



Scarborough & Ryedale Astronomical Society

Annual General Meeting 2022

Report of the Secretary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This past year has seen a return to almost normalcy with the return of in-person meetings and Public Nights at Dalby once again.

2. Member events

- 2.1 In December we were able to hold a Xmas Meal once again at the Copper Horse in Seamer. A good night was had by all; however, we were overcharged for the 2nd time running at this venue and items were added to the bill which had already been paid for separately – this has since been resolved and refunded. The level of service from the staff was also not the best, so it is likely we will be seeking a different venue for 2022.
- 2.2 In January we held a workshop style meeting and were able to do observing on the field outside the hall at Ayton with a number of new members bringing their scopes.

3. Public events / Outreach

- 3.1 For the return of Public nights, we opted to limit numbers to 35-40 attendees by utilising Eventbrite online booking in-order to not overwhelm the members running the event. The average ticket sell-out time is 10 minutes, proving the events are still popular. If we allowed everyone able to obtain tickets, plus waiting-list names, we would easily be looking at 60-70 people per event. Donations have also been healthy at each of these events. Due to the removal of the CRC building as a meeting room, we are now using the Visitors Centre meeting room on the 1st floor if we have a cloudy night. There is more than enough room to seat 40 people plus we can set scopes up at the back of the room for demonstration.
- 3.2 Nick Duffy, Neil Graham and Howard Watson between them were able to do outreach this year with visits to Helmsley Beavers, Thornton Dale Beavers & Cubs, a West Yorkshire Brownie group staying in Hutton le Hole, Hinderwell school, Deepdale school and a retirement home.

- 3.3 SARAS were once again present at Ayton Gala in August 2021 with solar telescopes but due to mostly cloudy conditions solar viewing opportunities were sparse.

4 Membership numbers

- 4.1 At the end of last season the number of members was estimated at 48 due to the rollover of subscriptions.
In the 2022 season we had 10 new members join throughout the year and alongside existing membership renewals brought this year's total to 49 members.

5 Zoom / Ayton meetings

- 5.1 2 of the 7 member meetings were held this year via Zoom, both due to transportation issues for the guest speaker but the rest were held in person. Thank you to Mike Price for the loan of his PA for these 2 meetings. The society has now purchased its own small PA going forward.

6 Dalby Astronomy Centre

- 6.1 Nick Duffy and Neil Graham conducted a couple of visits over the year to do maintenance on the telescopes such as adding a new dual speed Crayford focuser to one of the Dobs used for public nights, do an inventory and re-arrange the storeroom to account for the number of scopes now being stored there.
The domes were cleaned with member's help in August 2021 and most recently in May 2022.
- 6.2 I have approached the new Recreation Ranger at Dalby to see if we can get a permanent member's barrier code to allow easier ad-hoc usage of the domes at short notice and out of hours.
- 6.3 We do need to start using the domes more if they are to remain value for money spent each year for rent and electricity and hopefully easier out of hours access will allow this.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 I would like to thank Phil Scaling for once again arranging our guest speakers and providing the varied programme of talks over the year.
- 7.2 Thanks go to Neil Graham, Nick Duffy and Howard Watson for assisting with outreach over this past year.
- 7.3 Finally my thanks go to Howard Watson for the time he has spent as a Committee member over the years and the assistance he has provided at the many events and outreach sessions..

