

The Open University Astronomy Club

Minutes of the 2016/2017 Annual General meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 8.35 p.m. in the Robert Hooke seminar Room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 12 members were present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from the Chair, Johanna Jarvis, Andrew Norton and Alison Symmers.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

These were circulated at the meeting. There were no amendments, and acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Roger Frith, seconded by Michael Held. The Minutes were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

Presented by the Vice Chair, Peter Hudson

The vice Chair thanked the Secretary for continuing to arrange speakers from the department who gave a range of high quality presentations He also thanked Michael Held for his “what’s Up” presentations and Sheridan Williams for continuing to provide a high quality service as webmaster. David Baines was also thanked for his services as Treasurer and for providing refreshments to the club meetings. Peter had continued to provide an uninterrupted series of monthly Sky Notes for the last 20 years for which the club owes him a great debt of thanks.

The fault on the R.A. drive on the telescope had now been addressed

TREASURERS REPORT

Presented by David Baines. The number of paid up members remained at 14 over the year. The total club funds stood at £1,382.23, the bulk of which was the Barry Jones legacy. The funds had increased by £42.29p, so the club was more than breaking even. The largest expense had been equipment, (the mobile phone adaptor) and the BAA affiliation fee had been the next largest expense, and the rest being the refreshments for meetings. Since the finances were fairly stable, the Treasurer suggested that no change in membership fee was required at the present time if we could keep getting OU or locally based speakers. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Sheridan Williams and seconded by Roger Frith. The report was accepted unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Presented by John Walters. The Report began with an apology for the lack of imaging activity so far this year. The telescope mount was now working well, but the weather so far had been appalling. It was hoped that this situation would improve with the onset of spring. Saturn and Jupiter would become visible at reasonable times so there would be more targets available when the weather improved. Over the Winter of 2016 – 17 the club had taken over outreach duties from the Astronomy Department and in this period there were a total of 5 visits from groups of Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Scouts. Over the current winter period up to April 9th, 2018, there had and will be visits from 10 groups. The Secretary had received e-mails from group leaders saying that they had heard about the events from other group leaders, and could they bring their own group along? Each group had stayed longer than the time arranged and had obviously enjoyed their visits despite the fact that the weather had only allowed the telescope to be used on one occasion. The Secretary thanked all the club members who had taken part in these evenings which not be able to go ahead without their

assistance, and thanked the committee members for their work for the club throughout the year.

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS.

The Vice chair suggested that since all the existing officers and committee members were prepared to continue in post that a single vote be taken on all officers simultaneously. This was proposed by Adrian Rawlings and seconded by Michael Held. The following officers were elected unanimously.

CLUB CHAIR. Johanna Jarvis.

VICE CHAIR. Peter Hudson.

TREASURER. Andrew Norton with David Baines acting as Deputy.

SECRETARY. John Walters.

WEBMASTER. Sheridan Williams.

BARRY JONES LEGACY.

With the club becoming increasingly involved with outreach duties it was decided that the club should consider purchase of more equipment, initially some new eyepieces, particularly with a wide field of view and good eye relief which young visitors would find easier to use. A dual Speed focuser had been bought from Peter Hudson and was now mounted on the telescope. Sheridan proposed the purchase of different length extension tubes which would facilitate the use of the large CCD camera. Later it might be worthwhile considering the purchase of an electric focuser. It was agreed that a bid for £300.00p be submitted to the OU club to assist with these purchases.

UPDATE ON OBSERVATORY AND EQUIPMENT.

It was agreed that a survey of equipment in the observatory be carried out so that it was clear which equipment belonged to the club and which to the Department

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None

DATE OF NEXT AGM.

March 2019

The AGM closed at 8.55 p.m.