

Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Friday 21st August 2020, 7.45pm

Online via Zoom Software

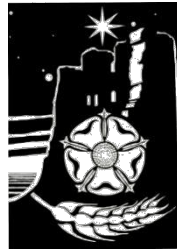
In attendance:	Neil Graham (NG) (Secretary) (Treasurer)	Mark Tissington (MT)	Howard Watson (HW)	Jim Cornmell (JC)
Earl Howarth (EH)	Aidan Wilkinson (AW)	Keith Worsell (KW)	Jonathan Mortimer (JM)	Phil Scaling (PS)

Agenda Item	
1	Welcome 1.1 MT welcomed everyone to the meeting and played introduction to Zoom video.
2	Apologies for Absence 2.1 Apologies for absence were accepted from Sheila Anderson.
3	Minutes of last meeting 3.1 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, proposed HW, Seconded PS.
4	Matters arising 4.1 NG reported that the spend against the budget proposed for talks was well within limits. Discussion was held and it was agreed that, had we had a full programme it may have been exceeded. It was felt that the 20/21 budget will also be low due to virtual talks (no travel costs) in the first part of the year at least.

	<p>4.2 The Geminids event at Ravenscar, organised by HW), was successful (aside from HW's subsequent illness). Those present thanks HW for his effort.</p> <p>4.3 The Christmas meal was held at the Copper Horse and was successful.</p> <p>4.4 The star disk is still not functioning despite attempts by NG to contact them (possibly COVID related staffing issues).</p> <p>4.5 Induction loop at Ayton – NG reported that he had raised it, however the Ayton Secretary had changed and, since the pandemic, no progress has been made. The hall will reopen in September and NG will ask again.</p>
5	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>5.1 NG presented his report, included as Appendix A.</p> <p>5.2 MT thanked NG for his work as both Secretary and Treasurer, noting that, while unusual there is no issue in continuing this for the time being if nobody comes forward to fill the Treasurer post. NG reaffirmed that all payments via cheque still requires 2 signatures.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>7.1 NG presented the 2019/20 Treasurer's Report, included as Appendix B.</p> <p>After a discussion relating to the excess expenditure over income (negative figure made it illogical at first reading) the report was accepted unanimously.</p> <p>7.2 Summary: The surplus income over expenditure for the year was a £15.92. As of July 2019 the society' bank account has a balance of £9,523.89.</p> <p>7.3 Keith Worsell enquires of any of the Society funds are "earmarked" for any specific purpose. Neil Graham explains that a portion of the funds were going to be used to purchase a solar telescope for the Society, however following the donation of a PST scope and a travel scope with a solar attachment, currently there were no plans for purchases. Neil Graham welcomed suggestions from members for equipment purchase ideas or suggestions for trips.</p>
7	<p>Election of Officers by the Membership</p> <p>7.1 MT explained that the procedure is for all committee members to stand down and for the new committee to be voted in. No committee member had indicated they were stepping down this year. NG invited further nominations for vacant roles:</p> <p>Chairman – Vacant Secretary – Neil Graham Treasurer – Neil Graham Ordinary Members – Jonathan Mortimer (now elected after being co-opted earlier in the year – proposed MT, seconded AW) Mark Tislington, Phil Scaling and Howard Watson.</p>

	<p>7.2 No further nominations were received.</p> <p>7.3 All 5 committee members were duly elected for the 2020/2021 season.</p> <p>7.4 A unanimous vote of thanks was passed for Sheila Anderson's service as Treasurer.</p> <p>7.5 NG thanked PS for his work as a committee member, particularly with organising speakers for Ayton meetings and thanked MT for producing Skynotes.</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>8.1 Planned talks - PS has booked a Zoom talk for September and is contacting previously booked speakers to ask if they can do virtual talks. KW suggested a talk on parallax and JC has done this in the past and will repeat the talk in October.</p> <p>8.2 NG gave a briefing on the Zoom software which is currently used by the Committee for socially distanced meetings but the subscription taken out will enable the Society to continue a programme without limits on numbers or time in the conference. The cost is offset by the saving on village hall hire. It was also noted that our insurance does not cover COVID claims so for the foreseeable future we will use Zoom.</p> <p>8.3 Discussion was held regarding joint meetings with other societies using the Zoom format so that we can attract influential speakers by pooling resources.</p> <p>8.4 Discussion was held about the need to keep the talks to Fridays in the current circumstances. It was agreed that it is not necessary to be limited to Fridays, if meeting is to be held virtually using Zoom, so long as they are publicised.</p> <p>8.5 It was agreed that internal talks may be recorded for members to view after the initial streaming but external speakers would not be recorded to preserve their intellectual property.</p> <p>8.6 NG raised the issue of allowing 16 to 18-year-old members to attend meetings without their parents. This proposal was passed unanimously, and the constitution will be amended accordingly.</p> <p>8.7 JC proposed an astronomy quiz using the Kahoot web app (a demonstration was held after the meeting). All present felt that this would be a good event to run.</p> <p>8.8 NG noted that it would help transparency if we report the Starfest accounts after the AGM to prevent holds or estimation caused by Starfest transactions being incomplete. It was unanimously agreed that a separate report be made in September when transactions are complete. HW made the comment that the Charity Commission reporting might be compromised however NG and MT reported that the CC report is after the StarFest accounts will be complete.</p> <p>8.9 NG reported that a small 4" Newtonian on an EQ3 mount has been donated by a member of the public.</p>

