

## NEWBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2018

**Apologies:** Chris Dole, Chris Douglas

**Minutes:** No comments.....accepted

**Last Meeting:** Good talk, speaker commented on how much he enjoyed talking to NAS, 64 attendees. Concerns about car parking and questions asked about whether we can use the field. Kath will ask Mencap. Update: Kath has agreement from Mencap, they will open up field before our arrival and we will close at the end of the evening.

Review of last event at Excel: The day went very well. Our project was a comparison of variable stars shown on software for the public to estimate the changes. Thanks went to Ann and David Boyd for helping in putting it together, Nickys' son Jason for doing the software ( it was agreed to pay him £50 for his work.) also to the volunteers that manned the stand: Richard and Nicky Fleet, Tony Hersh and lastly to Chris Hooker for his valued input. There was a handout which proved very worthwhile. It was felt that the app should be shown at Beginners and perhaps other future outside projects.

**Next Meeting:** Chris Hooker has been in touch with speaker and all should be ok.

**Beginners:** Nicky has spoken to Kenelm England who will talk on "Astronomers from Berkshire ". Chris Hooker will talk on an occultation that he has observed. Richard will show slides, if there is time and Nicky will do a "Whats Up" The next meeting is on the ins and outs of cheaper telescopes and why they alter in price. Steve H is organising a telescope workshop the following Monday to consolidate this talk.

**Forthcoming events:** Xmas Dinner is underway with a board on display at meetings for people to add their names

Winchester Science Centre: After receiving an email from WSC who have completely changed the format of our input to their next event we discussed whether it was still something suited to what we are about. It was generally

agreed that as we are not able to use telescopes or move them around we could not justify our attendance. Chris Hooker will write to them and decline, he will include that if they do have observing evening in future we would be happy to reconsider.

STFC + RAS Nicky was contacted re events that we as a society have done over recent years. She will send info to them as soon as we have collated our recent outreach work. As a result we will hear in February whether we might get funding from them. This is a scheme being piloted so at present it is limited to the SAGAS area. HAG, Guildford and NAS need 3 volunteers each to attend a days' workshop on doing events, the focus on JWT, handouts etc.,

Waitrose Application: Tony Hersh has applied for us to be a chosen charity for their collections

New Screen: Steve H has looked into us getting a new screen and feels that Staples is as good a place as any. Kath asked whether we could get a drop down screen for Greenham Church Hall where we hold our beginners meeting. Ann will look into this. However we will still need a new mobile screen for outreach work.

**Finance:** Peter has submitted our annual returns to the Charity Commission. Gift aid has raised £300. The cost of Greenham Church Hall has gone up to £13 from £12. We have 70 paid up members.

Public Outreach: Tony Hersh has agreed to take on this role and asks that all members report to him any outreach work that they are involved with relating to NAS

George would like us to be more active in finding out why members leave the club. Alan will look into this. Update: he has devised an email to members who have left and asked for committee opinion before posting.

**AOB:** Steve H attended Thatcham Festival and he and Peter had their photos in the NWN. There were problems with the evening talk as the time was changed to 6pm resulting in few people being able to attend. The organisers have apologised and have offered to put on an Astronomy evening at a future time.

George asked about the summary of talks which Chris Hooker is writing up. There was discussion on whether we can get a count on how many people have read it on the website , this is being explored by Chris Douglas. It was felt important for George to announce at each meeting that there is a write up of talks on the website.

Mark G offered to give a short talk on what is on the website at the next meeting.

Mark G suggested we find a better way of using the speaker at our meetings. He thinks it is the microphone that is causing the problem, perhaps needing a longer range mike. He will look into a UHF mike.

Nicky has have an email from Kingsclere Primary School asking for our help with a future event that they are running, Steve H has agreed to explore this.

Ann explained that the BAAs out of London meeting in Christchurch coincides with our September meeting, we will need future discussion on whether to change our meeting date so that members can attend.

Ann also pointed out that the present date for our summer outing is when she is away, we will discuss this further at a future meeting.

Tony has updated info on the WBCC website as it was very out of date. He also said that some members had complained of the late start at the last meeting. It was agreed that the Restaurant must be made of aware of members need to leave there by 7pm in order to reach the meeting in time to set up etc.,

**Next meeting:** Ann is having the house decorated so the next meeting will be at Tony Hershs on 21st November