

The Open University Astronomy Club

MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2015

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 7.30 p.m. in Robert Hooke Seminar Room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 12 members, 2 non-members were present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

One apology for absence from the chairman Jakub Bochinki.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

These were circulated at the meeting and were posted on the website prior to the AGM. There were three amendments and their acceptance was proposed by Peter Hudson, seconded by John Walters. A vote was taken and this was accepted unanimously. The new version has been posted to the club's Yahooogroup.

7:24 on soundtrack

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman was not present.

8:02 on soundtrack

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer stated that the club was doing fine substantially. 19 paid up members and the balance has increased by £100 plus the £1,000 legacy from Barrie Jones making £1,341 in the bank.

The treasurer recommended keeping the fees the same.

Presently John Walters and Andrew Norton are signatories on the accounts. John was amazed that after 6 years since being treasurer he was still a signatory.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Walters, seconded by Michael Held.

A vote was taken and this was accepted unanimously.

14:32 on soundtrack.

AT 15:30 on the soundtrack the treasurer mentioned that he was still paying the annual British Astronomical Association affiliation fees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The club's website was originally hosted by the Open University itself. However many years ago this was hacked into and closed down. The secretary opened a new hosting account with at an annual cost of £12, which until now he has paid this out of his own pocket. Now the Royal Astronomical Society has offered to host any club's website free of charge under its "RAS community" banner. This has now been set up and is running perfectly <http://ouastro.uk>.

The secretary reported that Nick Evetts was willing to assist him with the club's website as he was having less and less time to manage it.

We have had a few outside speakers this year but we have failed to get in-house speakers this year. Marcus and the secretary will contact Andrew Norton to assist here. We have 2 outside speakers booked for the next 4 months.

20:30 on the soundtrack.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The treasurer, Marcus Brodeur, apologised for having to stand down. David Baines offered himself as a replacement. John Walters proposed his appointment and this was seconded by Marcus Brodeur. David was elected unanimously.

It was resolved that the authorised signatories for the club account should be changed to remove John Walters and add David Baines. *26:00 on the soundtrack.*

It was reported that the Chairman, Yakub Bochinski, was once again unable to continue in the role as chairman. Peter Hudson proposed that Jakub could remain as a figure-head and a vice-chairman be considered to take on his role during meetings. Peter Hudson agreed to stand. He was proposed by Sheridan Williams, and seconded by Roger Frith. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION: Sheridan to contact Jakub and explain the situation. *26:22 on the soundtrack then 32:58 for secretary discussion*

- The Secretary would like to stand down if there was anyone willing to be considered. John Walters volunteered to be considered and was elected unanimously having been proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by Roger Frith, this was carried unanimously. *35:05 on the soundtrack*

BARRIE JONES' LEGACY

Barrie has left £1,000 to the club in his will and his wife Anne suggested that he would like this to be spent on some form of educational outreach or to encourage young people to become involved in astronomy.

Suggestions were for club open-days or open-nights; get a famous person to visit schools, have a series of "lectures"; purchase or hire a planetarium to take to schools - Marcus said that the OU already has one. Marcus proposed a physical structure like a *solar system walk*. This would need additional funding in the form of sponsorship. Another suggestion was to organise tasks during the open-days/nights with prizes. *38:15 on the soundtrack*

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND FEES

All membership fees to remain the same. A vote was taken which was unanimous. *39:00 on the soundtrack*

UPDATE ON THE OBSERVING GROUPS

Marcus said that it should be easy to book the 2nd Wednesday for general viewing, and observing groups would independently book sessions. *41:21 on the soundtrack*

Planetary/Lunar, Solar, Deep Sky groups would book via the coordinator.

John Walters reported that the solar scope could not be piggy-backed on the main scope.

Security keeps a key for the observatory which can be obtained by any pair of people by prior arrangement. Security must also be informed when you arrive even if you have a key. Marcus will try and arrange for access to our own key(s) to be cut.

Coordinators:

Planetary/Lunar - John Walters

Solar - Marcus Brodeur

Deep Sky - Peter Hudson

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

It has been noticed by Marcus that anyone with an email address that ends **open.ac.uk** is unable to receive the Yahoo user group emails and should provide an alternative.

Equipment

Telescope has been serviced and should now be operational.

Sky News

Pete Chambers used to do a regular report on what's going on in space. Sheridan suggested that this could be resurrected. Michael Held presented Sky News at the meeting tonight and it was just what was wanted. Members are encouraged to pass anything they find interesting directly to Michael for inclusion in his Sky News report.

There was no further business and the AGM finished at 9.45 p.m.

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 1 March 2016.