

Sunderland Astronomical Society

Date: 13th October 2013.
Time: 6:00 pm.
Location: WWT.

Attendees: John Lynch (JL), Ken Kirvan (KK), Martin Kennedy (MK), Paul Meade (PM), , Trev Johnson (TJ), Kevin Baxter (KB), Ian Aiken (IA), Natalie Lowes (NL), Michael Tweedy (MT), Stephen Car (SC), Harry Henson(HH), Owen Lowery (OL), Roy Alexander (RA).

Apologies: Peter Stokel (PS).

	Description	Action	Deadline Date
1.	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes from previous committee meeting minutes were accepted		
2.0	<p>Nissan (NSLC) Events The following Nissan events dates were outlined and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firework Display (2nd Nov). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informed GC that there may be a reduced attendance due to Kielder star camp date clash. ○ JL asked for volunteers for the events. PM to lead on this event with other volunteers. • Fundraiser Event 23rd Nov. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GC agreed to get lights off for event. ○ Also agreed to pay outdoor. ○ GL commented that fundraiser needs to be advertised as much as possible for example an announcement in Echo, on radio, etc. • Jupiter Nights (8th Feb 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KK confirmed that Green Witch will be attending. Question was asked should the vendor is being debated KK said that we had enough vendors? TBD. ○ Invoice passed to Gary Collin, with payment details for previous Jupiter Nights (Nissan) event. ○ KK to provide MK with her planetarium contact details for GC. ○ The number of talks was discussed. It was decided that 2 to 3 talks by different speakers would be the best format. Backup speakers may also be required due to some speakers dropping out from the last event, which was felt that this placed an unfair responsibility of the remaining speakers. ○ The second talk area would not be located in the conservatory. The new location of this talk is TBDTBC. 	<p>PM to be lead on the fireworks display event.</p> <p>KK to be the POC & invite and liaise vendors. ?? to arrange speakers TBD MK to provide GC with invoice for last event. MK forward planetarium contact details.</p> <p>?? to arrange speakers for the event</p>	<p>02/11/13</p> <p>As reqd.</p> <p>13/10/13</p> <p>As reqd.</p> <p>As reqd.</p>
2.1	<p>BBC Stargazing Live Event MK commented that there are still some conflicting dates, for example 6-8 January, or 7 - 9 January which are to be confirmed. Re: the possibility of using WWT hosting SGL at the WWT site, MK sent another e-mail to BBC's Darren Taylor providing him with contact details for WW T manager, also stating the advantages of using this site.</p> <p>Darren commented that venues are being currently being investigated. Upon initial interest shown by WWT management, SAS did suggest the possibilities, facilities of WWT hosting the event. Darren Taylor will consider and take this under advisement.</p> <p>UPDATE 01/11/13: BBC decided stargazing event will not be running in the north-east and this and will be held in three regional locations down</p>	<p>MK to pass WWT Manager contact details to Darren Taylor.</p>	<p>15/09/13</p>

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	Description	Action	Deadline Date
	south. Jupiter Nights at WWT events on the 10th/11th of January will need to pick up the baton on this. More information will be provided in forthcoming newsletter.	Actions TBD.	
2.2	Jupiter Nights at WW T JL proposed a 10th and 11th of January for these events, this was agreed. JL to contact WWT on these dates	JL to contact WW T management	10/11/13
2.3.	Dark Sky Discovery Sites - Events .JL commented on the initial event in Stanley. Location very good, although more open wind as opposed to Derwent site. Could be used as a possible good dark sky observing location for society. External talk given, commented that it was not really pitched at the appropriate level for this event. Public turnout poor for this event. North Pennines AONB Partnership Dark Sky Event, 15th November, , Location(Derwent North Shore Car Park(This location may have now changed),Times TBC.	JL and/or 'Visits-Events Coordinator' (PM) to liaise with POCs for Oct & Nov events.	As reqd.
2.4	Sunderland County Council Events – Support events & possible site in Herrington Country Park JL stated Albany Park 21 September only 4 SAS members turned up for the event, which made the event hard work as it was very popular with the public. The Interest and feedback from the event was very positive.	JL to be POC and liaise with Sunderland council on these events. JL to confirm possible events date, times, etc asap.	Ongoing As reqd.
3	Visits & Events JL asked PM for outline on Visits & Events from October to December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winlaton age Hall & Grounds, Fundraiser event, PM, did that there had been no further response on this event. MT commented the responsibility is on the people to follow up enquiries who want to book Society • Private Event – Visit to Cygnus observatory, 9th November, PM asked the question regarding charges, following lengthy discussions it was agreed to ask the visitors for a donation per person, possibly of £5 per head. JL asked for volunteers as is about was on a Saturday night, PM and others volunteered. • 2nd Herrington Scouts visit to Cygnus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TJ confirmed 18th October , 7:30 pm. • Dave Newton's astronomy class to visit Cygnus observatory on following Thursday 17th Oct. • North Pennines AONB Partnership Dark Sky Event, 15th November, Location(Derwent North Shore Car Park(This location may have now changed),Times TBC. • Brownies visits Cygnus Observatory, 25th November, time TBC(6:30pm?). 	JL/PM to arrange/liaise with event organisers. PM to confirm dates/ times for visits/events, arrange/liaise with event organisers.	As reqd. As reqd.
4	AGM Suggested date was 17th November, from 6 pm before the lecture. JL asked if anyone would be stepping down/remaining from name posts committee etc. KB said that he would be stepping down as treasurer. JL thanked KB for all efforts as treasurer, which was seconded by committee members. This post would be put up for re-election at the AGM. MK to send out notice of AGM over the next couple weeks.	JL to prepare AGM presentation. MK to send out AGM notice	17/11/13 21/10/13
5	Funding for Observatory Dome/Mount replacement, etc JL introduced Roy Alexander (RA) who was keen to join the society (via Dave Newton) and get involved society and SAS public outreach. Roy also has some experience with fundraising.	JL to organise a meeting with RL, MK, GD in order to progress community	30/11/13

