

Sunderland Astronomical Society

Date: 13th July 2014.
Time: 6:00 pm.
Location: WWT.

Attendees: John Lynch (JL), Roy Alexander (RA), Ken Kirvan (KK), Martin Kennedy (MK), Harry Herron (HH), Stephen Carr (SC), Owen Lowery (OL).

Apologies: Paul Meade (PM), Ian Aiken (IA), Natalie Lowes (NL), Peter Wison (PW).

Outstanding Actions:

- PM to enquire about the possibilities 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).

	Description	Action	Deadline Date
	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes from previous committee meeting minutes were accepted.		
1	Outstanding Action Review All actions outlined above were still outstanding.		
2	SAS Storage Area JL commented that KK had purchased a colour LaserJet printer the society printing purposes which is now set up and was Wi-Fi capable. JL commented that a route had been set up (with appropriate security and pass word) for short-range Wi-Fi use in discovery room and the Cygnus Observatory. It's this		
3	Visits & Events No firm dates as yet received by PM for next seasons events. JL commented that the East Herrington school visits would be postponed until September and scheduled as required. The solar observing event scheduled on 10 th August (1 – 4 pm) at WWT was still on track. Event in website, Events Calendar. MK commented that he had contacted the BBC POC with regards to next year's stargazing live event. Received reply stating nothing was confirmed as yet but that next stargazing live event could be in week of March 20 th next year to coincide with the solar eclipse (Fri, 9:46, UTC). This is to be confirmed over the coming months. Some of the committee expressed opinions that the stargazing live event could lose some of its momentum/interest if this event was run outside of usual January dates due to hard earned public awareness of this event now being an annual event in January. Committee also discussed January 2015 Jupiter nights (WWT) events, and decided it was still worth going ahead with our Jupiter nights events in January (dates to be confirmed). However, it was stressed that if this event was to be run then the publicity/advertising would need to be ramped up considerably in order to be worthwhile, and in order to gain similar turnouts as previous Jupiter Nights events. MK stated that he had sent out an initial e-mail to Gary Collin (Nissan) with regards to give an keep you up-to-date on fundraising progress & participation in NSLC events this year and next, and was awaiting a reply. RA commented that he had started pinning Facebook events for next season. We go to great	PM to confirm dates/ times for visits/events, arrange/liaise with event organisers. MK to enquire/confirm date of the next BBC stargazing live event. Actions to be discussed & decided. Actions Jupiter nights Events. MK to make enquiries with GC. RA to create pinned Facebook events for next season	As reqd. ASAP 10/08/14 TBD ASAP As Reqd.

SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

	Description	Action	Deadline Date
4	<p>Funding for Observatory Dome/Mount replacement, etc</p> <p>Endowment Fund - Community Foundation. JL commented that the star watcher EQ8 mount was now set up in Cygnus Observatory and would be fully operational following a further collimation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Other Fundraising Streams RA commented that as BIFFA fundraising limits were potentially up to 50K, that it may be worth increasing SAS fundraising aspirations. This was discussed and agreed by the committee and would be discussed at further committee meetings. Application process to be started in September.</p> <p>SAS Fundraising – General Committee discussed a number of funding goals/options and aspirations. As there was not a full committee, this will be raised again, discussed and decided at next meeting or at a specific fundraising meeting (TBD)..</p> <p>SAS Charity Bike Ride 8th June KK commented that the funds raised from the charity bike ride were currently over £600 so far. There were problems reported with enquiring the amounts raise from the “Just Give” Text facility. KK/Graham to investigate further.</p>	<p>Committee to discuss further at next committee meetings.</p> <p>Actions required for BIFFA application to start beginning of September 2014.</p>	<p>14/09/14</p> <p>Sept 2014.</p>
5	<p>SAS Project - Shed HH/DB also mentioned that they had found another possible shed builder (R&B Sheds) and were investigating. Star date to TBD.</p>	<p>HH//JL have arranged a visit to a shed builder to assess builder & get a quote.</p>	<p>Date TBD.</p>
6	<p>SAS Project - 18.5 “ Dob Telescope The current progress of the Dob was enquired, HH commented that they were awaiting final grinding/polishing of the primary mirror so they can then use to use the primary mirror determine the centre of gravity for the base work for further work to progress. Check with Graham if the final grinding/polishing was required for this.</p>		

Any Other Business

OL commented that NewBiggin were currently trying to set up and astronomical society, and suggested if they needed any help or support/talks it would be worth SAS getting involved. The committee agreed to support if required. It was suggested that OL could be the initial point of contact and if OL could try and find out more information and if support was required.

It was also mentioned that the be worth SAS doing more events with other astronomical societies in the north-east which could also help to create stronger ties to other astronomical societies and also help in getting further support at SAS events.

It was commented that the possibilities of a SAS summer trip had not been discussed and organised. To be raised at following committee meetings.

It was commented that the date for the August/September Starbeque should be raised at the next meeting.

Date & Time of next Committee Meeting: 10th August 2014, 6:00 pm at WWT.