

# Sunderland Astronomical Society

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**Time:** 6:00 pm.

**Location:** WWT.

**Attendees:** Michael Tweedy (MT), Paul Meade (PM), Martin Kennedy (MK), Karen Hutchinson (KH), David Bedham (DB), Chris Duffy (CD), Harry Herron (HH), John Lynch (JL), , Jacqui Gray (JG), Natalie Lowes (NL), Ken Kirvan (KK).

**Apologies:** Owen Lowery (OL), Sophie Jenkins (SJ), Roy Alexander (RA), Richard Graham (RG), Peter Stokel (PS).

## 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 to get receipt off Gill for SAS rent.
- Equipment Hire Record & SAS Loan Equipment Audit to be scheduled for September. Equipment Audit would involve members returning loaned equipment which would then be inspected & repaired (if required). Loan equipment mechanisms were discussed.
- 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.
- Progress update given on the design and manufacture of the parts for the portable pier. Committee voted to approve go ahead with pier.
- HH/DB/GD – report on any Dob telescope/mirror progress updates.
- HH/DB – report on any shed repair updates.
- Setup "JustGiving" & PayPal payment mechanisms for fundraising purposes.

Item No.	Description	Deadline Date
	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Minutes from previous committee meeting were accepted.	
1	<b>Open Action Review</b> All actions outlined above are still ongoing.	
2	<b>Visits &amp; Events</b> For events this/next month, see <a href="#">SAS Website Events Calendar</a> /SAS Facebook group page for details. No SAS events were discussed for May. <b>Summer External Visit for SAS members - Edinburgh Observatory</b> PM to be the lead/POC for the Edinburgh Observatory. £4 per member. Travel arrangements- Car-share suggested(& share costs). PM to determined date for the visit.	
3	<b>Shed roof repair</b> Roof repair would commence once we had a fairly long spell of good weather.	
4	<b>Portable Disabled Access Pier</b> Committee discussed the design for the portable peer next to the Observatory. The portable pier will be funded by SAS. Funding would be sought for telescope for the portable peer. Committee discussed the possibilities in the patent/copyright of the design of the disabled access portable peer.	
5	<b>Fundraising for Observatory dome, etc.</b> MT about the possible progress of the fundraising subcommittee. If subcommittee did not get off the ground then fundraising would be taken on board by the committee.	

## SAS Committee - Meeting Minutes

Item No.	Description	Deadline Date
	<p>MT commented that intending to set or a PayPal and JustGiving payment mechanism for our Facebook group page and SAS website.</p> <p>MT outlined some of the quotes for the new observatory dome. IP Rating(s) for the observatory dome were queried.</p> <p>Graham has reported that the just giving text account is still active with over £201 in account (from JustGiving "text" Fundraising Bike ride). MT commented that this account was not a complete just giving account. Possible fees were discussed for the JustGiving/Paypal accounts. It was voted by committee to continue with the setup of these accounts for fundraising purposes.</p> <p>Kielder Observatory style event for 20 to 30 people that was run professionally and charged accordingly, would be planned for next season.</p> <p>MT commented meeting with Claire Packzko (professional fundraiser) &amp; SAS (MT, PM, OL, MK, HH) on Friday 15th May @ 19:00 at WWT to discuss possible SAS fundraising objectives, funding streams, possible strategies, ways to help and best ways forward.</p>	
6	<p><b>Astrophotography Competition 17th May 2015</b> The rules for the competition have been set up on the SAS website. CD requested definitions between intermediate levels and advanced. Astrophotography Competition Skill levels would be based upon age basis for the competition were decided upon: <b>Beginners:</b> Less or equal to 1 year. <b>Intermediate:</b> 2 and 3 years. <b>Advanced:</b> 3+ years. Prizes were decided for Winners would be free membership for next season. MK to produce certificates to be produced for Winners and Runner's up.</p> <p>MT asked about the possibility of using some of the astrophotography photographs for a SAS calendar that could help with SAS fundraising for the dome. Committee agreed.</p>	
7	<p><b>Fundraising Bike Ride 9th August 2015</b> Same route &amp; times as last year. From our dark sky site to the Cygnus Observatory via country lanes and the C2C route. Events details to be organised &amp; setup accordingly. MT preferred the 1st poster of the two. Two posters &amp; details uploaded on website. PM to take lead on the fundraising Bike Ride. A fundraising walk was also discussed and it will be decided at a later date.</p>	
8	<p><b>Google Drive Account for SAS Business</b> MT/KH suggested setting up of the Google Drive. KH/MK to sort out &amp; set-up.</p>	

### Any Other Business

MT suggested the club should have a set of goals/aspirations to strive for e.g., short-term, medium-term, long-term. This was thought to be a good idea and agreed by committee.

For example, 2 decent laptops to enable live streaming from the telescope Observatory. DSLRs with live-view. "DSLR Controller App" for Cannon Cameras which can provide better access to tablets. JL suggested adding some tablets to the fundraising items.

MT suggested a DVD for all new members for next season. For e.g. introduction to astronomy, open source applications and apps, other possible astro-links, possible video lectures, etc, etc.

It was also suggested that we should possibly think about getting a PA system similar to the one Karen loaned SAS for Stargazing Live events. Due to the size of attendees at lectures and events. It was suggested these should be prioritised.

**Date & Time of next Committee Meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 6:00 pm at WWT(Cafe).