



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 24th July 2019 at 7.30pm at Guildford Institute,  
Ward Street, Guildford, GU1 4LH

1. Present:

Nick Tanton (NT) President, Martin Baker (MB) Webmaster, Pam Noon (PN) Treasurer, John Evans (JE) Dark Skies Coordinator/Ask an Astronomer, Matthew Mallinson (MM) Librarian, Tony Questa (TQ) OMT, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Joy (GJ) Health and Safety, Susan Newlands (SN) Outreach Liaison and Max Dobres.

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

RHS event – Wisley is now fully open after building works have finished. Need to revisit event area – discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

4. Presidents report

AGM feedback – It was suggested that the next AGM take a format similar to a regular meeting with the AGM taking place after the break.

New committee member Max Dobres is keen to get involved with training.

Missing a talk for April – suggestions welcomed.

5. Secretary's report

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's report

GAS is solvent. PN and MB to liaise re membership renewals.

Online banking discussed – PN to make enquiries.

7. Outreach report

Concerns have been raised over GAS outreach - some outreach emails haven't been responded to by GAS. Some may be due to the website/email issues, but in order to improve outreach co-ordination going forward, current outreach procedures were discussed. The committee concluded that a volunteer is needed to pick up emails and pass them on to the relevant outreach member. This will be raised at the next GAS talk and an email will be sent out to members to find a volunteer.

8. Webmasters report

Emails working but GAS emails (e.g. name@guildfordas.org) now disconnected from personal email addresses. End of year members stands at 147.

New web host for the website discussed.

9. Observing report

Some members met at Newlands Corner for the partial eclipse. Received enquiries from members of the public as to GAS and who we are.

10. OMT report

Gardening, painting and general maintenance been taking place on observatories.

GO1 needs waterproofing/repainting – to be planned soon.

11. Librarians report

Nothing to report.

12. Health & Safety report

Nothing to report.

13. Dark Skies

Dark skies liaison meetings going well.

Ask an Astronomer – a few queries received re telescopes and photography.

14. Training brief discussion

A look at what training we currently do, what we are being asked for and what resources do we have in terms of people.

Imaging – staged learning, start with basics and build from there.

Projects – e.g, photographing comets, etc.

Observatories – familiarisation during day, next visit at night and build from here to taking images.

Telescope clinic – more basic training needed.

A focus week such as Orion week may be a good idea to get people enthused/involved.

15. Future Outreach

Concerns about RHS Wisley event in terms of timing, lighting and potential planting which may clutter viewing. Need to assess stray light from buildings, Christmas event (Glow), etc.

16. Dates of upcoming meetings:

September 25<sup>th</sup>

November 27<sup>th</sup>

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Next meeting: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Guildford Institute.**