributions.

9. General

- a) There has unfortunately been little direct contact with other ASSA Centres, but a few of us were able to spend a day with the Natal Centre at Izinkhanyezi early in May
- b) Andrew Gray (our alternate Council Rep) has been diligent in keeping us up to date with ASSA affairs, and always offers us lots of encouragement
- c) It was good to be able to help Pat Mitchell dispose of the late Harry Mitchell's collection of astronomical equipment

I wish the 1998/99 committee all success, and exhort all members of the Centre to get involved as much as possible.

John Watson
Chairman



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

Income and Expenditure Statements as at 6 June 1998

INCOME

Balance at Bank as at 3 July 1997		568.65	
Subscriptions		2,360.90	
Sales		492.00	
Donations		1,913.39	
Interest		50.28	
			<u>5,385.22</u>

EXPENDITURE

Transfer to Observatory Fund		1,504.22	
Stationery		123.87	
Refreshments		153.02	
Building Expenses		923.97	
Postage		862.14	
Photocopies		269.32	
Sundries		1,780.56	
			<u>5,617.10</u>
			(231.88)

OBSERVATORY FUND

Balance as at 3 July 1997		929.54	
INCOME	Transfer from General Fund	1,504.22	
	Donations	401.00	
	Interest	9.68	
			<u>2,844.44</u>

EXPENDITURE

Building Materials		<u>1,928.36</u>	
			<u>1,928.36</u>

TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL FUND (New NBS Account) 916.08

Balance as per Bank Book 6 June 1998 R684.20

PETTY CASH

Cash on Hand as at 3 July 1997 50.90

EXPENDITURE

Stationery		7.60	
Phone Calls		10.00	
			<u>17.60</u>

R33.30

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

1998/1999 COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr R.Roth
Secretary	Mr J.Watson
Treasurer	Mr P.Hawkins
Newsletter	Mrs B.Lawrence
Observatory & Instruments	Mr R.Clifford
Library	Mr I.Schroeder
Education	Mr J.Watson
P.R.O.	Mrs B.Lawrence
Council Rep	Mr J.Watson

Addresses & Telephone numbers

Mr R.Roth	P O Box 100210,Scottsville,3209	0331-442635 (h)
		0331-2605147 (w)
Mr J.Watson	P O Box 330,Hilton,3245	0331-433646 (h)
		0331-452510 (w)
Mr P.Hawkins	1 Ashbourne,Harwin Rd,Pmburg,3201	0331-460303 (h)
Mrs B.Lawrence	P O Box 553,Hilton,3245	0331-3559478 (h)
		0331-3559283 (w)
Mr R.Clifford	145 Howick Rd,Wembley,Pmburg,3201	0331-423625 (h)
Mr I.Schroeder	6 Goodwood Place,Lester Park,Pmburg,3201	0331-443084 (h)

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All correspondence should be addressed to :-

The Secretary
A.S.S.A. (Natal Midlands)
P O Box 2106
Pietermaritzburg
3200

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at the home of Mr P Hawkins on

15 June 1998

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, L.Hearmon,
B.Lawrence, I.Schroeder

Apologies K.Hampson

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting read and accepted

2. Office Bearers for 1998/99

R.Roth - Chairman
J.Watson - Secretary & Education & Council Rep
P.Hawkins - Treasurer
B.Lawrence - 'Stardust' & PRO
R.Clifford - Observatory & Instruments
I.Schroeder - Library

(K.Hampson - to be co-opted to assist with Education)

3. Matters Arising

- a) JW to send info to ASSA by end of July
- b) AGM well attended - thanks to R.Field for showing slides (a bit too long & technical ?) - welcome to P.Hiscox and also to M & L.Christianson
- c) Venue - Scout Hall (no chairs, R50 per evening)
 - University lecture theatre (access control ?)
 - College of Education or Varsity College
 - Red Cross Hall
 - Life-Line House
 - Showground (Chamber/council house)
 - Wykeham Collegiate
- d) Raffle/competition for porcelain doll - IS to take over

4. Planning 15/7/98 Viewing evening at Umgeni Valley
12/8/98 Star Party planning at GG Hall

5. Mem_bership Subs defaulters removed - reinstate P & H Reynolds
J.Loughlin's post being returned ?

6. Correspondence Application for Grant-in-Aid submitted to TLC (PHB)

7. Treasurer Balance as per AGM - raffle money given to PH

8. STARDUST RR will email to BL - report on AGM
JW to follow up on Minolta(J.Sprake) for copying

9. Library IS to meet with KH - cupboard & bookcase to observatory

10. PRO Follow up on Science & Technology month
Star Party on 15/8/98 at GG Hall - comm meeting on 29/6/98
BL to contact Durban Museum re 'planetarium' facility

11. Observatory & Instruments Roof sheets being 'cranked' - more panels being done
LOGO & signs - to be called "World's View Observatory"
G.Prosser & H.Buchler to make mounting for new 12"