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	<p>RA outlined some of his thoughts and ideas for possible astronomy courses, public outreach and funding. After discussions, MT suggested best course of action was to nominate himself as a possible committee candidate at the next AGM(17/11/13) elections and take it from there. In the previous meeting MT suggested drawing up a shortlist of companies, organisations, etc to approach and draft initial letter for donation enquiries for committee comments. To liaise with committee as/when required. PM agreed to take this action</p> <p>Other possible funding sources were discussed by the committee.</p> <p>JL commented with the maintenance work done by HH to stop damp problem, which have more or less been solved for the time being. Therefore, the funding focus should possibly switch priorities from the Observatory Dome to the Mount. This was further discussed.</p>	<p>endowment funding, as well as other funding streams</p> <p>JL/MK/GD to draft/ lottery grant application / business plan, and enable feedback from committee before application is submitted. PM to draw up short list and start draft of letter.</p>	30/11/13
6	<p>Projects</p> <p>SAS Large Dob Telescope Making Project. JL commented that the storage location inside WWT for large Dobsonian telescope was agreed with WWT manager. Awaiting modification of area to accommodate scope in the discovery room. GL ask for a progress report from HH regarding the telescope. HH commented that the telescope base was progressing well and they were starting to think about the design of the secondary mirror. Re: primary mirror progress, Graham Darke(GD) would be consulted.</p> <p>SAS Shed at WWT(with sliding roof) JL commented that permission had been obtained from WWT management (at no extra cost to the current rent) to build a storage shed/observatory with sliding roof, Allowed size 2mx 3m. WW T management have asked for initial designs asap. IA commented that he had some plans of shed with the sliding roof. JL to action Dave Beedham (DB) to use these plans if possible as a basis for current/new design so that JL can give them to WW T management.</p>	<p>JL to obtain confirmation of location as and when required.</p> <p>HH to make enquiries for a joiner contacts for secondary mirror housing.</p> <p>JL to provide plans to WWT management.</p>	<p>30/11/13</p> <p>As Reqd.</p> <p>13/11/13</p>
7	<p>Website The go-live date for the updated website was estimated to be 15th of October. A number of users would be defined in orders to provide input to website. IA to provide a demo of the website after the meeting. All feedback and suggestions welcomed.</p>	<p>IA archive current website, and make new website live. IA/MK and other nominated members to create/update events, articles and news, etc as and when required.</p>	15/10/13
8	<p>Purchases & Miscellaneous No significant purchases at present.</p>		
9	<p>Other stuff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL asked for a progress report on ID badges from MK. • JL commented that FAS have updated their Child Protection policy, is it worth updating SAS child protection policy? After discussions it was decided to keep current SAS child protection policy. 	<p>MK to complete badge printouts for this season's members.</p>	As Reqd.

Any Other Business

- JL asked questions about finances from previous events
 - Jupiter nights Nissan event?
 - Bright sparks event? KB commented that he had received no funds on both items yet.
- A key to the Side gate is imminent due to negotiations with WWT manager (Gill)
- Use of side road to move equipment into rear area for stargazing live event has been agreed.

Date & Time of next meeting - Committee Meeting: 10th of November 2013, 6:00pm at WWT.