

Sunderland Astronomical Society

Date: 8th March 2015.

Time: 6:00 pm.

Location: WWT.

Attendees: Michael Tweedy (MT), Martin Kennedy (MK), Ken Kirvan (KK), John Lynch (JL), Harry Herron (HH), Chris Duffy(CD), Jacqui Gray (JG), Richard Graham (RG), Sophie Jenkins (SJ), , Karen Hutchinson (KH), Roy Alexander (RA).

Apologies: Peter Stokel (PS), Natalie Lowes (NL), Owen Lowery (OL), Paul Meade (PM).

Note: Minutes also covered subsequent event meeting on the 15th March 6:30pm.

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 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 build progress updates.
- Graham Darke to provide the necessary adjustments for primary mirror coating for telescope project.
- HH/DB – report on any shed repair updates.
- IA/MK to look into providing/developing Membership related area and other features on website.
- Fundraising sub-committee(RA,PM,MK,KD) - report on any fundraising updates.

	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	<p>Visits & Events For events this/next month, see SAS Website Events Calendar/SAS Facebook group page for details.</p> <p>MK commented that the Vibe magazine & Made In Tyne Wear, had requested interest in doing a features. This was agreed by committee. MK to contact POCs.</p> <p>Souter Lighthouse - 17/03/15, from 6:30pm. Supporting SSAS.</p> <p>St Mary's Lighthouse - 19/03/15. Possibly from 6:30pm, Lighthouse causeway opening after 5pm . Observing only, no organisation required. MT to send out a text alert to members nearer the time. Providing cover provided for Thursday night at Cygnus Observatory opening. Actually on lighthouse. Actually at lighthouse, dump gear and drive back across causeway, etc, etc.</p> <p>Stargazing Live 20th/21st March 2015. MT requested if there was interest in observing the morning of the partial solar eclipse. questions asked if sun was visible and a key-holder / committee member would need to be present. Send out a text message to SAS members as SAS membership badges required during day to avoid WWT admission charges. Similar setup/logistics as Jupiter nights events for the SGL events.</p>	<p>As reqd.</p> <p>All actions reqd. before 20/03/15</p>

SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

	Description	Deadline Date
	<p>MK to make modifications to sitemap & distribute to committee. OL to print out A1 sitemaps. MT suggested to offer OL a donation for the cost of printing. Committee agreed. MT to contact Paul Mooney Stargazing Live Events announcement in BBC Look North. PM to contact the press and local radio. MT commented that we had the Jupiter Nights wash-up meeting (23/02/15) & WWT management had agreed to all SAS suggestions/observations/possible issues. MK to get quotes & specify and order SAS tablecloth. MT suggested that was not cost-effective to print out SAS leaflets as in Jupiter nights events, this was agreed by the committee. Agreed to provide electronic versions only. MT commented that the number of astronomers attending, not as many as Jupiter Nights events due to other event conflicts. MK commented three talks have been booked for each night. Joe Gordon would attend the Friday night event. The solar system walk/talk was to be postponed possible for a later event unless the weather is poor. HH purchased 100 torches and were to be converted to stargazing friendly torches. JG/SJ/KK to resource the SAS reception and actively MT to order some more red acetate for torches. JG&MK to order glow sticks for events. MK to order two-way radios for this/future events. MK to produce the required merchandise signage at reception. MT commented that there was a request for a PA system/Mic for the talkers at events. JL commented that WW T hat had a possible PA system. KH offered a possible PA system from work that could be used MK to order wireless headset for PA system. MK to produce talk programme posters. HH to order more red LEDs for extra observing areas for events. Committee discussed possible raffle prizes for the SGL events. MT suggested an astronomical telescope as a raffle prize, location TBC. Also there was an offer from WWT management for a years membership(for 1/2 SGL events. MT to confirm with). Ideas for auctions on Facebook were suggested and after discussion was agreed to run at future events. CC to organise/distribute observation list & liaise & organise with SAS other AS members/etc. MT suggested having another quick meeting before the event in order items and finish off. Contingencies were discussed/agreed re: areas and extra talks. OL to provide a Star Theatre with music and effects in Barn. With imagery/videos from a projector to be shown in barn. JL to run Live Link Telescope via telly from shed.</p>	<p>All actions reqd. before 20/03/15</p>
3	<p>Fundraising for Observatory dome, etc. RA commented that we need to think about fundraising bit more, as every little helps. MT suggested the set-up of the fundraising Sub-Committee(RA. PM, PM. KD) can more vigorously pursue fundraising events and report to committee. 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 observatory's w.r.t. facilities, expertise availability to public/costs/travel accessibility & overall astronomy experience. MT suggested this to be logged for an action for Fundraising Sub-committee.</p>	

Any Other Business

MT run through the observation list SAS members/other AS members, also ushers/participants/helpers/etc whom were participating in the SGL events,.

SGL Event contingencies for wet/poor weather were discussed/decided upon.

Date & Time of next Committee Meeting: 12th April 2015, 6:00 pm at WWT(Cafe).