12. Education Basic Astronomy course at Umgeni Valley from 30/6/98
Minerva Club, Youth at Cedara, Rotary students at U/V

13. General Binocs & Star charts for viewing evening, use hall at Umgeni Valley for prelim meeting

Next Committee Meeting Monday 20/7/98 at home of J.Watson

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Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R Roth on 19/8/98

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies P.Hawkins, B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 -- minutes of previous meeting accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Venue - JW to go ahead with College of Education as first choice
- b) Raffle of porcelain doll - won by Miss K.Rose-Innes
- c) RR, JW and K.Hampson met with Model Engineers on 17/8/98 - approx 25 attended - viewing not too good despite lack of clouds

3. Planning 9/9/98 Impact Craters (video & intro by RR) - meet at CCB
14/10/98 JW to speak to Dr Vincent Couling (UNP Physics) and suggest a meeting on campus

otherwise JW to present Part III of 'Life of Stars'
12/12/98 Xmas Party - JW to investigate a luncheon party at 'McMuddles on the Hill' near Currys Post

4. Membership New member - Gareth Thomson
Prospects - Dr Michael Budek, Keith Greggor, Steve Bolt
Reinstate - Steve de Vos

5. Correspondence - Letter from Magda Streicher (Pietersburg) plus donation
- apologies from Martin Prozesky
- Kim Curtis (Bulawayo) retiring

6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R5083,62
- money still to come from sale of hot-dogs etc
- R140,00 to Girl Guides for use of hall on 15/8/98

7. STARDUST - a big 'thankyou' to all members who helped at Star Party
- advertise telescope belonging to Mrs G.Lopato (Howick)
- article from Jan Baxter on Dogon culture (Sirius etc)

8. Library - IS still to meet with K.Hampson
- cupboard to be moved to the observatory

9. P.R.O. - 'Journey to the Stars' on 15/8/98 not a great success - too many other attractions (rugby ?) - poor support from 'Natal Witness'. Agreed to hold similar event every 2 years. Observatory much admired by those who did attend - better control of telescopes needed.
- approach 'Natal Witness' about a monthly article
- Durban museum 'planetarium facility' ?

10. Observatory & Instruments

- Dancer 5" refractor installed on tripod - permanent mounting required - performed well at the Star Party - security ??
- G.Prosser & H.Buchler to make mounting for 12" reflector
- work party needed for levelling & grassing of immediate surrounds

11. Education - request from Laddsworth Primary for a 'star' evening
- JW would like to investigate means of attracting 'black' schools
- a certain Mr Bray gave a talk to 'Midlands Forum' recently - JW will try to contact him.

12. General - Nil

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 14/9/98 - venue to be advised

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr J Watson on 20/7/98

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford

Apologies B.Lawrence, I.Schroeder

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted

2. Matters arising

- a) Info for ASSA ready for posting
- b) Venue - College of Education promising
 - University - car numbers needed for access
- c) Porcelain doll to I.S. - approx R440 raised from raffle already
- d) J.Loughlin's post getting to the right place

3. Planning 12/8/98 Star Party planning at GG Hall
9/9/98 JW to contact Dr Vincent Couling (UNP Physics Dept)
Other options - video, Stars III, Sundials

Future - Moon observing (RR)
12/12/98 Xmas party - PH proposed going out for dinner
- Victoria Bowling Club, Botanical Gardens ?

4. Membership New member - Nicholas Naidoo
Resignations - Dr Albrecht Scheuer, Charles Pert

5. Correspondence - Letter from Pmb TLC acknowledging receipt of application for Grant-in-Aid - *going before an INDABA*
- Letters of thanks (with donations) from Minerva Club and L'Abri (Youth for Christ)
- Newsletters, S&T, MNASSA (with RR's article on Walter)

6. Treasurer - Balance on Hand R3133,20
- Generous donations from G.Prosser and Dept of Educ & Culture

7. STARDUST - JW has contacted Minolta (J.Sprake) - nobody available to do the actual copying - continue to use CCB facility for now
- Next issue to include report on AGM etc (watch footers !)
- MACS to pay R20 for insert of advert for their coffee shop
- Urge members to get involved with Star Party in August, and to get cracking with sale of raffle sheets - picture of doll to BL
- 'Impact Craters' a good topic for the future (RR)

8. Library - IS still has to meet with KH
- PH still looking for Vol I of Amateur Telescope Making

9. PRO - Star Party sub-committee to meet on 27/7/98
- RR requires a 'begging' letter for University, to borrow audio-visual equipment
- JW has contacted Janis O'Grady at Natal Witness re observatory and Star Party
- BL to contact Durban Museum re 'planetarium' facility

10. Observatory & Instruments
- Roof on and interior walls half painted - work party required to finish painting and cleaning up
- G.Prosser & H.Buchler to make mounting for new 12"

11. Education - Basic Astro Course going well - 24 students
- Grade 8 pupils at Epworth on 29/7/98
- Model Engineers on 17/8/98 at 19:00

12. General - Nil

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 19/8/98 at home of
R.Clifford, 145 Howick Road

