



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 19th April 2018 at 7:30pm at Copthorne, 37 Bramble Bank, Frimley Green, GU16 6PN

1. Present:

Paul Daniels (PD) President, Pam Noon (PN), Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Martin Baker (MB) WebMaster, Tony Questa (TQ) OMT, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Nick Tanton (NT) Observing Liaison & Adrian Lilly (AL) Secretary

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting although it was noted the wrong month appeared in the document title.

3. Matters arising from Previous Meeting.

- a. Final draft of Questionnaire with MB for proof reading. (action, MB)
- b. Financial signatories will remain unchanged; it was proposed that NT and MM would undertake that responsibility if elected at the AGM. The usual procedural difficulties were anticipated with the Bank.
- c. 6a sponsorship donation from SSTL meet would not be forthcoming until an invoice had been delivered to the organisers. (action PN)
- d. 8a Holmbury H&S report stated that the main steps to the observatory gave cause for concern; This had been notified to B Stacey who would undertake repairs. (action TQ)
- e. 9b MB had circulated to all members on 1) use of personal guildfordas email addresses and 2) use of the Guildfordas Bulletin Board. He had received no support for retention of either, so the decision was made to delete both from the eUK site. Committee addresses would however be retained. (action MB)
- f. MB had claimed the Twitter account and it was hoped that Rob and Julia as the outreach team would undertake mastership, SP to negotiate (action SP)

- g. NT was endeavouring to establish if the Induction Hearing loop in the lecture theatre was operational. (action NT)

4. Presidents report

- a. Dr Jenny Shipway was heading up an initiative to prepare an “outreach package for societies. GAS had been approached to assist, if they did get involved there was a suggestion we would be entitled to a free pack which was likely cost in the region of £1500 per society.
- b. PD had been in contact with Chris Lintott suggesting Sky at Night could dedicate a program to Dark skies. It was also proposed that JE should be invited to the Cttee meeting after the AGM to give a report on his progress.
- c. PD was still hopeful we would not be charged for the GAS meeting cancelled because of snow. It may be that we would have to hold an extra meeting at no additional charge instead. If that was the case perhaps a ‘Name’ speaker like Jocelyn Bell could be coopted in for a Ticket evening

5. Secretary’s Report.

- d. AL again requested that details of any planned activities should be sent to him in plenty of time for publication in Viewpoint and Astro journals noting that deadlines were inevitably scheduled at least 1 month prior to any event.
- e. AL requested that some acknowledgement of emails should be forthcoming on receipt of official communications to avoid duplication and omission.

6. Financial Report.

- f. PN Reported there was circa £7.5k in the bank with no anticipated major expenses.
- g. PD suggested we should put some thought into plans for the future should our circumstances change

7. Library Report.

There had been a small increase in books loaned out. TQ suggested a spot for MM to talk about new books should be allocated each month after the What’s Up.

8. Health & Safety.

See item in matters arising

9. Website Report

See item in matters arising

10. OMT Report

- a. All leaks in GO1 have been finally fixed. The grounds and hut facilities now need attention.
- b. It is apparent that GO2 and the warm room are not being extensively used; it is believed this was attributable to the complex nature of the various procedures. With this in mind C McGill proposed a comprehensive software package called SKYX which will comprehensively simplify the operation. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed we should approve the purchase price of £410 and + £70 maintenance for the system. C. McGill and P. Chance had agree to assist in commissioning. Purchase to be made immediately so that debugging and training can be made before the start of the new viewing season

11. Outreach report

- a. No Outreach report available
- b. NT retorted the training sessions had proved both very successful and popular. He had raised £200 in donations for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

12. A.O.B.

- a. AL enquired what if any actions we should take to comply with the imminent changes to the Data Protection legislation. AL suggested that this was a subject which should be referred to SAGAS as a matter of urgency. It was also agreed we should alter our new membership form to reflect and give authorisation that the new member agrees to his membership and contact details being held on our DB for the duration of their membership and for a further period of two years following resignation.
- b. In a similar way we need to ensure that our standing and obligations with HM revenue are not compromised in respect to our visitors charges it was suggested that temporary membership rather than a visitors fee be made.
- c. We wished to applaud the excellent lecture given by Lord Rees at the University of Surrey.
- d. NT gave his apologies for the June meeting.

The next GAS Committee Meetings will be: 28th June and 2nd August 2018