

The Open University Astronomy Club

MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2006

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 7.30 p.m. in the Systems Seminar Room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 16 Members were present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Alan Cooper.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Circulated previously and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Re-siting of the Observatory

Nothing further has been heard about this proposal. Should the issue arise again, a full exercise to test the implications of the new site will be undertaken.

3.2 Open Day 18 June 2005

This was well attended and Club Members were thanked for giving up their time to make this event successful.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the club had enjoyed another very successful year with a number of club activities and excellent monthly talks. He thanked the Observatory Working Group for their hard work over the past year and on behalf of the Members, he thanked Peter Hudson and Tim Walker for their interesting monthly lectures. He also thanked John and Peta for their hard work as club Treasurer and Secretary.

It was particularly pleasing to report on the research projects which are now being carried out in the Observatory. The Astronomy Club's observations on the *Transit of Venus* was published in the BAA Journal in June 2005. John Tanner and Andy Norton's work on the intermediate polar system RX J0153.3+7446 was also published in the European Journal, Astronomy & Astrophysics in January 2006 and work continues on *Astronomical Interferometry* by Sheridan Williams and Alan Cooper. Members were encouraged to put forward further proposals and make good use of the excellent equipment now available.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts. The Treasurer recommended that the membership fees remain unchanged at £8 for OU Staff and £10 for non-OU Staff. Subscriptions are now due.

Various items of equipment have been purchased during the year, including x3 Barlow lens, a pair of binoculars, a slide projector and the Club is now affiliated to the BAA.

The accounts show a healthy balance and members were asked suggest items of equipment which should be purchased. The Treasurer will be applying for a further grant from the OU Club in due course to cover speakers' expenses and other items of equipment.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary reported that the Club had 32 paid up Members with 3 new members joining during the year. The Yahoo Group communication facility was proving very useful to members to enable them to exchange information and this was particularly well used to debate issue surrounding the use of the Laser Beam at Central Milton Keynes. The speaker programme had continued to be varied and it was particularly pleasing to note that one monthly meeting was jointly with the Institute of Physics.

Members were reminded to carry their AstroClub cards with them at all times and for non-OU employees to bring their Visitor pass to gain access to the buildings.

The Secretary thanked the Chair and Treasurer for their support during the year and said that she had enjoyed being Secretary to the Group and wished it well for the future.

There was a further discussion about increasing local awareness of the AstroGroup and making links to the BAA site as a member organisation. This would be undertaken by the new Club Secretary.

Action: Secretary

7. REPORT BY THE OBSERVATORY WORKING GROUP

The Observatory Working Group continues to open the Observatory on suitable evenings. It was noted that sometimes Members have not replaced the dust cover on the main telescope and the notices will be reviewed to remind members to leave the facility in a suitable condition. It was also noted that the area does not appear to have been cleaned regularly.

Action: AN

Many improvements to equipment have been undertaken and it was agreed that the stock list of items should be updated.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected:

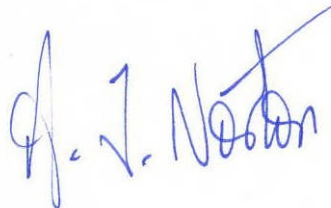
Chairman	Dr Andrew Norton
Treasurer	Mr John Walters
Secretary	Mr Sheridan Williams

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Gamma Virginis

Members were asked if they would undertake observation on this binary star which is showing an anomalous orbital motion and is particularly interesting at the moment.

There being no other business, the AGM Closed at 8.00pm and continued with its usual business of Monthly Sky Notes from Peter Hudson; Astronomy News by Tim Walker and a lecture by Andy Norton on *Magnetic Compact Stars*.



Chairman _____

Date 8/3/06