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R Clifford on 14/9/98

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, B.Lawrence

Apologies I.Schroeder

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising
 - a) Miss Rose-Innes delighted with porcelain doll
 - b) Last meeting & video on Impact Craters went well
3. Planning 14/10/98 Dr Vincent Couling has agreed to give a talk at the UNP Physics dept
 - 11/11/98 JW to present "Stars - Part III"
 - 16-17/11/98 Outing to observe Leonids ?
 - 12/12/98 Xmas Party - preliminary contact with 'McMuddles' looks good - JW to proceed
4. Membership New members - Leslie Brown, Steve Bolt
Prospects - Gareth Brown, Bob Mirtle
5. Correspondence - Letter & phone-call from Andrew Gray - moving to Fishoek
- thankyou letter from Natal Centre re Izinkhanyezi
- questionnaire from ASSA re Historical database
- thankyou letter from Epworth girls
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand over R5000
- Subs reminders to go out in October
- R140 sent to Girl Guides for use of hall
- No word from Pmb/Duzi TLC re grant-in-aid - send photo of observatory
- agreed to reimburse R.Clifford an amount of R3049,50 for roofing contractor charges
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 1/10/98
- RR keen to do article on Bracchi's cluster (sp!)
8. Library - IS currently overseas - no progress with moving of cupboard
- JW to follow up on claim from St.Charles for missing items.
9. P.R.O. - JW and BL to compile letter to Natal Witness re shabby support
- BL has contacted Mario de Maggio (Durban Museum) re 'planetarium facility' - actually a computerised projector - visit in Feb 99?
- PH to contact Japanese Consulate (Durban) re a planetarium for Maritzburg
- Leaflets/Applications to be left at Pmb Publicity Assoc
- BL to contact Bridget Perry re mention of observatory in any literature on Hilton Meander
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - work party needed for levelling & grassing - wattles need some more attention !
 - RC completing the constellation murals/panels - needs star maps
 - PH and RR to contact G.Prosser & H.Buchler re completion of 12" reflector
 - JW and RC to work on plinth/mounting for 'Dancer'
11. Education - JW has contacted Case Rijdsdijk (ASSA) re education workshops etc - will follow up with letter etc
- invitation from Jennifer Hulett at Phinda Game Park to go up for a weekend and train their staff
12. General - ideas for fund raising and use of observatory

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 19/10/98 - at home of B.Lawrence

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R.Roth on 19/10/98

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - Meeting at University very good & well attended
 - JW to write letter of thanks to Vincent Couling
3. Planning 11/11/98 JW to present "Stars - Part III" - meet at CCB
17/11/98 Outing to observe Leonids - at Cedara ?
 - RR to co-ordinate12/12/98 Xmas party - very little response to lunch plans
 - go ahead with braai at McMuddles
4. Membership New members - Keith Greggor, Robert Hampson, Tony Lidgett
Bill Russell
Resignations - Peter & Bwetsy Tarboton, Dennis Gilman (Ill)
Suspects - C.Wootley, S.Bryan, K.Smith, H.Letsoalo,
C.Cameron
5. Correspondence - nice letter from Rusty Jarmain
 - invitation to attend Meteoritical Society conference '99
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand approx R2554 (R.Clifford reimbursed)
 - some 11 members to be suspended until subs received
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 28/10/98
 - to include - Observatory 'shopping' list
 - New members
 - Observatory work party request
8. Library - IS to meet with K.Hampson a.s.a.p.
 - cupboard to be moved to Observatory
 - St.Charles have located 3 missing videos
 - JW to follow up on offer to replace missing cups/mugs
9. P.R.O. - JW to write to Natal Witness
 - new community weekly called "The Mirror" to be contacted
 - regular 'spot' in the Natal Witness ? - who to do it ?
 - PH to contact Japanese consulate - no room at N.Museum for a planetarium !!
 - leaflets at Pmb Publicity & contact Hilton Meander
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - I.Schroeder to be the 'estate manager'
 - work party needed for levelling & grassing around building
 - members have been invited to 'adopt' a 20mx20m spot to keep clear of wattles etc
 - Shopping List - carpet, generator, signs
 - RR has given RC star maps for completion of murals
 - PH and RR to contact G.Prosser/H.Buchler
 - JW to contact Paul Welch re purchase/donation of lamp-post to use as plinth for 'Dancer'
 - committee keen to use Observatory as regular meeting venue
11. Education - JW to follow up contact with C.Rijsdijk
 - invitations to Laddsworth school & Russell High school
 - JW invited to speak at Hilton/Howick Rotary on 7/12/98
 - St Matthews church evening in 1999
12. General - Nil

NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE - Monday 16/11/98
- venue to be advised

