



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 2nd August 2018 at 7.30pm at The Granary,
Henfold Lane, South Holmwood, Dorking, RH5 4NX

1. Present:

Nick Tanton (NT) President, Tony Questa (TQ) OMT, Pam Noon (PN) Treasurer, Tim Ellison (TE), Gordon Joy (GJ), John Evans (JE) Dark Skies Coordinator, Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Cornelia Ahearn (CA) Archivist, Martin Baker (MB) Webmaster, Susan Newlands (SN), Jo Weight (JW) Secretary.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting by those that had been present.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting.

1. Still not clear whether the university is fitting a hearing loop

4. President's comments

NT welcomed new members to the committee and encouraged all to communicate promptly and candidly with him (phone and/or email). NT hoped we might move to a habit where members submit brief reports (or documents to be discussed) by email prior to each committee meeting so we can absorb their contents before the meeting.

While he hoped the nature and quality of pre-coffee-break talks can be retained, he suggested that we might complement those with short practical presentations from members after Rob Graham's "What's Up" sessions. He tabled a list of possible topics he had thought about in quiet moments (attached) and invited all to add to this list and identify people who might have (**Action ALL**).

NT also hoped we can further develop use of the Observatory facilities and offer training on other specific skills (e.g. by Saturday workshops). Other ideas for talk topics and for training should emerge from the current survey of members.

5. Treasurer's report

PN reported that GAS is in good financial health.

The eligibility of GAS becoming a charity was discussed. Benefits include Gift aid. FAS also looking into charity status. TQ to look into charity status.

MB volunteered to help PN on money desk for first meeting back.

BH weekend prompt for renewal (**Action MB**)

6. Outreach report

SP no longer on committee but still doing Outreach. GJ agreed to be liason between Outreach and committee.

For insurance reasons, anyone doing outreach needs to be approved by the committee.

Risk assessments must always be done for outreach. Ensure facilities/venues used are responsible for health & safety/public liability insurance.

7. Webmasters report

Speakers for the next year are going on website. Speakers confirmed for September, October, November and February.

Schedule card may not be ready for September meeting.

If anyone knows anyone through BAA, RAS, etc. that they can recommend, let NT know. Topics for talks also encouraged.

List of committee members and roles to go on website. Rolling screen at meetings before talk and during break to show committee members, picture of the month, this and next month's topics.

Passwords being changed on website for all website emails.

31 questionnaires filled in so far, 22 in full out of 155 sent out. Time for a reminder/prompt.

BH weekend prompt for renewals. PN needs MB to roll database over.

8. Observing report

CA to replace NT to liaise with Rob Graham re observing sessions, attend and assist, publicise, etc. Leaflets to be given out at events e.g. Newlands Corner on an eclipse.

TQ has original soft version, has been revised version since.

Associate events with observatory GO1 and GO2.

JE encouraged to produce a list of possible observing projects (e.g. a Messier Marathon etc.) for next committee meeting.

9. OMT report

Leaks in GO1 now under control.

Active observing group and trainers, biggest group yet.

GO2 - Colin McGill sent guide to new system to TQ. NT asked TQ to send him a copy of Colin's guide to TheSkyX on GO2 when TQ has read it.

Step to GO4 temporarily fixed. TQ to contact GE to discuss paths early September.
(Action TQ)

10. Library report

MM to pass titles of donated books to MB (**Action MM**)

TQ to give Patrick Moore Year books to MM.

NT and TQ said sending out titles available at next meeting works well.

11. Health & Safety

GO4 – slope approaching GO4 not good in ice – can it be textured?

Concrete slab for step

TQ to go with GE to GO4 to sort situation.

12. AOB

Query from someone re Celestron Newtonian, suggested we do a Telescope clinic and invite the respondent as guest.

Equatorial mounts offered as donation

Rob viewing at cricket club. Encourage people to park with rear lights toward viewing area.

Pam Hewitt no longer doing tea and coffees. SN to take over.

Cambridge Lords Bridge observatory do organised visits a few hours as a tour. Good away day possibly in spring time. PN getting contact details to NT. Email out to see interest.

Next meeting: Wednesday 10th October at the Guildford Institute.