



**Guildford Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of the GAS AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017**  
**held at the University of Surrey**

Although a risky start to any meeting because of the possibility of offending through omission, the President offered his thanks to : -

- The entire committee for their regular attendance, support and commitment to the society throughout the year.
- OMT team, Peter Chance, John Evans, Pam Hewitt, Tony Questa, Richard Stebbing, Brian Stracy, Anthony Ward and Tony Marsh.
- The Training team, John Evans, Richard Stebbing and Peter Chance.
- Observing Nights Rob Graham.
- Outreach coordinators Julia Gaudelli, Richard Stebbing and John Axtell and their many supporters.
- Loan scopes and Holmbury bookings Pam Hewitt.
- Archivist Brian Shorter.
- Ask An Astronomer John Evans.

This list is not definitive but does show how dependent the society is on the voluntary efforts of so many people.

We have received notice that for many reasons a number of people have been obliged to stand down from their regular support though they have all agreed to provide whatever handover support they can give.

Anthony Ward is not seeking election but we are fortunate that subject to his election. Martin Baker will assume that role.

Due to his educational commitments George Zealy is not seeking election to the committee. We are indebted to George who has prepared a significant amount of H&S documentation for GAS but again we are fortunate that

Gordon Ebbon will take up that cudgel subject to his election and if so appointed.

John Axtell and Richard Stebbing will not be able to continue in their Outreach activities so we urgently need some volunteers for these essential duties.

After many of years Brian Shorter has stepped down as Archivist. In recognition of this and all his other services to GAS we have extended the unique token of Honorary Membership.

Cornelia Ahearn has agreed to take over as archivist.

Pam Hewitt has agreed to do the refreshments at least for the immediate future.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership has dropped slightly and now stands at 167 which includes 33 new members and 56 lapsed members. *The President then displayed a comprehensive set of graphs and statistics showing meeting attendance.*

### **OBSERVATORY**

Modifications including resilvering the GO1 scope have been completed. Most if not all leaks in the dome have been sealed but there is still some painting to be done.

Wood treatment and site gardening is an ongoing task and volunteers would be very welcome.

### **LOAN SCOPES**

We have 12 loan scopes 10 of which are currently in use. It was noted that all these scopes are old, bulky, heavy and none are GOTO. We perhaps need to question if we want to keep these units or the large collection of accessories which anyway require substantial sorting.

### **H&S**

We now have a full five year 'electrical safety' certificate for the GAS Holmbury site.

We also now have a fully documented Risk Assessment for the site.

## **OUTREACH**

Outreach activities have been fewer this year although our activities with the Scouting organisation has been successful.

The Cathedral event was hugely successful with circa 1100 - 1200 attendees.

The University of Surrey Stargazing Live event had been very well attended although observing was curtailed because of very heavy cloud cover.

Approximately 400 people attended the GAS Stargazing Live event in collaboration with the Surrey Wildlife and was a great success.

## **WEBSITE**

Anthony Ward has done an excellent job updating the website incorporating Ask An Astronomer page, an Events Calendar and some pretty snappy Applets

## **LIBRARY**

Mathew Mallinson has been busy cataloguing our library. All the titles can now be searched on the GAS site. To encourage more demand he is circulating a Book of the Month email.

## **TRAINING**

We now have 4 qualified GO1 & 2 trainers BUT we do need some more volunteers to spread the load, if you can help in this vital task please let us know.

## **SOCIAL**

The Perihelion-Repast on 7<sup>th</sup> January was very enjoyable with 25 diners.

## **TREASURER**

Pam Noon thanked the Auditors for their diligence in checking the accounts.

There were no surprises or unusual expenditures. No questions were raised. Adrian Lilly proposed a vote of thanks to Pam for her efforts in managing our finances. The accounts were unanimously approved.

Pam confirmed that after a rise in subscriptions last year she did not believe another increment would be required for the forthcoming season. However,

we would have to reassess the subscriptions again at the next AGM when an increase could be anticipated.

## MEMBERS Q.A

It was agreed that 1) the members did want the coffee break, 2) that £2 per cup was reasonable and that for this year GAS should absorb any losses.

## ELECTIONS

John Axtell and John Evans had both expressed concerns prior to the AGM that the committee were trying to change the Constitution 'on the fly' by introducing a chairman at the committee meetings. This was reiterated by John Axtell at the AGM The President explained that no Constitutional changes were being contemplated but that he and the committee were well aware of the proper procedures should changes be contemplated or needed at any time in the future. He did however, explain that his free time was becoming eroded and that to continue his duties he would need to make better uses of the resources on the committee in the day to day running of the society. John Axtell proposed that we could invent a new post of Correspondence Secretary leaving the present secretary to act as Minutes Secretary, but as the current secretary pointed out such a proposal would of itself be unconstitutional. The President noted that once again we did not have sufficient nominations either duly proposed and seconded or nominations from the floor to fill the available vacancies; it was agreed to proceed with the election of officers.

Accordingly the following nominations were duly appointed; -

President	Paul Daniels	P Hewitt	R Stebbing
Treasurer	Pam Noon	J Axtell	J Bates
Secretary	Adrian Lilly	N Tanton	G Ebbon
Committee Members	Martin Baker	N Tanton	G Ellard
	Gordon Ebbon	A Lilly	G Zealy
	Mathew Mallinson	A Forno	J Newman
	Steve Piatkowski	R Stebbing	J Gaudi
	Tony Questa	J Gaudi	C Ahearn
	Nick Tanton	J Axtell	M Baker

## **AOB**

None

After the AGM Rob Graham gave his usual thorough and engaging 'What's UP'

This was followed by Martin Baker who gave a presentation on 'Filters for Astronomy'