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R.Roth on 16/11/98

Present R.Roth, J.Watson, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies P.Hawkins, B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted with correction to date of 19/10/98.
2. Matters arising - letter of thanks sent to V.Couling
 - St Charles - videos recovered, cups replaced, library cupboard moved to observatory
 - Xmas party - lunch cancelled, McMuddles confirmed
 - Tethys occultation clouded out
3. Planning 17/11/98 Leonid observation at Umgeni Valley from 24:00 onwards
12/12/98 Xmas party - braai etc at McMuddles
10/2/99 First meeting of 1999 - trip to Durban museum ?
4. Membership New member - Gareth Brown
Prospect - Mark Brassell
5. Correspondence - newsletters from other Centres and SAAO
- permission from PMB TLC to put up sign to observatory
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R3071 (including R192 from Laddsworth)
- some defaulters have paid
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 26/11/98
- include a map of route to McMuddles, and also plan of observatory site with 'adopt a plot' names etc
8. Library - K.Hampson has handed over admin details to I.Schroeder
9. P.R.O. - RR has had contact with Natal Witness re Leonids, and will follow up on the possibility of a regular weekly/monthly column in 'The Mirror'
 - Leaflets at Pmb Publicity & contact Hilton meander
 - PH to contact Japanese consulate
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - Shopping List with next STARDUST
 - work parties on 5/12/98, 19/12/98, ~~26~~⁹/1/99 and ~~26~~²³/1/99 for levelling & grassing around building and 'adopt a plot' scheme
 - RC is working on signs on main road and top of site
 - P.Welch contacted re purchase/donation of lamp-post to use as plinth for 'Dancer' - could use concrete pipe ?
 - PH and RR to contact G.Prosser/H.Buchler
 - plans for security ?
11. Education - JW gave slide-show at Laddsworth on 3/11/98
 - Slides/viewing with Girl Guides due on 4/12/98
 - talk to Howick/Hilton Rotary on 7/12/98 (~~RR~~ to assist with preparation of slides)
12. General - Nil

NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE - Monday ~~23~~¹⁸/1/99
- venue to be advised

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr P.Hawkins on 18/1/99

Present: R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies: B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:30 - minutes of previous meeting accepted with correction of all 1999 dates by 1 day !!
2. Matters arising - Leonid observation a wipe-out due to bad weather
- Xmas function at McMuddles great fun and a good PRO exercise despite minimal viewing opportunity
3. Planning 10/2/99 - combined meeting with Natal Centre at Durban Natural Science museum for demo of sky 'projector'
10/3/99 - meet at observatory to plan /discuss the year ahead
17-23/3/99 - SASOL SciFest in Grahamstown
29-30/3/99 - ASSA National Symposium in Capetown
4. Membership - New member - Miss Hayley Wood (welcomed in October Stardust)
- Xmas card from Leanne Hearmon - happy in U.K.
- news of Tim & Hilary Chance - also well settled in U.K.
- Bianca Lawrence spent a few days in hospital - card sent.
- updated telephone directory of members to be sent out
5. Correspondence - letter from R.Arco (Ladysmith) - RR has replied
- RR to reply to ASSA historical database questionnaire
- newsletters from other centres and handbooks from ASSA
- notice of 8th United Nations/European Space Agency workshop on Scientific Exploration from Space to be held in Mafrag, Jordan (13-17/3/99)
- letters from Pmb/Duzi TLC a) request for grant-in-aid not successful b) signage for observatory approved.
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R2456,93 - some subs still overdue
7. STARDUST - RR has agreed to prepare February edition while BL is recuperating
8. Library - cupboard has been moved to observatory - books to be moved from temp storage at JW's office - 'open' bookcase needs a dust-cover (IS to measure, PH to purchase thick plastic)
- agreed to have 1993 and 1994 volumes of S&T bound by the University
- donation of "The Universe in Focus" by R.Clifford
- TV programme 'Mysteries of Deep Space' copied onto video by RR (3 parts)
9. P.R.O. - RR to contact 'The Mirror' re regular articles
- Pmb Publicity leaflets/Hilton meander/Japanese consulate
10. Observatory & Instruments
- RC has completed signs at main road and forest track turnoff
- RC to complete/erect sign at site
- RC has nearly completed the tiling of the plinth, after which the surrounds will be finally levelled, grassed etc
- 'plot' clearing slow but steady - still some plots unclaimed
- 2 second-hand steel pipes with flanges purchased for use as telescope mountings - holes in observatory floor to be dug - concrete 'party' in April for mountings and external viewing platform/braai area - portable vacuum cleaner reqd.
- PH and RR to contact G.Prosser
- plans for security ?
11. Education - Basic Astronomy course 1 → 27/7/99 - a good possibility that the Guide Camp hall could be used this year

* Official opening in June '99 - appoint a convenor and committee asap!