	<p>8.10 HW reminded the meeting about the consultations on a proposal to develop Adderstone Field, which range from enhanced camping to camping with Yurts, an astronomy centre, holiday lodges or a boutique hotel. Discussion was held about the damage to dark skies caused by many of the proposals (particularly the boutique hotel and lodges which would require external lighting).</p> <p>8.11 JM reported that his solarscope had had a filter replaced after a fault and suggested that we have the solarscope donated by John Harper checked. NG agreed due to members and the public using it to look at the Sun.</p>
9	9.1 Meeting closed at 20:50 and adjourned for demonstration of the Kahoot quiz app by JC.



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Report of the Secretary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This past year has been an interesting one, ranging from the busiest public night at Dalby for years to absolutely no meetings, outreach or members events at all.

2. Member events

- 2.1 Thanks to Howard Watson for organising another event at Ravenscar National Trust. Despite a rather breezy event it remained mostly cloud free and a good bit of observing was done.
- 2.2 In November a number of members set up scopes at Oliver's Mount to observe the transit of Mercury. Cloud was present for over half the transit but it cleared towards the end and everyone was able to get a good view as well as take some pictures and videos.

3 Membership numbers

- 3.1 At the end of last season the number of members was approximately 60. Some members chose not to renew as happens each year. With the latter half of the year being without a programme we have not taken on as many new members as usual but we are still finishing the year with 46 current members

4 Outreach

- 4.1 Four public observing sessions were scheduled at Dalby between October and March. The majority of these were clouded out and reverted to indoor presentations, but we had a steady number of visitors across the 4 events.

Our final event in March came as a bit of surprise, 4 members assisted, expecting the usual 20 or so attendees and were a little surprised when approximately 150 people turned up.

Thankfully the moon and Orion Nebula were visible and the 2 telescopes we put out remained on those all night so everyone could get a look after queuing for quite some time.

At the end of the night we had taken £79 in donations.

Thank you to these who assisted with talks during the inclement weather as well as driving telescopes and keeping the queuing crowd engaged on the final event.

- 4.2 Neil Graham and Mark Tissington conducted a number of outreach talks for local Cub and Brownie groups throughout the year. We were quite impressed with the level of knowledge and questions which came from the children.

5 StarFest

- 5.1 2019's Starfest was once again a popular event, with slightly reduced numbers likely due to the closeness to the end of the school holidays but overall was another good event for the society.
- 5.2 2020's Starfest was understandably cancelled due to COVID and tonight would have been the 1st official night of the event. Feedback has been that of disappointment but also understanding and looking forward to 2021.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 It has certainly been a different year for the society, busy public nights and guest speakers to no programme at all.
- 6.2 I would like to thank Sheila Anderson for the work she has put in as Treasurer in the last few years.
- 6.3 I am looking forward to resuming the normal functioning of the society soon and hope you are too, thank you.

Appendix B

Scarborough and Ryedale Astronomical Society 2019-2020

Society:

Income

Membership	£696.50
Donations	£156.00
Talk Admission	£15.00
Xmas Meal	£539.92

Expendature

Speakers	£80.00
Ayton Village Hall	£270.00
FAS Membership/PLI	£58.00
Forestry England (Dalby)	£180.00
Website Domain & Hosting	£47.98
Telescope Insurance	£143.10
Equipment	£40.00
Repairs	£0.00
Xmas Meal	£539.92
Stationary/Postage	£32.50

<u>Total</u>	£1,407.42	<u>Total</u>	£1,391.50
Excess expenditure over income:			-£15.92
Bank total at 29/07/2020:			£9,523.89
Cash in Hand at 29/07/2020:			£282.55

StarFest 2020: CANCELLED

Income

Registrations	£695.00
Raffle	£0.00
Donations	£0.00

Expendature

Registration Refunds	£695.00
Field & Marquee	£0.00
Skip Hire	£0.00
Toilet Hire	£0.00
Generator Fuel	£0.00
Bottle Rocket Prizes	£0.00
Raffle Prizes	£0.00

<u>Total</u>	£695.00	<u>Total</u>	£695.00
Excess expenditure over income:			£0.00