

The Open University Astronomy Club

MINUTES OF THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th APRIL 2011

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 7.45 p.m. in the Physics Seminar room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 16 members were present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Barry Jones and Diana Parsons.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

These were circulated at the meeting and were posted on the website prior to the AGM. There were no amendments and their acceptance was proposed Peter Hudson, seconded Pete Chambers.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that his only concern during the year had been the construction of the radio dish outside the observatory. Estates have been prompt in its erection and the only remaining task is to supply a connection to it from the observatory computer.

The Chairman also reported success in obtaining several speakers over the year from within the OU, including a current club member Dominic Goodfellow. In May we have Simon Green from the OU speaking about comets and the chairman will circulate details of this meeting amongst other students in the university.

Membership numbers have been steady with a few people coming along for a taster. What we really want however is decent weather! The newly-formed Solar Group is now active and this allows observation in the day of course.

The Chairman reported that the observatory is now stable after all the cracks etc had been attended to.

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer presented the annual accounts and apologised for the error in the opening balance, which was due to Excel not taking into account the BAA affiliation fee. The closing balance of £371.35 is correct. Once again the closing balance was slightly greater than the opening amount, and this had been helped by the fact that many of our speakers had been from the OU which had saved us fees and travel expenses. The club had made no application for grants from the OU club, and no equipment had been purchased.

The treasurer recommended that subscriptions remain at £8-00 for OU staff, £10-00 for non staff members and £5-00 for students for the time being. The membership increased from 16 to 23 this year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The Treasurer explained that as he was retiring he was only willing to stand for one more year. Next year we should therefore look for a new treasurer. He was elected unanimously having been proposed by Sheridan Williams and seconded by Karl Wraight.
- The chairman announced that he was willing to stand for a further year and was elected unanimously having been proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by Dominic Goodfellow.
- The secretary announced that he was willing to stand for a further year and was elected unanimously having been proposed by John Walters and seconded by Rosalind Armson.

UPDATE ON THE OBSERVING GROUPS

The observing groups had made good progress at the start of the year, but the generally bad weather had hampered a lot of the observing. The acquisition of a solar scope allowed the “solar observing” group to be formed. The secretary said that groups should be sending regular images to him for display on our website.

Planetary
Lunar
Spectroscopy
Deep Sky
Solar

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Visitors

John Walters took a group of Brownies around the observatory. This was an overwhelming success.

Equipment

A discussion followed about additional equipment needed as a grant could be available. Thoughts included a “webcam” type instrument such as a DMK or ATIK camera. Also suggested was a new focuser for the Meade. This latter suggestion seemed to be the favourite but further research was needed. There was a suggestion that the existing one could be overhauled.

There was no further business and the AGM finished at 8.30 p.m.