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr J.Watson on 15/2/99

Present: R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies: B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:45-^{delay} due to heavy mist over Hilton - minutes of previous meeting accepted.
2. Matters arising - 6 members attended the combined meeting in Durban hosted by the Natural Science Museum - letter of thanks to be sent to Mario Di Maggio.
3. Planning 10/3/99 - meet at observatory to plan/discuss the year ahead, both astronomically and observatory-wise.
17-23/3/99 - SASOL SciFest in Grahamstown
29-30/3/99 - ASSA National Symposium in Capetown - JW to go ?
14/4/99 - meet at City Computers - RR to discuss sundials
4. Membership - little reponse to requests for subs from defaulters, some of whom are founder members
- also poor response to appeals for plot-clearing etc at the observatory - maybe RR should give members a revving?
5. Correspondence - N/Letter from Harare - the first ever ! - RR to get their postal address so we can respond
- change of address from Bloemfontein - we stopped sending Stardust a year ago due to lack of response !
- ASSA Symposium invitation and application- to be copied and inserted into March Stardust.
- request from Pmb Tourism (new name for Pub Assoc) to be included in the 'Arts Route' - agreed to hold on until observatory completed
- catalogue of latest science fiction books (Easton)
- letters and diskette from D.Overbeek re occultations due in 1999 - somebody to take charge ?
- letter from D.Overbeek re observatory photo sent to him last month, and another letter regretting not being able to attend February meeting in Durban
- letter to Girl Guides re use of their hall for the July training course
- letters(e-mail) from C.Turk/D.Overbeek regarding the whereabouts and condition of the Roberts Refractor- JW has assured both that we have it, and will report back.
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R2612
7. STARDUST - next edition to be ready for posting by 25/3/99
8. Library - books moved from JW's office - 1993/94 volumes of S&T are not complete - IS and PH to organise dust cover
9. P.R.O. - 'The Mirror'/Japanese consulate still outstanding
- Pmb Tourism happy to hold leaflets - BL to design
- "Grand Opening" discussed - possibly 26/6 or 17/7/99
10. Observatory and Instruments
- main sign at site erected, tiling of plinth completed, plot clearing slow (wattles-a-growing) , milky way charts
- JW has started on hole for pipe mounting of 'Dancer'
- hold a 'concrete party' to throw slab for Dobs/braai on 10/4/99
- PH and RR still to contact G.Prosser and H.Buchler
11. Education - Girl Guide hall booked from 6/7/99 to 29/7/99 for Basic Astronomy course
- JW plans to show the course to R.Field in Durban soon

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - Monday 15/2/99 at RC's home

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R.Clifford on 15/3/99

Present: R.Roth, J.Watson, B.Lawrence, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies: P.Hawkins

1. Meeting commenced at 19:45 - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - cannot use City Computers for April meeting
 - JW/RR to send photo of Roberts Refractor to Danie Overbeek for paper at ASSA Symposium - JW unable to go.
3. Planning *
 - 10/4/99 - work party at Observatory to prepare Dobs platform
 - 14/4/99 - 'Sundials - Theory & Construction' - RR - venue ?
 - 12/5/99 - Constellation viewing at Observatory.
 - 9/6/99 - A.G.M. || * 29-30/3/99 ASSA Symposium in Capetown.
4. Membership - New member - Miss Sarah Bryan
 - M.Christianson now our alternate on ASSA Council as per latest edition of MNASSA - no agendas or minutes are ever received from Council any more ?
 - R.Jarman is now a member of ASSA (parent body).
5. Correspondence
 - MNASSA and N/Letters from other Centres
 - phone call from A.Slotegraf re photo of observatory
 - letter from Mr R.Arco (Ladysmith) in reply to RR's letter. He is keen to keep in contact and have a joint meeting sometime - JW to send 'Stardust' and application form
 - Details of occultation on 10/3/99 - Centre needs somebody to convene/coordinate occultation programme
 - trips to Turkey to view eclipse in August 1999
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R2255
 - Post Box rental paid - only 3 1999 Handbooks left
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 30/3/1999 (if e-mail is working ?)
 - RR to prepare a 'Chairmans Corner' re observatory needs
8. Library - IS has taken measurements of bookcase to make dust-cover
 - appeal to members to return any books or magazines
 - S.de Vos has presented large photo of N.Armstrong
 - possible use of caravan lights & battery in observatory
9. P.R.O. - "Grand Opening" of observatory on Wednesday 11/8/99 or 8/9/99 - BL will draft a suitable invitation
 - BL will also draft some leaflets for Pmb Tourism to hold
 - 'The Mirror'/Japanese consulate to be contacted
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - RC suggested use of concrete paving slabs to make the Dobsonian platform - more options than a single large permanent slab - agreed to go ahead and purchase
 - RC presented plans for a braai structure - there are enough bricks left
 - 'shopping list' - carpet, lights, brush cutter etc
 - RR, JW and H.Buchler to visit G.Prosser on 21/3/1999 re new 12" reflector
11. Education - JW gave talk to Russell High on 1/3/1999, and due to go to St.Johns on 23/6/1999
 - Advertising for Basic Astronomy course in July
 - RR in contact with Cubs
12. General - BL queried status of Centre Constitution - to be discussed at next meeting

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 19/4/1999 - venue to be advised

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of Mr R.Roth on 19/4/99

Present: H.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, R.Clifford, I.Schroeder

