



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 26th November 2018 at 7.30pm at Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH

1. Present:

Nick Tanton (NT) President, Cornelia Ahearn (CA) Archivist, Suze Newlands (SN) Outreach Liaison, Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary, Gordon Joy (GJ) Outreach Liaison, Tim Ellison (TE) Training Liaison, John Evans (JE) Dark Skies Coordinator, Martin Baker (MB) Webmaster.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by all as an accurate record of the meeting with some minor corrections.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting.

1. Hearing in the lecture room. Hearing app tested at last talk. Potentially look to buy pods with inductive loops. Check with PN.
2. SN had a brief look at tax details re becoming a charity, more research to be done.
3. NT to email PN re name badges.
4. CA to organise Geminid meteor shower observing.

4. President's comments

Last speaker Dr Ghina M. Halabi was excellent, involved everyone and answered questions directly.

Asbestos discovered at UoS at Dark Matter day, Members that attended have been informed. Emphasises the need for host location to be responsible for health and safety at events.

5. Secretary's report

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's report

PN absent.

MB – 163 members currently, renewal email to be sent out.

Potential purchase of personal hearing loops discussed.

7. Inreach report

Refresher course for telescope training – TE to publicise and coordinate. Likely location Newlands Corner. Mentors required – JE & MB volunteered, Jonathan Shinn and Julia may also be able to help? Announce at January meeting.

Orion week – Using GO1 and GO2, help people observe with assistance. Suggested provision of one or more quality eyepieces for GO1 – JE to propose suitable contemporary eyepieces.

Portaloo required for Orion week?

GAS Social event in lieu of “perihelion repast” discussed. Goal more inclusive and lower cost: ideas include BBQ/picnic in summer, can incorporate solar scopes.

8. Outreach report

Formally thank Julia.

Diary suggested for Outreach events, to show what is being done and prevent clashes. Help with fore planning.

RHS Wisley – public viewing session likely to be next Autumn. Plenty of space for telescopes and a place to do a talk. Further visit when the current building work is complete and the site safe.

9. Webmasters report

Website running well, all email/server issues sorted.

Meetings page – to add in what is happening in post break talk.

10. Observing report

Geminid observing to be organised by CA.

Rob busy with work, CA to look at organising adhoc observing events (such as the Geminids).

11. OMT report

TQ not present.

Sapling removed from obscuring view for GO2. Roofing felt replaced on GO1.
Increase in users of GO2 (thanks to Colin McGill's efforts). Urgent repair needed on front clam of GO1 dome. GO1 is popular so worth spending some money to sort it out properly. Talk to Richard Stebbing for advice.
Long term situation at MSSL site briefly discussed for new members of the committee.

12. Library report

All books now on website.

MM currently underspent on allowance, open to book suggestions.

MM suggested John Cossin should have another year's free membership at GAS as a thank you for all books donated. NT seconded.

13. Health & Safety

Asbestos issue discussed earlier. GE to ask UoS for written confirmation that issues are resolved.

GE to join next visit to RHS Wisley to view space.

14. Dark Skies

AaA – Quiet at the moment.

Dark Skies – Building partnership of interested parties. Meeting with UoS next week.
Hopeful of more news in the new year.

15. Training Report

PH doing good introductory training at Holmbury.

GO1 – No training activity recently.

GO2 – Colin trained 11 people so far. May generate more interest at his next 2 talks.

Suggested to put more photos from GO2 on website.

16. AOB

None.

17. Dates of upcoming meetings:

30th January 2019.

27th March 2019

22nd May 2019

24th July 2019

Next meeting: Wednesday 30th January at the Guildford Institute.