

# **Newbury Astronomical Society Minutes of AGM held 2nd June 2017**

**Apologies:** Jonathan Saunders, Donald Ferguson, David Boyd, Geoff Grayer, Chris Dole, Robert Bone

**Minutes:** Accepted - Richard Whitacker 2nd - Pauline Phillips

**Treasurers report:** Please see separate emailed copy of accounts. Income - Starting with subscription and visitors. This year we have lost some members and gained new ones, the total is down by 2. With increase in Membership fees and quite a lot of visitors there is an increase of £310.00.

Events this year £1224.00 for xmas dinner

Misc of £227.33 is the amount claimed for gift aid

Interest on savings £21

Outgoings - the hourly hire rate of halls has remained the same as last year. We hired Aldworth Cricket Club Hall for a quiz challenge against Reading Astronomical Society £72.00

The publicity flyers we had printed were £120 which is included under Administration.

Christmas dinner £1278.30 which includes the guest speaker's meal.

These figures result in a surplus of £93.98 this year

Accepted - Monika Balstone 2nd - Chris Douglas

**Social Media:** Twitter feed is @newburyastro. Steve Knight would welcome people looking at it and contributing, through him if necessary. Our twitter account is in the top 42% with 11,500 followers including some high-profile scientists / astronomers.

Steve is looking for images, they don't have to be good. He advised to always mention @newburyastro in your tweets. He thanked Chris Hooker, John Napper, Chris Dole, Mark Gray and others that have contributed.

Our Facebook account has not been used recently but it will be used more in future. Nicky offered thanks on behalf of the membership to Steve Knight for all of his work pointing out how time-consuming involvement in social media is.

Proposed- Chris Hooker 2nd- Nicky Fleet

**Chairman's report:** 2016/17 has been a very busy year of Newbury Astronomy Society with an excellent programme and some key astronomy events.

This year we had an excellent main and beginners' meetings programme. The main meetings had a significant number of professional speakers from various organisations including Rutherford Appleton Laboratories as well as major universities. These organisations spoke on a great diversity of subjects and did so in an understandable way. They had been well briefed, thanks Ann. The range of subjects were wide and included Mercury/Venus, Public involvement in science, extra-large telescopes and a great set of other topics. We are extremely lucky in having such a wide range of top quality speakers, which I think is fairly unique among amateur astronomy organisations. Supporting these main talks were our own members talks on astronomical subjects of interest to them and our members. As well as the usual keen members, we are starting to see some new faces and I would like this to continue. Remember that anything of astronomical interest and as short or as long (within limits) is what is needed.

NAS hosted the BAA Deep Sky Event at St Cassians Kintbury, where 90 keen amateur deep sky astronomers turned up. Everyone I spoke to said it was very well organised and the lunch was well appreciated. In fact, some were surprised that such a good venue could be afforded. I also had a chance to renew acquaintances with other deep sky enthusiasts.

The Beginners meetings were again excellent. I particularly like the less formal approach and talks and it is great to see a growing number of younger people involved. If it is clear we go outside and look, which is of great interest to anyone starting out in astronomy. This helps give beginners great positive feedback from joining NAS as it reinforces observational astronomy. Where else can we have talks on planets, photometry and the use of computers in astronomy? Not sure why I was asked to talk about Degenerate Matter!! We also held two telescope workshop events in Nov and March where people received helpful advice on how to get the best from their telescopes.

NAS had one of the largest groups of attendees at the BAA Winchester weekend. And what a great event it was too with a clear night and some solar observations during the day. Thanks to our own Ann and Alan for getting us in there and organising a great event. This is despite the weekend selling out in just a few hours.

NAS has continued to have a great public outreach programme with many members supporting talks and events involving schools and shows. Steve Harris continues with Nicky to ensure that this programme is well supported. NAS attended the Earth Science Event at Oxford.

I tried to get to meet and talk to as many other local societies as I could and got to Reading and Basingstoke on a few occasions. Whilst at Reading I challenged them to a quiz which was duly held at Aldworth Cricket Pavilion. Needless to say Newbury won.....Reading have already said they want a re-match.

I am sure I have not covered everything but of course none of this would be possible without the help of ALL the committee but I must also add personal thanks to Richard and Nicky, Ann, David and Kath for making the organisation of events so easy. With huge help from Steve Harris who always does this with a smile and a friendly word. Chris Hooker for organising the Winchester Science and RAL events, I would also like to thank Steve K for twitter, Chris Douglas and Mark for the web page, Peter to ensure we kept to our budget and of course Colin our hero for organising the rooms and keeping everything running well. I would also like to express my personal thanks to John and Monika Balstone who have given the society unstinting support over many years. Cheers guys you make it all worthwhile.

Proposed - Kath Nurse 2nd - Chris Douglas

### **Election of Officers:**

Committee now has 12 voting members. 3 people are standing down, Nicky Fleet, Robert Bone, Colin Stevens. 3 more people will also stand down as voting members Ann Davies, Chris Hooker, Steve Knight.

12 members this coming year are -

Chairman - George Sallit, Vice Chair - Richard Fleet, Treasurer - Peter Bendall, Secretary - Kath Nurse, Membership Secretary - Alan Wyles

Ordinary members - David Boyd, Steve Harris, Mark Gray, Chris Douglas, Jonathan Saunders, Chris Dole, Tony Hersh,

George Sallit made clear that he doesn't wish to reduce the number of helpers

Proposed - Colin Stevens, 2nd - Mark Byrne

**AOB:** A member asked for the new committee to stand up so that they can be identified.

Kath is holding a garden party for members on 29th July, weather permitting, bring your own food and drink. Please contact her on... [kathnurse1@gmail.com](mailto:kathnurse1@gmail.com).... if you would like to attend. Solar scopes / telescopes welcome!