Apologies: B.Lawrence

1. Meeting commenced at 19:45 - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - photo of Roberts refractor sent to D.Overbeek via e-mail
 - advert for Basic Astronomy course sent out with 'Stardust' in April
3. Planning 12/5/99 - 'Autumn Skies' at Observatory - RC to convene
9/6/99 - A.G.M. - at CCB - Video (BL ?) - Cheese/wine ?
4. Membership Nil
5. Correspondence - Newletters from other Centres (M.Christianson now the editor of 'The Cape Observer')
 - letter from D.Overbeek re occultation on 23/4/99 - RR will co-ordinate
 - request from Secretary of ASSA to supply our mailing list - JW to oblige
 - April 'Stardusts' returned to sender ?
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand approx R1775
 - all 1999 Handbooks have been sold
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 28/4/99
 - RR to submit 'Chairman's Corner'
 - advance notice of AGM - also ask members to bring chairs, drinks and lights to next meeting.
8. Library - dust cover for bookcase to be made
 - large photo of Orion Nebula to be laminated
 - BL going to tidy up/sort out on 24/4/99
9. P.R.O. - BL had prepared several different samples of leaflets for Pmb Tourism (et al) to hold - these were discussed and suggestions made for slight alterations/improvements
 - "Grand Opening" of observatory will be on 11/8/99 - BL had also prepared specimen of a suitable invitation which also invited discussion - VIP guest list to be compiled
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - successful work party on 16/4/99 completed Dobsonian slabs
 - RC to contact J.Loughlin re building of braai
 - RR and JW visited G.Prosser on 21/3/99, and the components of the new 12" telescope are now in the observatory - it will not be completed in time for the opening - PH will discuss suitable mounting with H.Buchler
 - 'shopping list' as before
11. Education - JW and others to go to St.Annes DSG on 5/5/99
 - Lecturers for Basic Astronomy course in July to include C.Lake
 - need large screen for slides/OHP - RR has one
12. General - concern over poor turnout at most monthly meetings

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 17/5/99 at home of B.Lawrence

Minutes of committee meeting held at the home of B.Lawrence on 17/5/99

Present: J.Watson, R.Clifford, B.Lawrence, I.Schroeder

Apologies: R.Roth, P.Hawkins

1. Meeting commenced at 19:45 - minutes of previous meeting accepted
2. Matters arising - excellent turnout at 'Autumn Skies' evening on 12/5/99 (16 members, 29 visitors) - thanks to RC for his preparation and presentation
 - RR not at committee meeting due to appointment with Model Engineers talking about 'Sundials'.
3. Planning
 - 9/6/99 - A.G.M. at City Computers - Video 'The Dream is Alive'
 - BL to prepare cheese snacks - JW to procure wine
 - 14/7/99 - meet at Girl Guide camp - look at Winter constellations
 - 8/9/99 - Opening of Observatory
 - Future - Space program update, Moon, Planets, Photography/CCD, World observatories/telescopes, Book reviews, Bright stars
4. Membership New members - Gail Culverwell Prop J.Watson Sec R.Clifford
Deneys Mann Prop J.Watson Sec R.Clifford
5. Correspondence - Newsletters and June S&T
 - offer of 'eclipse shades' ??
 - occultation notes from D.Overbeek
 - phone calls from A.Gray and M.Christianson
6. Treasurer - Balance on hand R1811 (ASSA subs for 1999/2000 paid)
7. STARDUST - to be ready by 26/5/99
 - Agenda for AGM and minutes of last years AGM to be included
8. Library - RC has fitted a curtain to front of bookcase
 - BL not happy about being at the Observatory by herself
 - JW has received a donation of books and Star Atlas from Rev R.Wynn (Ixopo)
 - RC to scrounge a cupboard with large flat drawers for the storage of charts
9. P.R.O. - leaflets for Pmb.Tourism discussed further - BL agreed to print if Centre will purchase ink-jet cartridges - JW to get quotes from printers -(bigger logo, no contact names to be included, black/white versus colour, photos to be used ?, don't duplicate wording of activities)
 - invitations to Opening discussed - BL agreed to print as above - stronger yellow card to be used - should be personalised (typed names or good calligraphy)
10. Observatory & Instruments
 - second hand carpet in place, 'Dancer' mounting ready for setting in concrete - work party on 26/6/99 (pm + braai)
 - RC to acquire 10 more slabs as base for brick braai which J.Loughlin will build
 - Caravan lighting (battery + 6 fluor,tubes) - approx R1000
 - more keys and more 2L plastic Coke bottles needed
11. Education - St.Annes DSG visited on 4&5/5/99 - donation of R375
 - Basic Astro course notes sent to R.Field
 - due to go to Cordwalles on 27/5/99 and St.Johns on 23/6/99
 - 1 application for Basic Astro course - contact N/Witness and/or The Mirror
12. General - long term venue could be the Girl Guide camp ?

