

Sunderland Astronomical Society

Date: 8th December 2013.
Time: 6:00 pm.
Location: WWT.

Attendees: John Lynch (JL), Ken Kirvan (KK), Martin Kennedy (MK), Paul Meade (PM), Peter Wison (PW), Natalie Lowes (NL), Stephen Car (SC), Harry Henson(HH), Roy Alexander (RA).

Apologies: Ian Aiken (IA).

	Description	Action	Deadline Date
	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes from previous committee meeting minutes were accepted.		
1	Jupiter Nights at WWT It was felt that Jupiter Nights at WWT events on the 10th/11th of January will need to pick up the baton and make them to events to remember. The following items were outlined and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations to other Astro Societies • Speakers • Locations onsite • BBC Star guides, activity pack(s), etc. • Promoting & advertising events. 	JL to contact WW T management, book room, etc Dave Newton to order and receive BBC star guides, etc. PM to put article in(s) in Echo and other news papers.	17/11/13 28/12/13 08/01/14
2	BBC Invitation to Pavement Astronomy Request from BBC, comments received & discuss, other possible venues were disussed. Various points were discussed an alternative locations suggested.		
3	Nissan (NSLC) Events The following Nissan events was outlined and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jupiter Nights (8th Feb 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KB confirmed that invoice from last Jupiter nights event was still outstanding. ○ 2nd POC planetarium details passed to GC(NSLC). ○ A numbers of talks were discussed. It was decided that 2 to 3 talks by different speakers would be the best format. Plus a back speaker(s) for wet weather contingency. 	KK to be the POC & invite and liaise vendors. ?? to arrange speakers TBD	30/11/13 As reqd. 13/12/13
4	Dark Sky Discovery Sites - Events JL commented there were no further updates on these events,	JL and/or PM to liaise with POCs for events.	As reqd.
5	Sunderland County Council Events – Support events & possible site in Herrington Country Park JL commented no further updates on Sunderland Council events.	JL to be POC and liaise with Sunderland council on these events.	As reqd.
6	Visits & Events JL asked PM for outline on Visits & Events from November to December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouts/Brownie– Visit to Cygnus observatory, 7th to January, PM commented that the times were TBC. PM commented that there were visits by various scouts/cubs/brownies planned on February for the 5 th , 6 th . Times TBC. Nissan Jupiter Nights event on 8 February from 6pm. Xmas Benker night - Saturday, 28 December from 7 PM, Grey Horse pub Boldon. JL commented that if weather was favourable the Observatory would be opening, to members only, on New Year's Eve (as last year) from 6 PM onwards.	PM to confirm dates/ times for visits/events, arrange/liaise with event organisers.	As reqd.
7	Funding for Observatory Dome/Mount replacement, etc JL suggested RA take the lead with regards to approaches to funding and	JL to organise a meeting &	30/11/13

SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

	Description	Action	Deadline Date
	<p>various funding streams, etc for the observatory Mount and observatory dome, and other SAS stuff. Seconded by committee.</p> <p>JL commented that endowment fund requires completion and submission. Other possible funding sources were discussed by the committee.</p> <p>JL commented about the shortlist of come possible companies for various funding streams.</p>	<p>handover with RA, MK, GD in order to progress community endowment funding, as well as other funding streams.</p> <p>PM/MT to draw up short list and start draft of letter.</p>	30/11/13
8	<p>Projects</p> <p>SAS Large Dob Telescope Making Project. HH gave a progress report commented that the telescope base was progressing well and they were starting to think about the design of the secondary mirror housing.</p> <p>SAS Shed at WWT(with sliding roof) JL commented that the design for the role of shared had been submitted to the WW T manager and was awaiting feedback . This DS commented that he would be willing to help with design and possibly build of the storage shed/observatory.</p>	<p>JL to obtain confirmation of location as and when required.</p> <p>DS to make mirror blanks available for DS and others TBC.</p>	<p>30/11/13</p> <p>Date TBC</p> <p>Date for shed build TBC.</p>
9	<p>Website W.r.t. funding a request was made but the possibilities of creating a webpage specifically for funding, with maybe some sort of visual indicator on the webpage the show the current funds raised, etc. A request was made about the possibilities of having a "Reviews page", on the website. The idea being various Astro kit, apps, software could be reviewed & rated by SAS members. It was requested it be useful have a useful astro links section on website.</p>	IA/MK and other nominated members to create/update events, articles and news, etc as and when required.	As Reqd.
10	<p>Purchases & Miscellaneous No significant purchases at present.</p>		
11	<p>Other stuff JL asked for a progress report on ID badges.</p>	MK to complete badge printouts for this season's members. And laminate them.	As Reqd.

Any Other Business (around table)

- MK requested if there was been any feedback on the Cabinet build in the discovery room for the new telescope. JL commented yet no further updates as yet.
- RA suggested the possibilities of obtaining table mount telescopes as donations from various local shops/local businesses. Other fundraising ideas were outlined and discussed.
- PM requested a budget for raffle prizes, up to £15/month was seconded by the committee. And also requested the SAS membership via text alert service for raffle prizes.
- KK commented about discrepancies between the treasurer's membership numbers and secretary's membership numbers. To ironed out at next get-together.
- HH commented on the recent ill health of new member Gary Hunter and suggestions were made about the possibilities of building something for Gary and the possibilities for people with other disabilities w.r.t. observing at Cygnus observatory.

There Date & Time of next meeting - Committee Meeting: 5th January 2014, 6:00pm at WWT.

Schedule meeting brought forward due to Jupiter Nights events occurring on the 10th and 11th of January.