

The Open University Astronomy Club

Minutes of the 2018/2019 Annual General meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2019

The AGM of the OU Astronomy Club was held at 8.00 p.m. in the Robert Hooke seminar Room on the OU Walton Hall Campus. 12 members were present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from the Chair, Johanna Jarvis, Andrew Norton.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

These were circulated at the meeting. There were no amendments, and acceptance of the minutes was proposed by John Walters, seconded by Michael Held. The Minutes were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMANS REPORT.

Presented by the Vice Chair, Peter Hudson

The vice Chair thanked the Secretary for continuing to arrange speakers from the department who gave a range of high quality presentations He also thanked Michael Held for his "what's Up" presentations and Sheridan Williams for continuing to provide a high quality service as webmaster. David Baines was also thanked for looking after the club finances, which continued to be in good order. He also supplied the refreshments for club meetings which were much appreciated.

Observing and imaging sessions using the 16" telescope had taken place when not restricted by adverse weather conditions and availability of observers. Some members had carried out their own observations and imaging. Results had been shown at "clubnights" and/or published on the website.

The club had continued to organise a number of "outreach" events on behalf of the Astronomy department. These had received very positive feedback from visiting groups. John Walters had acted as liaison/contact point for these, but would be handing over to Sheridan Williams. Thanks were due to all club members who had acted as "Visitor guides" (see Secretaries Report).

TREASURERS REPORT

Presented by David Baines. The number of paid up members rose to 21 over the year. The total club funds stood at £1,382.91, the bulk of which was the Barry Jones legacy. The funds had increased by 68 pence, so the club was just breaking even! The largest expense had been speakers' expenses, followed by equipment (the focuser) and the BAA affiliation fee, the rest being the refreshments for meetings.

Since the finances were fairly stable, the Treasurer suggested that no change in membership fee was required at the present time if we could keep getting OU or locally based speakers. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Sheridan Williams and seconded by Roger Frith. The report was accepted unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Presented by John Walters. The Report began with an apology for the lack of imaging activity caused by continuing bad weather. During 9 outreach visits so far it had only been possible to use the telescope on one occasion. It was hoped that as spring progressed the weather would improve and there would be more observing opportunities particularly as Jupiter and Saturn moved into more favourable positions.

During the year, club members had continued to welcome groups of Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and Guides to the observatory. To date we have had 9 visits and the Secretary had just heard of a 10th enquiry. An adult who had accompanied the most recent group had brought an earlier group to the observatory and said that the kids had not stopped talking about their visit for days.

These visits would not have been possible without the help of volunteers from the club who talked and demonstrated equipment. Especial thanks are due to these people and the Secretary invited all club members to come along to these events in future.

Finally the Secretary thanked all the committee members for their efforts over the past year. The secretary was standing down because of health problems, but intended to continue to be available for outreach and observing events.

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS.

The following were elected unopposed.

CLUB CHAIR. Johanna Jarvis.

VICE CHAIR. Peter Hudson.

TREASURER. Andrew Norton with David Baines acting as Deputy.

SECRETARY. Adrian Rawlings

WEBMASTER / OUTREACH Sheridan Williams.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

None

DATE OF NEXT AGM.

3rd March 2020

The AGM closed at 8:30pm.