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - MONDAY 14/6/99 at home of P.Hawkins

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at City Computers, Pietermaritzburg on 9 June 1999 at 19:45

1. The Chairman, Mr Rogan Roth, declared the meeting open at 19:45 and welcomed the 20 members present. A special welcome was extended to Miss Leanne Hearmon who was home from England for a brief holiday. Apologies were received from 4 members
2. Minutes of the AGM for 1998/1999
The minutes of last year's AGM had been circulated to all members by post, and were accepted unanimously without being read

Proposed Mr P Hawkins Seconded Mr R Clifford
3. Matters Arising
No matters arising regarding the 1998/1999 minutes
4. Chairman's Report
Mr Roth reviewed the various activities of the Centre as follows :-
 - a) The Centre is now 25 years old (founded on 28 March 1974), and continues to flourish. 3 founder members (G.Prosser, A.Norris & J.Watson) were in attendance.
 - b) Having been somewhat nomadic for the past year or so, the Centre will henceforth use the Observatory and/or the Girl Guide Camp hall for monthly meetings. Thanks to City Computers for 'filling the gap'
 - c) The Observatory is now ready for use, but a lot of maintenance and development of the grounds is still required. An official opening is planned for September 1999
 - d) There is a continuing need to recruit new members, especially young people, and future plans/programs must aim to be as attractive as possible in terms of outings, events and viewing evenings
 - e) The present committee has plans for the further development of the observatory site to include an Astronomical Education Centre with permanent displays, slide shows etc, and maybe one day, a planetarium
 - f) Thanks to all members of the outgoing Committee
Meritorious Award for 1998/1999 presented to Mr John Watson

Proposed Miss K Hampson Seconded Mrs B Lawrence
5. Treasurers Report
 - a) Mr Hawkins handed out copies of the Statement of Income & Expenditure for the 1998/1999 year which reflected :-
 - i) Bank Balance of R 1751,68 (Single account for General & Observatory funds)
 - ii) Cash on Hand of R 33,30

Proposed Mr R Joubert Seconded Mrs A Norris
 - b) A proposal to increase annual subscriptions for the year 1999/2000 was accepted
These will be :- R 60,00 for Adult/Family members R 40,00 for Senior Citizen/Student members

Proposed Mr P Hawkins Seconded Mr R Roth
 - c) Mr Hawkins identified the need for a generator at the observatory, as the costs of installing municipal electricity are prohibitive
6. Election of Office Bearers 1999/2000
The following members were nominated and elected
R.Roth, J.Watson, P.Hawkins, B.Lawrence, R.Clifford, C.Lake, W.Russell, R.Joubert (Observer)

Proposed Miss L Hearmon Seconded Miss K Hampson
7. Other Business
 - a) Time of Meetings - it was proposed and agreed that monthly meetings commence at 19:30

Proposed Mr R Joubert Seconded Mr I Schroeder
 - b) Mr D Raine wishes to sell a 10" reflector
 - c) Basic Astronomy course will be starting on 6 July 1999
8. Meeting closed at 21:00, after which all those present enjoyed some 25th Anniversary snacks and champagne, and watched a video "The Dream is Alive"

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Natal Midlands Centre

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9/6/99

MEMBERS

Bill Tunneel

Darryl Tunneel

Kenny Hampson

Roger Roth

Arminee Norris

Leanne Neuman

Bianca Lawrence

Annette Dylward

Dave & Maisie Kain

Ross Chiffel

Philipp Haukue

Keith Giegger

John Luffin

John Luffin

20

VISITORS

Steve de Vos

Roy Janssens

GEOFF POTTER

IVAN SCHROEDER

Apologies

Jon Lawrence

TONI LIOGOTT

Pr J McKENNIE

ASSA, Natal Midlands Centre, Chairman's Report
City Computers, June the 9th 1999

It gives me great pleasure in delivering the Natal Midlands Centre's annual Chairman's Report for 1999. This has been a very special year for us as way back in April 1974 approximately 200 enthusiastic people gathered together and formed the Natal Midlands Centre of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa. Ever since then the Centre has continued to prosper.

We are delighted to welcome Ms Leanne Hearmon to the meeting. She has been living and working in London for some time now and is out on holiday. We are also honoured by having three founder members present this evening to share some bubbly with us on the Centre's 25th birthday. They are Ms. Arminé Norris, Dr. Geoff Prosser and Mr. John Watson. We must express our appreciation to John and Messrs City Computers for the use of their comfortable facilities and to Mrs Bianca Lawrence for organising the snacks and drinks.

1998/1999 was, I think, a very successful year even though attendance figures at monthly meetings were lower than average. The continued progress at the observatory site has been a strong cohesive force for members of the Centre - we have, in a sense, finally found a home for ourselves. For an organisation such as ours to survive and continue to thrive in these times it is essential that we get out there and do things together, the pleasure gained from participating in a common interest makes the hobby that more satisfying.

