

# Sunderland Astronomical Society

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014.  
**Time:** 6:00 pm.  
**Location:** WWT.

**Attendees:** John Lynch (JL), Ken Kirvan (KK), Martin Kennedy (MK), Natalie Lowes (NL), Paul Meade (PM), Harry Herron (HH), Michael Tweedy (MT), Dave Beedham (DB)

**Apologies:** Roy Alexander (RA), Ian Aiken (IA), Peter Wison (PW), Stephen Carr (SC).

**Outstanding Actions:**

- PM to fill in an application form for ASDA green tokens for SAS fundraising purposes.
- JL to ask WWT if current notice board could be increased in size as the current notice was now too small.
- KK to provide accounts in new format for previous 2 years for BIFFA application (September 2014).
- RA to create pinned Facebook events for next season.
- MK to contact GC (NSLC) regarding future events.
- HH/DB/GD - telescope build progress.
- RA to provide action plan for competition for schools for SAS visits (as part of Endowment Fund).

|   | Description  | Action  | Deadline Date  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b><br>Minutes from previous committee meeting minutes were accepted.   |   |  |
| 1 | <b>Outstanding Action Review</b><br>All actions outlined above were still outstanding.   |   |  |
| 2 | <b>Visits &amp; Events</b><br>No firm dates as yet received by PM for next seasons events.<br><br>JL commented that the East Herrington school visits would be postponed until September and scheduled as required.<br><br>SAS Starbeque date 30 <sup>th</sup> August.<br>Kielder Forest Star Camp - October 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> . All electrical hook- up pitches were booked. Non-electrical pictures still available. Contact Lynn more information.<br><br>MK reported that there had been no further replies from the BBC regarding stargazing live dates. Possible date week of 20 March to coincide with the solar eclipse - date TBD/TBC.<br><br>It was decided to still go ahead with the Jupiter nights events at WWT. Current date decided upon our 23rd and 24th January 2015, usual times.<br><br>MK stated that he had sent out an initial e-mail to Gary Collin (Nissan) with regards to fundraising progress & participation in NSLC events this year and next, and was awaiting a reply. | PM to confirm dates/ times for visits/events, arrange/liaise with event organisers.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>MK to enquire/confirm date of the next BBC stargazing live event.<br><br><br>JL to contact WWT management and inform them of dates.<br><br><br>MK to make enquiries with GC. | As reqd.<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>As reqd.<br><br><br>As reqd.<br><br><br>ASAP |
| 3 | <b>Funding for Observatory Dome/Mount replacement, etc</b><br><br><b>Endowment Fund - Community Foundation.</b><br>With regards to other 3 school visits, RA proposed the possibilities of SAS Facebook or other social media competition(s) involving the schools in order to assist with fundraising, raise SAS profile in schools/local community, etc, etc. This was initially agreed by the committee & would further discussions will be required to firm up on competition/ action plan.  | Committee to discuss & action further at next committee meetings.   | 14/09/14   |

## SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

|   | Description  | Action  | Deadline Date                     |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
|   | <p><b>Other Fundraising Streams</b><br/>It was mentioned that BIFFA fundraising application process was to be started in September. Also previous 2 years accounts (in new agreed format) would be required from Treasurer (KK) for the application.</p> <p><b>SAS Fundraising – General</b><br/>SAS Charity Bike Ride 8<sup>th</sup> June<br/>KK reported that funding raised so far had been well over £700. Was awaiting further amounts from the “Just Give” Text facility as items will be paid depending upon people's mobile phone billing periods.</p> | Actions required for BIFFA application to start beginning of September 2014.  | Sept 2014.                        |
| 4 | <p><b>SAS Project - Shed</b><br/>HH/DB reported that they had a quote for the shed. £820 plus £100 (for runway gearing, etc). Price agreed by the committee.<br/>Possible start date 5th of September.</p> <p>PM suggested maybe worth getting a written agreement with WWT management regarding no rent increase due to storage shed with regards to overall rent, as this was a verbal agreement and situation could change if there was a changes in WW T management. JL commented take this advisement</p>   | <p>HH//JL arranged date for shed build/delivery&amp; construction.</p> <p>JL to ask advice from WWT management.</p>                       | Date TBC.                         |
| 5 | <p><b>SAS Project - 18.5 “ Dob Telescope</b><br/>HH reported that Graham delivered the primary mirror for coating. However the problem had been reported with the primary mirror's surface and some further work was required by Graham.<br/>More progress had been made regarding primary mirror housing and was awaiting primary mirror (final version) for initial setup/install.<br/>Some initial investigations/costings had been made regarding the aluminium tubing for the telescope struts.</p>   | <p>Graham to provide the necessary adjustments for primary mirror.</p> <p>HH/DB to provide necessary costings and materials/build/etc</p> | <p>As Req'd.</p> <p>As Req'd.</p> |

### Any Other Business

PM mentioned that now had some prizes for raffle.

PM also wanted to raise the issue of different cups/cup-holders at SAS meetings as the current plastic cups were not practical. Committee said purchase what was required.

PM also expressed interest in being nominated for the post vice-chairperson at the next AGM. It was also mentioned that this post can have multiple people in the post, as NAS.

HH commented that IA had offered Starwatcher EQ6 mount for £550 and SAS had first refusal. Committee said it was a no-brainer and instructed HH to buy it☺

MK - SAS now had booked speakers for monthly talks up to March 2015. Speakers still required Jupiter Nights events (WWT & Nissan events).

MK - set of SAS posters that are now available (e.g. see attached) that could used for outreach purposes for schools/groups/organisations/external events/etc.

MK raised the subject of the SAS newsletter, Dave Newton is intending to step down from the editor newsletter. After committee discussion, MK commented that there was an e-newsletter WordPress plug-in “[e-Newsletter](#)” that could be used. However, in order for this to succeed a number of regular contributors/editors would be required from the SAS membership and not fall onto one person update the news letter. It was suggested that possibly Dave Newton could send out an e-mail call-to- action for members who may be interested.

**Date & Time of next Committee Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 6:00 pm at WWT.**