

# The Open University Astronomy Club

## MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 7.30 p.m. in Robert Hooke Seminar Room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 11 members were present.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from John Walters.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

These were circulated at the meeting and were posted on the website prior to the AGM. There were no amendments and their acceptance was proposed by Jakub, seconded by .

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that we had several successful PIRATE sessions including M81. These images are available online for analysis. PIRATE survived a critical failure but was now operational. During March and April we have 4 observing opportunities. Possibly concentrating on variable stars. We also have access to a fortnightly updated Exoplanets news. The Campbell outing to see the Transit of Venus featured in the BBC 3 Counties radio programme. We also had an outing organised by Rosalind to the Jupiter occultation. Members got trained on PIRATE. We also joined with the OU to observe the Sun through H-alpha.

The Chairman also reported success in obtaining several speakers over the year from within the OU. The next event will be a Stargazing Live event in late March organised through the OU.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer presented the annual accounts. We spent a little more this year on speakers' expenses, and we only had 11 paid up members! This is down from 17 last year and 24 the previous year.

There was no money spent on equipment purchases and also many of our speakers had been from the OU which had saved us fees and travel expenses. The club had made no application for grants from the OU club, and no equipment had been purchased.

The treasurer recommended that Senior (concession) rates be removed and subscriptions become at £8.00 for OU staff, £15.00 for non-staff members and £5.00 for students. However, it was suggested that the treasurer looked at the attendance records to see who had been attending, as attendance certainly averaged more than 11.

Sheridan asked if we should retain on our mailing list all members from previous years. Jakub proposed 2 lists, current and non-paid. People may re-join as a result.

Sheridan also asked whether we should continue to provide speakers from OU sources to save money. Another member asked whether we should have fees for occasional visitors.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The treasurer, Samantha Rolfe, apologised for having to stand down and introduced Marcus Brodeur who would like to be considered as her replacement. Sam proposed his appointment and this was seconded by Peter Hudson. Marcus was elected unanimously.
- The Chairman, Yakub Bochinski, said he was unable to continue for the whole of the coming year as chairman, however, as there were no volunteers to replace him he agreed to stand on a temporary basis. He was proposed by Sheridan Williams, and seconded by Nick Evetts, and was re-elected unanimously.
- The Secretary (Sheridan) agreed to stand for a further year and was elected unanimously having been proposed by Peter Hudson and seconded by ???.

## UPDATE ON THE OBSERVING GROUPS

No discussion took place on this topic.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### Equipment

A discussion followed about additional equipment needed as a grant could be available. Thoughts included a “webcam” type instrument such as a DMK or ATIK camera. Also suggested was a new focuser for the Meade. This latter suggestion seemed to be the favourite but further research was needed. There was a suggestion that the existing one could be overhauled.

There was no further business and the AGM finished at 8.30 p.m.

The next AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 3 March 2015.