



Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society

Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 8th November 2017, 7.30pm

Home of Jim Cornmell

In attendance:	Bryan Moiser (Secretary)	Sheila Anderson (Treasurer)		
	Jon Borgia	Neil Graham	Jim Cornmell	

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 JC welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence from Howard and Mark were accepted from ALL.

2 Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Actions from previous meeting

- 3.1.1 (Previous meeting point 7.3) – Approached various vendors for replacement bolts with no luck. Screw fix was suggested, and SA suggested approaching Sweetings in Scarborough.
- 3.1.2 *NB will approach Sweeting engineers: <http://www.sweeting-engineers.co.uk/>*
- 3.1.3 *(Previous meeting point 8.1) – BM to find serial numbers for scopes to approach insurance companies.*
- 3.1.4 (Previous meeting point 10.1) NG and SA completed stock check. 95% items on the list. 11.75 inch scope is on permanent loan in Mell's observatory. Andy Exton down as having solar glasses and projector (BM has this from Andy in box), and 2 times eyepiece kits.
- 3.1.5 *NG to check with Andy.*
- 3.1.6 *NG to send email to people having equipment.*
- 3.1.7 NG added new items added to list that were missing.
- 3.1.8 Some old equipment was "recycled" e.g. Silver cover.
- 3.1.9 *NG to add to first aid kit.*
- 3.1.10 *SA to investigate make/model of Fire extinguishers due to product recall.*
- 3.1.11 *SA to look through receipts for fire extinguisher information.*
- 3.1.12 (Previous meeting point 14.1) Contacted Becky Mayo and she is investigating building insurance.
- 3.1.13 *Awaiting reply, BM will chase up.*

4 Treasurer Update

- 4.1 SA stated the balance of the Society' account stands at £10,200.

5 Dalby Astronomy Centre

- 5.1 BM - New power supply ordered for LX200.
- 5.2 Discussed polar aligning LX200.
- 5.3 Mark writing beginner's checklist for polar alignment, suggested this web page as a starting point:
<http://www.dchamberlain.net/Astronomy/Polar%20Alignment%20Guide.htm>
- 5.4 NG suggested firmware upgrade to Meade from 4.7b to 4.7g
- 5.5 JB Domes cleaned inside and out
- 5.6 JB Lightbridge now in storage
- 5.7 BM Johns 12 inch dob installed in south dome.
- 5.8 JB Now light covers are red.
- 5.9 Hedge cutting, JB agreed with forest groundsman that we can trim the hedges if we
- 5.10 *JB to contact groundsman about cutting edges. Ask about removing cuttings.*

6 Starfest

- 6.1 NG contacted some potential speakers.
- 6.1.1 Stuart here on 17th to give talk.
- 6.1.2 Also contact Jurgen Schmoll.
- 6.1.3 Brad Gibson
- 6.1.4 Also twins from Durham.
- 6.1.5 Also contact twins about the Launchpad for the bottle rockets.
- 6.2 NG will commence booking toilets and skips etc in Jan 2018.

7 Octon

- 7.1 Update from Howard, retrieved camera which needs testing.
- 7.2 *NG and Howard to test.*

8 Christmas Meal

- 8.1 SA reported that to date 16 people are attending the meal.
- 8.2 JC discussed press reports about food poisonings at venue last year. ALL agreed to continue because of the improvements, although probably wise to avoid the pate.

9 Charity commission

- 9.1 All agreed to not apply for gift aid as its not worthwhile
- 9.2 However, all agreed it is worthwhile to stay a charity.

10 Humble Bee farm

- 10.1 BM gave an update on the event. It was cancelled due to inclement weather and the farm did not provide provision for this in the barn as it was full of cows. It was decided by all to not participate in the 2018 event.
- 10.2 *BM to send email declining event in 2018*

11 Equipment Purchases

- 11.1 BM put his own scope cover over John's scope. Suggested society purchases their own.
- 11.2 *All agreed BM could purchase replacement for society.*
- 11.3 JB kindly donating a table for the observatory.
- 11.4 *SA to ask on "freecycle" for table.*
- 11.5 The group had a discussion on step ladders and handrails.
- 11.6 *All agreed BM can buy two sets of step ladders with handrails, one with 3 steps and one with 4 steps.*

12 Public Observing

- 12.1 BM raised concern on lack of chairs and attendance, although this may have been due to bonfire events on the same weekend.
- 12.2 *December event changed to members event, public session cancelled.*
- 12.3 Feb event JB, JC and NG attending.

13 AOB

- 13.1 Member of public contacted NG about using scopes and buying one for Xmas.
- 13.2 *NG replying to email with suitable instructions.*
- 13.3 JB Next beginners event on Monday 13th Nov, asked for any attendees.
- 13.4 JC initiated discussion on the issues experienced at the public event with the laptop.
- 13.5 All agreed that we should investigate purchasing a new laptop.
- 13.6 *JC to provide a shortlist of laptops for discussion.*

14 Date of next meeting

- 14.1 Date and venue of the next meeting is Wednesday, 10th January 2018, 7:30 pm at the home of NG.
- 14.2 Meeting closed at 8.40pm