



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm at Guildford Institute,
Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH

1. Present:

Nick Tanton (NT) President, Gordon Ebbon (GE) Health & Safety, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Library, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary, Tim Ellison (TE) Training Liaison, Martin Baker (MB) Webmaster, Susan Newlands (SN), Tony Questa (TQ) OMT.

Apologies for absence were received from Pam Noon (PN) Treasurer and John Evans (JE) Dark Skies Coordinator.

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. Apologies

NT apologised for the late minutes and agenda following the last meeting.

4. Presidents report

GAS are very grateful to Prof Graziella Branduardi-Raymont for stepping in last minute at February's meeting with her talk on SMILE: a novel and global way to explore solar-terrestrial relationships.

Dr David Arditti gave a good talk on the moon at the April meeting. A good balance between imaging and the moon itself.

NET has had communication with the Librarian at Cardiff Astronomical Society re amateur astronomy and disabled accessibility¹.

People are still struggling with hearing in the lecture theatre as there is no loop in theatre L. NT to send email to members re the app for those that struggle. SN

¹ A short article will appear in a future printed edition of The Sky at Night

suggested a leaflet at front desk including all information needed (app name, Wifi log in, etc) for people that may need more information or are new.

May ask to move to another theatre with an inductive loop for the next season.

Richard Stebbing has informed GAS that our contact at Guildford Cathedral, Louise Kenyon, has left. Need to enquire re new contact.

5. Secretary's report

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's report

PN absent.

Bank balance healthy, no big outgoings since last meeting.

Had a few new people at Graziella's talk, £83 taken on the door.

NT suggested offering a junior membership for under 18's, committee agreed.

7. Outreach report

GJ absent.

Julia has sufficient help with current Outreach commitments.

A DBS check is not needed for GAS volunteers for Julia's Outreach events.

FAS script for guidelines on Outreach given to NT.

8. Webmasters report

The email system will no longer forward to personal email addresses. All members with a business email address should have received a new password.

9. Observing report

Nothing to report.

10. OMT report

GO2 - Following damage during high winds, the wood on the front has been refitted with screws.

GO1 - Replacement front shutter in process - **Action NT**

Gardening is ongoing throughout. That and other work is required as soon as weather allows:

GO1: Front flap (In hand)

Upper shutter needs painting & re-covering ASAP

Dome needs wire brushing & repainting

Cantilever wood requires repair and treatment

GO2: Exterior requires treatment

GO3: Exterior requires treatment

Notes for consideration:

The lock was changed on GO1 & a monitor replaced without OMT knowledge. This was done with the best intentions and the new monitor is very welcome.

However some points to note: The observatory wasn't booked. It may have been used by just one person - a breach of H&S and observatory rules. The problem wasn't reported to the OMT. Two members (Julia & Pam H) were unable to access keys in GO1 for Display boards & equipment for an MSSL event that day.

Pam Hewitt is OMT coordinator.

Minimum 3 people needed when visiting observatories. Diary system needed on website to book into observatory and stipulate guidelines. NT to send out communication. Clear instructions in case of an emergency to be put on the doors of the observatories GO1 and GO2 and in GO3.

11. Library report

Nothing to report on library.

Social report – Those that went to the Britannia enjoyed the evening. Only a small number went, possibly too last minute. Another event is planned at the Britannia for Saturday 11th May. MM to email members.

Mole Valley Geological Society talk of particular interest to GAS members on 9th May on Mercury.

12. Health & Safety

An issue arose with disabled/emergency access after the talk in January. NT contacted the university about this and the Facilities department have promised this will not happen again.

13. Dark Skies

NT reporting on behalf of JE.

Dark Skies project coming along, The Surrey Hills AONB showing interest.

Ask an Astronomer – 3 enquiries re purchased equipment. A parent enquired about junior membership.

14. Wisley Report

A date is yet to be confirmed, will revisit site when it is no longer a hard hat area.

15. AOB

NT encouraged people to recommend and make suggestions for speakers.

16. Dates of upcoming meetings:

29th May 2019

24th July 2019

Next meeting: Wednesday 29th May at the Guildford Institute.