

NAS Committee meeting 7th November 2019

Apologies: Steve Knight, David Boyd

Present: George Sallit, Tony Hersh, Alan Wyles, Jonathan Saunders, Mark Gray, Nicky Fleet, Richard Fleet, Ann Davies, Chris Hooker, Chris Douglas, Kath Nurse, Julie Armstrong, Steve Harris, Peter Bendall

Minutes: Accepted

Matters arising: Future meetings 22nd January and 6th May

Name badges are in process, 4 more to be done.

Meeting Summaries, they are read by many people on the website so it was agreed that they are worthwhile but the work in doing them needs to be shared. Tony Hersh agreed to do the write up for the next meeting

SAGAS subscription has now been paid

Last Meeting: Agreed that it was a good meeting, the speaker was asked lots of questions at the end and he also sold quite a few of his books.

Beginners Meeting: Chinese Astronomy, it was very good - quite different from what we usually do but it worked well so that Nicky is thinking of doing different countries each year.

Next Meeting: Prof. Mark Kidger who is coming from Spain, he will be talking at a few clubs whilst here. In the second half members will be encouraged to come forward with a short talk, Alan will send out a notice to the membership each month as a reminder.

Nicky suggested we return to a 'Whats Up' slot in the second half - agreed to try this

We also have a bring and buy sale at the christmas meeting so members are asked to bring any unwanted items along for sale or donation with a small percentage of the cost donated to NAS. Tony will organise.

Main Meeting January: Members evening.... The Music of the Spheres

Next Beginners mtg: Richard will cover 'the Colour of Dark'. If Chris H is present he plans 'The making of a Spectroscope' Steve H would like a short talk on Nova and Supernova

Beginners Meeting December: Heroic Failures in Astrophotography. Members to bring their failures. Nicky would also like to do a quiz that evening.

Beginners January: The Voyager, speakers to be arranged

Forthcoming Events: Mercury transit of the Sun on 11th November at Francis Bailey School, Thatcham. Discussion on how to organise the day.

Xmas Dinner, all going well. 45 participants signed up.

RAL event Friday 31st January. First quarter moon. Chris H thinks he has enough helpers.

Membership: We now have 81 members. Tony explained that there were less events held so far this season than last year.

Finance: Peter dealing with xmas dinner monies and SAGAS payment

AOB: Steve H has decided not to go ahead with the Lower Way Event.

Nicky has had a message from Mary Hare School who would like NAS to talk to the pupils and offer an Astronomy evening as part of their Science course.

Steve H would like to buy a new table for events which led on to a talk about the need for a new Gazebo. It was agreed that this was a good idea and we may get a reduced priced one at this time of year.

Ann will send out an email letting members know about the Winchester Weekend as soon as bookings become available

Julie confirmed that the Telescope Evening at Hamstead Marshall will go ahead on the 15th November, helpers are welcome.

Nicky has bought a box of paper cups and will send the invoice to Peter.

Nicky has heard from Jenny Shipway who will be starting Astroboost phase 2, she has decided to extend the talks to the more deprived areas. The kit she will put together will be on the ExoMars mission for 8 - 14yr old group. She would like us to pilot the kit locally in September, October next year. She needs a letter of support which the committee agreed should go ahead (sent)

Peter asked whether we need 12 voting members again for the Charity Commission.

Mark asked about the quantity of snacks at Beginners but Nicky pointed out that there were more in the kitchen if the table had run out.

Alan feels the committee is too big. Agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

Next meeting: 22nd January at Greenham Church Hall