



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 10th October 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, Tony Questa (TQ) OMT, Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary, Gordon Joy (GJ) Outreach Liaison, Pam Noon (PN) Treasurer, 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 loops at the university work via iPhone/Android app. NT will send out details to members.
2. NT encouraged all ideas to be emailed to [committee@guildfordas.org](mailto:committee@guildfordas.org) ongoing so they can be discussed at meetings
3. Speakers and titles for the coming years talks have been finalised. 200 schedule cards printed. PN sending NT details of possible speaker for next season - Mark Cropper, works at MSSC, has spoken at GAS previously.
4. Post break talks sorted until Christmas. Ideas still needed for January onwards
5. TQ – Charity status still to be looked into. JW and SN to help look into tax for charities.

6. All committee member photos are now being shown before and during meeting break. Name badges also suggested
7. MM still in process of passing book titles to MB.
8. Visit to Lords Bridge – PN still to do.

4. President's comments

Review of talks so far both very good. Last speaker (Mikako Matsuura) was well received and she's willing to do more with GAS.

Cambridge AS does a family membership. Could GAS do the same? To be discussed at next meeting.

5. Secretary's report

A researcher looking to do a fellowship at UoS enquired into having GAS members on their advisory panel. Early days, NT has been in touch with researcher.

Gratitude from a new member for useful links and information on the website passed onto MB.

6. Treasurer's report

Approx £9k in the bank. 120 members paid up, 10 new members.

7. Outreach report

GJ & SN to help Julia out with outreach projects, emailing members to say what is coming up and if anyone can provide assistance.

Julia is doing the post break talk in December about AstroBoost and will encourage more people to help with outreach.

Idea of GAS logo on rubbers, pencils, etc, (suggested from survey).

Parking at Newlands Corner – GJ to speak to Wildlife Trust re possible dispensation – do we qualify?

RHS Garden Wisley has been in touch with GAS re doing an astronomy based event – NT and Richard Stebbing are going to Wisley to discuss on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Cathedral want another event. Early 2020 suggested. Small activities rather than lectures (due to sound issues in Cathedral)

Cathedral and RHS events would give GAS high profile.

8. Webmasters report

NT commended MB's work on website. MB now webmaster of FAS.

MB to check with GJ for wording for outreach safety/responsibility to go on website as well as email.

Limitations of current website authoring mentioned – hard to update due to set up - can this be changed? Front page appears cluttered.

9. Observing report

No observing thus far.

Events page to be updated if anything happening. CA to contact Rob then to Martin to send email out.

10. OMT report

New imaging system up and running. Colin inviting people for training. Informal response very popular.

NT to thank Colin.

GO1 has a leak and needs preservative. Gardening ongoing.

Members page needs to say "Over 18's only" for Holmbury (insurance reasons).

Tim taking over role of Training Liason at observatory.

11. Library report

Good interest at September meeting.

Books gradually going over to MB.

12. Health & Safety

Arrangement with MSSL loose, more formal arrangement in place? May be difficult as there are wider issues as to whether Holmbury is the right site.

Dark Skies

Dark sky areas nearby – visit and check out. Could take people to dark sky sites?

Another Dark Sky talk post break in near future?

AaA - Choosing 1<sup>st</sup> telescope article complete. Next – How to get the best out of your telescope.

### 13. Questionnaire results/observations

Coffee break – some people don't like it, think it is too expensive.

Break needed to give people (mainly elderly and very young) a chance to leave without interrupting.

Cosmology – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest subject interest.

Not many things done outside of talks as society. NT to talk to Rob - does he need a deputy to help? CA to liase with Rob.

Email to be sent out when observing going ahead, create a distribution list for notifications of when happening.

January's post break talk will be about the survey and what to do going forward.

Committee to look at survey and email general observations of what needs to be done and we can do about it by the end of October **(Action all)**

### 14. AOB

GAS meal event reviewed. Different timing such as Equinox suggested. Other events such as a walk and picnic in summer also put forward.

Bell to signal start of second half/end of tea break.

**Next meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Guildford Institute.**