

**Minutes of the AGM of the Pretoria Centre of the Astronomical
Association of South Africa**

25th July 2008

1. Welcome

The chairman, Michael Poll , welcomed the attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lorna Higgs

3. Approval of the Previous Minutes

Fred Oosthuizen proposed that the previous minutes be accepted.
Danie Barnado seconded the proposal.

4. Chairman's Report

Michael read out his report for for 2007/2008, which described the centre's activities in this period.

Some of the points mentioned were:

- Thanks to those making the meetings possible.
- A new website has been launched which Johan Smit and Danie Barnado are trained to update.
- Telescope making classes are forging ahead in co-operation with the Johannesburg Centre.
- The library is in the process of having a new cataloguing system implemented.
- The Schanskop Observatory project is going ahead. Pierre Lourens is constructing the telescope. The site is allocated, but the building of the requested observatory dome is problematic as the funds needed are in the region of R1m.
- The committee met 5 times during the year

Johan Smit proposed that the report be accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report

- the total income during the year was ~R1300, which is the same as last year.
- Rynhardt proposed an increase in yearly fees from R115 to R130 starting in July 2009, mainly because of the increased price of the Skyguide.
- There was an expenditure of R5000 for the new website and R2000 for the Schanskop plans to be drawn up.
- Overall there was a deficit of R500.
- The assets of the centre are estimated at R32000.

Michael asked that the financial statement be approved.
Neville Young proposed that they be adopted.

Michael Poll asked that the increase in yearly fees for the centre be approved – and there were no objections.
Johan Smit proposed that they be adopted.

6. Committee Nominations

The nominations for the committee were as follows:

Johan Smit	Michael Poll
Pierre Lourens	Rynhardt van Rooyen
Tony Viljoen	Dr Hein Stoltsz
Fred Oosthuizen	Percy Jacobs
Danie Barnardo	

Fred Oosthuizen proposed that Pat Kuhn also be nominated – and this was accepted.

Michael Poll asked whether anyone objected to any of the members being nominated. There were none.

As we have lost the only female member of the committee, Rynhardt asked for a female attendee to volunteer, but there were none.

Neville Young proposed that the committee be accepted.

7. Jack Bennett Award

The award was made to Lorna Higgs who was our Public Relations Officer.

The citation was read by Michael Poll of her contributions to the centre. They are as follows:

- she made a list of the chairman's duties at a meeting
- she ensured that the details of centre meetings and activities were sent to the newspapers

Lorna's activities have gained us many members and a number of talks at the centre.

Michael will present the Jack Bennett telescope and award to her.

8. Other Business

- Gareth Gregory proposes a new venue for Dark Sky Weekends.
This is near Settlers at the Lord Milner School. There are good skies, facilities, and accommodation available. We will make use of this venue later in the year.
- A visit was proposed to another site near Cullinan, Goodlands, and the centre will visit this over the weekend August 1st/2nd.

Michael declared the meeting closed at 19h50.