Swindon Stargazers

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th March 2018

Minutes

#  Actions

There were 17 members in attendance.

**1. Appointment of Chairman.**

Peter Struve agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

**2. Appointment of Vice Chairman.**

Charles Vince agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

**3. Apologies for absence.**

None recorded.

**4. Confirmation of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 17th March 2017**.

The minutes were confirmed and agreed by all those present.

 Signed off: Chairman

**5. Report of Chairman.**

Pete thanked all the guest speakers of the past year. He reminded members present that it was their club, so if they wanted any changes in the way that it was run or if they wanted specific topics or speakers, then they should let the Committee know.

 **All**

**6. Report of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Malcolm Woods.**

**Club Finances**

1. There is a current balance of £806.54 in the bank, plus £45.41 in cash making a total of £851.95. Payment for this year’s FAS membership (including Public Liability Insurance) has already been made but further fixed payments are now due ie £120 for Liddington Village Hall hire (Jan to June) and £58.88 for Web Hosting and Domain Registration. Before the next AGM in March 2019 further fixed payments are required ie Hall hire (Sept to Nov 2018 and Jan to March 2019 ie 6 months @ £20/month equals £120); and for refreshments and speaker expenses (currently not quantified). This balance of money comprises the balance from the previous year plus income from the 2017/18 membership subscriptions. The balance continues to remain relatively healthy and enables the club to continue with the expectation of no increase in club membership fees for the coming year. However a healthy balance must be maintained in order to cover the ‘Excess Payment’ of £500 in the case of any third party damage to property claimed on our Public Liability Insurance (there is no excess payment on third party injury claims).
2. As mentioned above expenditure in the previous year has included payment for the hire of the Liddington Village hall; membership of the Federation of Astronomical Societies (including Public Liability Insurance), and the cost of hosting the club’s web site. A total of £333.20 was spent on speaker’s expenses, and £18 towards tea / coffee expenses. The speaker expenses this year represent a relatively large increase on last year’s (£140). This could be a worrying trend were it to continue given the limited income of the club from its current membership.
3. Again there was no subsidised Christmas social event this year in the hall but instead members and their partners had a successful Christmas meal in the Liddington Village Inn.

**Club Assets**

1. In terms of assets the club owns a projector, a ‘wireless presenter’ with laser pointer, a microphone extension lead, several telescopes and a pair of binoculars:

**Celestron 127mm (5") f10 Schmidt Cassegrain**

**Phenix Optics Co 125mm (5") Achromatic Refractor**

**Eclipse Makview4 105mm (4.1") Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope OTA**

**Celestron SkyMaster 15x70 Astronomy Binoculars plus Tripod**

**Unbranded 150 /1400 Short-Tube Catadioptric Newtonian f/9.33**

1. The club were kindly donated the telescopes and they are available for short term loan by members on completion of a loan form.

**Club Membership**

1. The 2017 /18 club membership was 24 paid members (23 paid for the full year and 1 for the half year), this compares to 33 paid members (30 paid for the full year and 3 for the half year) in the previous year. It continues to be a concern that membership numbers remain stagnant and are even decreasing, given the likely increase in club speaker expenses.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

**7. Appointment of Secretary.**

Bob Gatten agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

**8. Appointment of Treasurer and Membership Secretary.**

Malcolm Woods agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

**9. Appointment of Public Relations and Web Site Communications Officer.**

Robin Wilkey agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

**10. Appointment of Committee members**

Other Committee members agreed were: Hillary Wilkey and Patrick Clews.

Malcolm Woods agreed to be 'Speaker Co-ordinator' for the coming year.

**11. Membership Fees 2018/19.**

Current fees for subscriptions to be retained for forthcoming year, i.e. £18 for 1 year, £10 for half year and £3 for visitors (first meeting free). Children up to the age of 18 continue to be free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult.

**12. Any other business.**

Mark Ackland and Mike Strange agreed to co-ordinate the ad hoc viewing sessions for the club for the coming year.

The AGM was concluded.