



Guildford Astronomical Society

Minutes of the GAS Committee Meeting on 25th September 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, Max Dobres (MD) Training, Jo Weight (JW) Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Newlands (SN) Outreach Liaison.

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 – MD updated re event. MD suggested Polesden Lacey as a better potential venue.

Observing/Telescope Clinic – MD and JE to liaise (subsequent discussion resolves to have it at The Granary RH5 4NX).

4. Presidents report

Lucy Green talk – great feedback.

June speaker now in Florida so may need back up in case falls through.

Heather Campbell from Physics department at UoS has asked if we can help with their astronomy evenings on the third Wednesday of each month from October through to March. MD offered to find out more specifically what they need help with.

National Space Week 4th – 10th October – help required from GAS members for observing on bridge.

Telescope offered to us – Celestron Astromaster 130 - we will accept. NT to thank and arrange collection and offer free visit.

5. Secretary's report

FAS newsletters received – will bring to October talk for distribution. TQ raised the point that they are available in email in colour and do we still want to receive them by post in black and white.

6. Treasurer's report

GAS is solvent. Renewals going well, the large majority being done online.

TQ to recover overpayment owed to GAS from FAS.

7. Outreach report

Nothing to report.

8. Webmasters report

Website doing ok but needs rebuilding long-term. Look to move to new host. MD knows about software and will converse with MB.

All committee members to make a bullet list of what should be on the website, starting with what we *need* it to do rather than what we want it to do. ACTION GAS COMMITTEE.

9. Observing report

Observing took place on Friday 20th September. NT to communicate with Cornelia for updates.

10. OMT report

GO1 repairs nearly finished. Pam Hewitt to organise a thorough clean of GO1, proofing of GO2, GO3 and GO4 before winter and ongoing gardening.

Condensation/damp issues around telescopes discussed, possible solutions included using a desiccant. (NT and MB to investigate) A plastic baffle will be fitted to GO1 to reduce reflections on the eyepiece.

11. Training report

MD is Training Liaison. Good response received from Nick's email re what training is wanted; How to use a telescope and navigate the night sky were popular, not much interest in astrophotography.

Venue for telescope training discussed. NT offered his location as a possibility as used for previous training session. MD to detail what telescope clinic/workshop will involve and look at dates and get back to those interested.

TQ to talk to Rob re contacting Albury cricket club as a potential training location.

12. Librarian report

MM to tell MB of books to go on the website.

Some Webb Society Deep Sky books have been donated to GAS – Webb Society would like them. TQ to send pictures of books to committee to make decision on what to do.

13. Health & Safety report

GJ absent. Cornelia painted leading edge of flag-stones up to GO1 to make safer. Handrails will be renewed in next few months.

14. Dark Skies

Dark skies – JE will be talking at GAS talk in November about progress.

JE to put a paragraph on front page of website on why dark skies matter and why light pollution is bad.

Ask an Astronomer – a donation has been made from someone grateful for advice - the committee discussed what this could potentially be spent on.

15. Future Outreach

Nothing to report.

16. AOB

Social outreach going well but same people attending. Can't seem to get new people. TQ suggested announce events earlier and with a bigger impact such as photos, etc.

"Astrophotography of the year" coming up - MD suggested organising a trip.

The cost of tea and biscuits in the break discussed – committee agreed GAS can take the small loss for the positives it brings.

17. Dates of upcoming meetings:

November 27th

January 22nd

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th November at the Guildford Institute.