

Minutes of Newbury Astronomical Society 12th March, 2019

Apologies: Tony Hersh, Alan Wyles

Present: George Sallit, Ann Davies, David Boyd, Nicky Fleet, Richard Fleet, Chris Douglas, Jonathan Saunders, Steve Knight, Mark Gray, Chris Hooker, Steve Harris, Kath Nurse

Minutes: Accepted

Matters Arising: Feedback from the last SAGAS meeting was that important information concerning our public liability insurance would be sent out with the FAS subscription reminder and should be circulated to committees to discuss. Nothing has been received so far, but discussions at the SAGAS meeting reinforced the importance of having adequate H&S policies & risk assessments in place. Nicky & Chris will check what policies & risk assessments other societies have, and that ours will cover us when engaging in any regular society or outreach activities. Once the guidance from the FAS is received we can review our policies in the light of this information. RAL event, there were thanks from the organisers. There were a few teething problems but overall a successful evening. Wilcot Village Hall was not well attended due to the weather. Burbage event was quite successful, about 50 people attended, weather bad but talks in hall worked well.

David suggested using Society logo to be on the heading of invitation to RAL for the BAA event at Christchurch. Agreed by committee

Astroboost has been working well. More members need to be involved in delivering the workshops to schools. The assessment from NAS has now gone in to Jenny Shipway.

BAA History day at Mencap is being organised, the programme is ready. Ann repeated her request for help from NAS to provide Tea and Coffee with buffet for the event. Kath will check with Mencap whether the grass area can be used for parking. Update: Kath has spoken to Mencap and they feel fairly confident that work wont be started on the field by June.

Last Beginners meeting: Juno at Jupiter went well

Last Main Meeting: Programmed speaker could not attend. Fortunately the last minute speaker David Williamson was a worthy replacement enjoyed by members.

Next meeting: 29th March, Space Weather, Ann will be in touch with the speaker to confirm.

Beginners Meeting: The Cosmic Zoo, Steve H suggested talk on Messier Objects, Nicky thought that Animals in the Zodiac would be fitting. Chris H may offer something.

Forthcoming Events: Astrophotography workshop first one 13th March, Plan is to start with basic information and if weather is clear to try star trails or/and the moon.

Steve H said there is a childrens day on 28th August in Thatcham. He plans to organise a NAS stand there.

Astroboost events, Richard and Nicky have been to Francis Bailey, 90 children were involved. Kath has 4 schools requesting a visit and will get on to them for suitable dates. George and Kath will cover Enborne School on 27th March

Winchester, Ann has asked if we will have boards at the Winchester weekend and bring the Astroboost materials. Agreed.

Membership Review and Publicity: Membership a little down on last year, there were 88 in yrs 16-17, 91 in 17-18 yrs and 82 so far in 18- 19yrs.

Beginners are 40 -50 on average and Main mtg 50 -55 average, with 15 visitors.

There were 6 outreach events in February.

Finance: £200 deposit has been paid to The Hilton Hotel to secure our place there for xmas dinner on 14th December. We have now replaced the lap top which is a great improvement on our last one which had finally faded. A donation from Amazon Smile was received of £10.84. We are heading for a loss of more than £125.00 in this financial year(ending April 30th).

AOB: Kath had an email from FAS regarding the changes due to GDPR, the committee agreed that we stay on their list with communications going to Kath to be forwarded on if information is relevant to our club.

George had been approached by member Steve ? who is helping to organise a 50yrs of Apollo celebration event at Stockcross in the summer, he has asked for our help. We will discuss with Tony Hersh who is involved too.

Steve H has received £20 for the telescope sold at the Beginners meeting. He would like to use it along with a little society money to buy a moon filter for the club. Agreed by committee.

Ann now has dates for the next years meetings. 1st date will be 6th September. She asked if we were happy with her approaching Mark Kidger to talk to us on 6th December whilst he is visiting the country from Spain. Agreed.

Ann asked about a summer outing as uptake has not been good. It was agreed to leave it this year.

Steve H asked about extending the Beginners meetings into June, agreed to ask the members at the next couple of meetings.

David told us that the BAA has a working group on affiliated societies which is looking into ways in which the BAA could improve the benefit it provides for this type of membership. He asked members of the committee to think about this and send him and Ann any thoughts they have of ways in which BAA affiliated society membership could provide more benefit to our society.

Next meeting: May 2nd