What of the future? Where do we go from here? Progress at the observatory site will continue with the establishment of lawns over the areas that have been cleared as a means to control the rampant wattle regrowth. A small outdoor entertainment area is planned, the construction of which should be well under way soon. The "adopt-a-plot" programme has been fairly successful with several people putting in many hours of back-breaking labour clearing their plots (called "aerobics" in polite circles), however, more volunteers are needed to get the whole area under control.

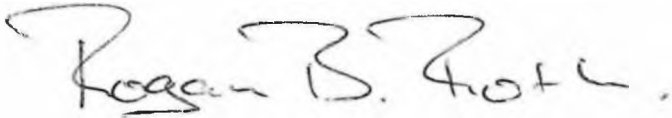
As enriching the lives of the present and future generations is one of the primary objectives of the NMC, it is logical that we should continue in that direction by introducing the simple pleasures of stargazing to young and old. Several members are heavily committed (and have been for many years) with an active programme of public lectures, displays and viewing sessions, largely during the winter months. This has been of immeasurable benefit to the Centre as many former students have continued in the field of amateur astronomy by becoming committed members of the NMC, some have even continued on to greater things. I would even like to think that someday a latter-day "Patrick Moore" or "Carl Sagan" will have had his astronomical roots in the fellowship of the NMC. The tricky part is how to catch the attention of young school-going children and then to introduce basic astronomy to them in a way that will keep them fascinated. Bridging the cultural gap is something that should be addressed with great urgency as there are vast resources of brilliant young minds to be tapped out there.

In the future we need to consider the possibility of establishing an educational facility such as a planetarium star projector that can be housed within a public building that is frequented by school groups, e.g. the local natural history museum. Having such a facility available would be a tremendous aid as all aspects of astronomy, including local folk lore, can be built into the presentations. In fact a complete "space science" centre could be established at the site with permanent displays, including models, photographs, artwork, posters, etc. Sadly, star projectors are hugely expensive and well beyond the reach of an amateur organisation such as ourselves, the money would have to be raised by some other

means (any ideas?).

All the above would not be possible if it weren't for the continued hard work and dedication of the committee, past and present. So, many thanks must go to the outgoing committee for the good job they have done and to the incoming committee who are going to keep the flag flying for another year and who, I might add, are more than willing and able to do the job! This does not let you, the "ordinary" member off the hook as without your support the Centre would wither and die in less than no time. Your ideas and enthusiasm are essential for the continued success of the NMC.

Before I give the floor over to more worthwhile pursuits I would like to use this opportunity to present the Centre's coveted *Meritorious Service Award* to John Watson in recognition of 25 years of continued hard work and dedication - congratulations John, this award is long overdue!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger B. Fitch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'R'.

Chairman

The Astronomical Society of Southern Africa

Natal Midlands Centre

Income and Expenditure Statements as at 6 June 1999

INCOME

Balance at Bank as at 6 June 1998	684.20	
Subscriptions	2,935.00	
Sales	507.00	
Donations	3,258.33	
Sundries	680.76	
Interest	<u>127.50</u>	
		8,192.79

EXPENDITURE

Stationery	107.32	
Refreshments	120.91	
Building Expenses	3,291.66	
Postage	891.42	
Photocopies	419.30	
Sundries	<u>1,610.50</u>	
		6,441.11
Balance as per Bank Book 6 June 1999		<u>1,751.68</u>

PETTY CASH

Cash on Hand as at 6 June 1998		33.30
EXPENDITURE		
Stationery	0.00	
Phone Calls	<u>0.00</u>	
		<u>0.00</u>
Cash on Hand as at 6 June 1999		<u>R33.30</u>

A.S.S.A. - NATAL MIDLANDS CENTRE

1999/2000 COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Mr R. Roth
Secretary:	Mr J. Watson
Treasurer:	Mr P. Hawkins
Newsletter:	Mr W. Russell
Observatory:	Mr C. Lake
Library:	Mr R. Clifford
Council Rep:	Mr J. Watson
P.R.O.	Mrs B. Lawrence
Education:	Mr J. Watson
Observer:	Mr R. Joubert

Addresses and telephone numbers

Mr R. Roth	P.O.Box 100210, SCOTTSVILLE, 3209	033 - 3442635 (h) 033 - 2605147 (w)
Mr J. Watson	P.O.Box 330, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3433646 (h) 033 - 3452510 (w)
Mr P. Hawkins	1 Ashbourne, Harwin Rd, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3460303 (h)
Mr W. Russell	4 Windermere Place, HOWICK, 3290	033 - 3304391 (h)
Mr C. Lake	P.O.Box 912, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3433710 (h)
Mr R. Clifford	145 Howick Rd, Wembley, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3423625 (h)
Mrs B. Lawrence	P.O.Box 553, HILTON, 3245	033 - 3559478 (h) 033 - 3559283 (w)
Mr R. Joubert	4 Sanders Rd, Scottsville, PMBURG, 3201	033 - 3460666 (h)

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All correspondence should be addressed to :-

The Secretary
A.S.S.A. (Natal Midlands)
P.O.Box 2106
PIETERMARITZBURG
3201