

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pretoria Centre of ASSA held at 7.15 pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025:  
via video link.**

**1 Welcome**

The Chairman, Johan Smit opened the meeting, and welcomed people attending. There were 21 attendees.

**2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Percy Jacobs

**3 Agenda**

3.1 The Chairman presented the Agenda, which was accepted without change.

**4 Acceptance of Minutes of 2024 AGM**

4.1 The minutes of the 2024 AGM were accepted:

Proposed: Wessel Nel      Seconded: Johan Jordaan.

4.2 There were no matters arising.

**5 Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman summarized the content of the Annual Report, the summary can be read in conjunction with the Full Report which had been circulated with the notice of the Meeting, and which will be placed on the website.

**5.1.** The attendance averaged 19 at each meeting in 2025 compared with 23 in 2024.

**5.2** The subjects of the Main Topics were highlighted and the Chairman commented that there was a reasonably variety of subjects.

**5.3** Thanks were extended to the presenters of the Main Topic and What's Up, and to the persons who Chaired the meetings.

**5.4** There was a summary of the Observing Evenings, but it was noted that attendance was much less than in times past. Examples of photos taken with smart phones at Observing Evenings were shown.

**5.5** A list of the outreach activities was presented, and appreciation to members who supported these events was expressed. Institutions or organisations to which outreach was made included the Mountain Club of South Africa (MCSA), and the Annual ESSA/ASSA Event.

**5.6** Section Reports were summarised.

**5.6.1** Website : (Danie Barnardo). The website is functioning well, with over 1000 hits per month. The section for advertising equipment was popular.

**5.6.2** Newsletter: (Pierre Lourens). The contents of the year's newsletters were indexed in the Full Report. The Chairman highlighted contributions made by the Editor and Magda Streicher, but other contributors were also acknowledged.

**5.6.3** Telescope Making Class: (Johan Smit). This has been going for 30 years. A number of newcomers were welcomed during the year, and a number of telescopes were completed. Some members of the telescope making class joined our Observing Evenings

**5.6.4** Curator of Instruments: (Johan Jordaan). As noted in the 2024 Annual Report, the Centre 12 inch telescope is effectively no longer in use.

**5.6.5 Observing Group:** (Neville Young) The group has been active, many Astro photos have been circulated, and observations of particular comets and novae made. There was a discussion about splitting the group into two (novices and advanced) but this was decided against.

**5.6.6** The Annual Report was accepted. Proposed: Neville Young, Seconded: Bosman Olivier.

## **6 Treasurer's Report :**

**Michelle Ferriera presented the Treasurer's report, summarised as follows:**

**6.1** The paid up membership for 2024 -2025 was 44. (Last year: 39)

- **Income : R8 290.00** (2024: R8 251.00) **Expenditure : R3 672.00** (2024: R3354.00).
- **Assets : Total Assets: R61 966.00** (Cash R56 199.00 Other: R 5 767.00)
- **Liabilities : R 3 600.00**
- **Net Assets : R 58 366.00**

**6.2** The report was accepted : Proposed Bosman Oliver, Seconded Danie Barnardo

## **7 2025 Sky Guide Distribution**

The Sky Guides were made available from various collection points as in previous years.

Not everyone collected their copy

## **8 Committee**

**8.1** The Committee met four times in the 2024 – 2025 year.

**8.2** The Chairman commented that there is little or no change in the membership of the Committee from year to year. Some new blood and new thinking may be in order.

**8.3** The following were willing to stand for re-election to the Committee for 2025-2026  
Danie Barnardo; Michelle Ferreira; Pierre Lourens; Michael Poll; Johan Smit, Johan Jordaan and Neville Young.

**8.4** Johan Smit was proposed by Thys Maree, and seconded by Michelle Ferreira.

**8.5** Danie Barnardo proposed the remaining nominees be re-elected en bloc, seconded by Michael Poll. The proposal was carried.

## **9 Christian Brothers College**

We again thank Christian Brothers College for the use of their facilities, and Mark Yon in particular for being our contact person

## **10 State of the Centre**

**10.1** The Chairman commented about the fact that we have about 40 members, but attendance at the meetings averages about 20 and a number of the attendees are invited guests and not Centre members.

**10.2** The number of speakers, both from outside and within the membership is very few – the burden for giving talks falls mostly on to Committee members.

**10.3** Johan asked if there was a need to reformat our meetings.

**10.4** The Chairman said that he knew of one Centre that had closed down and another had started in a nearby town. However, all members of the new Centre are on a What's App group, and no formal meetings are held. Johan asked if this is the future we can anticipate?

**10.5** Johan urged the Membership to get involved in order to keep the Centre going.

**12** **Thanks:** Neville Young thanked Johan Smit for his continuing input to the Centre.

**13** **Closure**

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

**These Minutes and the full Annual report will be available on the Centre Website.**