

Sunderland Astronomical Society

Date: 12th April 2015.
Time: 6:00 pm.
Location: WWT.

Attendees: Michael Tweedy (MT), Martin Kennedy (MK), John Lynch (JL), Harry Herron (HH), Chris Duffy (CD), Richard Graham (RG), , Karen Hutchinson (KH), Peter Stokel (PS). David Bedham (DB), David Ettie (DE).

Apologies: Natalie Lowes (NL), Owen Lowery (OL), Paul Meade (PM), Sophie Jenkins (SJ), Ken Kirvan (KK), Roy Alexander (RA), Jacqui Gray (JG).

Open Actions:

- MT/PM to ask WWT management if current notice board could be increased in size as the current notice was now too small for SAS notices/pictures/etc.
- MT to find out if there are any waivers/conditions imposed from Charity Commission re: placing meeting minutes into password protected SAS members area on website.
- MT/KK to get receipt off Gill for SAS rent.
- MT/MK to update the SAS Equipment Hire Record. MT also commented a possible audit of current loan equipment, possibly during the summer. For this a loan equipment muster would be required and a request would be issued to temporarily return equipment for inspection and any faults noted, etc. Date TBD.
- MT commented that there was a requirement for a quick and dirty "Outreach Monitoring Form". Would be useful when filling in the endowment feedback forms for example how many SAS members attended, how many kids attended the event, etc.
- HH suggested about the possibility of making a portable peer that could be fitted into patio outside the Observatory for better disabled access. MT suggested that we bring up with WWT management.
- HH/DB/GD – report on any Dob telescope/mirror progress updates.
- HH/DB – report on any shed repair updates.
- IA/MK to look into providing/developing Membership/Fundraising related area and other related features on website.
- Fundraising sub-committee (RA, PM, MK, KD) - report on any fundraising updates.
 - Kielder Observatory style event(s) for 20 to 30 people that would be run professionally and charged accordingly To be discussed & decided upon & arranged for sometime in the new season.
- Setup JustGiving & PayPal. payment mechanisms for fundraising purposes.

	Description	Deadline Date
	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes from previous committee meeting were accepted.	
1	Open Action Review All actions outlined above are still ongoing.	
2	Visits & Events For events this/next month, see SAS Website Events Calendar /SAS Facebook group page for details. Souter Lighthouse event - when well. MT would like to thank the speakers at this event. Stargazing Live - Round up. Very well organised and run. Weather let us down. WWT management were very accommodating with SAS requests and were thanked for their participation. Organisational/Logistical lessons were learned from the Jupiter nights event. Although all turnout was lower, fundraising raised equivalent amounts as Jupiter nights event. Two-way radios purchased for this and future events. MT wished to say bid thank you to KH for loaning her company's PA system. School Visit on the Thursday, it proved that merchandising worked well and MT suggested that we should run the merchandising for all visits & events in future, this was agreed by the committee. MT suggested anyone is seeing any appropriate sized flashlights in relevant discount shops that	

SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

	Description	Deadline Date
	could be astronomized to buy them and they will be reimbursed.	
3	Shed roof repair MT commented that roof repair would commence once we had a fairly long spell of good weather.	
4	Portable Disabled Access Pier HH & DB of discussed and will come up with a design for the portable pier next to the Observatory. The parts listing and costing will be required. HH to approach WWT management of permission/approval of the concept and design.	
5	Fundraising for Observatory dome, etc. MT requested an progress update on the membership implementation of the SAS website. MK commented that the website have been cloned for development purposes(for e.g. membership plug-in development, etc), and started to look at implementing the membership plug-in. MT also requested the possibility of implementing a Fundraising webpage and implement a JustGiving/PayPal/equivalent payment mechanisms. Possible idea is to announce fundraiser on our Facebook SAS page and Facebook members could then donate to the fundraising events(s). And so tap into the SAS Facebook membership possible donators. MK agreed could be implemented with a fundraising plug-in, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JustGiving mechanism: the current just giving account would either have to be reactivated/re-implemented to provide the relevant text key for JustGiving donations. MK to ask Graham on the status of the just giving account. ○ PayPal mechanism: a non-profit PayPal account need to be set up, there were things to go through in order to get the setup. ○ Funds transfer mechanism: TBD. <p>MT commented that OL was to contact a possible fundraising point of contact that could help with fundraising and would need to be followed up.</p> <p>MT commented Graham Darke had made a suggestion of providing Kielder Observatory style event for 20 to 30 people that was run professionally and charged accordingly. The question of dark skies at Kielder was mentioned, however it was various members commented that this did not really matter for visual observing and it was commented & felt that SAS events at WWT/Cygnus rivalled other similar events in N.E. Event would be tailored to events attendees astronomy requirements. Other items for this event were discussed, complimentary gifts, freebies, sky-guides/in the sky for that quarter, etc. MT asked ask about the possibility of putting some things on a CD that could be used for event attendees. Also was, that this could possibly be expanded for new and renewing members. MT asked the committee to think about other things that could be used and bring up at the following committee meetings.</p>	
6	Astrophotography Competition 17th May 2015 The rules for the competition have been set up on the SAS website and I expected to be adhered to. MT the possibility of using some of the astrophotography photographs for a SAS calendar that could help with SAS fundraising for the dome. Committee agreed.	
7	Fundraising Bike ride 14th June 2015 Same route & times as last year. From our dark sky site and don't reservoir to the Cygnus Observatory via country lanes and the C2C route. Events details to be organised & setup accordingly. A walk was also discussed and it will be decided at a later date. HH commented that we need to get permission from WWT to get permission in order to take photographs of bike riders outside the observatory.	

Any Other Business

CD commented that the sale of the fork and mount raised £233 and was placed in bank.

Date & Time of next Committee Meeting: 10th May 2015, 6:00 pm at WWT(Cafe).