

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society
Minutes of Committee Meeting on Monday 18th October, 2010
Held at 23, Abbey Road, Darlington at 7pm

Present were in the Chair, Alex Menarry, Julia Goudge, Rob Peeling, Ian Miles, Rod Cuff. Apologies had been received from Barry Hetherington, Ed Restall and Dave Lewis, with Neil's apology taken as read.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:06, noting that a quorum was present.

2. Adoption of Minutes of Committee Meeting, June 14th, 2010

The Minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Recent Ordinary Meetings

The Minutes of the meetings on 10/09/2010, 28/9/2010 and 08/10/2010 were accepted as a true record.

Actions from last Meeting

All have been cleared or are on the Agenda for the present meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Committee Meeting Places

Rob will be moving job in December and he will not be attending any more Committee meetings. The Committee took this opportunity to wish Rob well in his new situation in the South of England and thank him for all his work and contributions to the Society and astronomy generally in the district in the past. He will be sorely missed. Since the Johnson-Matthey offices will no longer be available to us for meetings, Julia offered to host the next meeting at her house in Middleton St George. Other alternatives will be pursued, such as the cafe or the Railway Carriage at Wynyard Country Park. Action: Alex to talk to Ed about this. __

6. Paul Duggan

A short obituary by John McCue had already appeared in Transit and a more comprehensive obituary is being sought. The Committee hopes Pat will continue to develop and maintain the WWII Bunker near Osmotherley as a possible CaDAS dark skies observatory. Action: Alex and Ed to contact Pat to confirm her continuing interest in the Bunker project.

7. Roll of Honour

Ian's design for the Roll of Honour was accepted as entirely suitable and this design will be pursued. Darren Summerfield's status as an honorary member was uncertain and Alex will discuss it with him. Action Alex. When this has been resolved Ian will have the design made up in suitable materials and mounting for display in the Planetarium. It was further agreed that a letter be sent to each Hon Member to confirm their Hon position and inform them that the display was taking place (with a low-key ceremony?), rather than the Certificate suggested by Barry. Target date for hanging the Roll is for the AGM early in February, 2011.

8. Laser Collimator Purchase

Not yet bought but a suitable one is being investigated.

9. WWPET Matters

No meetings had been held and Rob had nothing to report. He will need to be replaced as CaDAS Representative before the next meeting. _

10. Position of Treasurer

Ian will be resigning as Treasurer at the AGM in February. Sue Barnes had been approached as a possible candidate to stand for election and she had expressed a wish to find out more. Ian and Sue were in touch to make her aware of what the job entails. Action Ian.

11. Workshop/Alternative CaDAS Meetings

The Messier Bingo evening was declared a partial success. A disappointingly small number (12) of members had been there and enjoyed the idea. It was suggested that the bingo cards have fewer numbers on any future occasion. However, the social side had not been as successful as the Committee had hoped. It was agreed to continue the idea with the "Gardener's Question Time" format suggested by Neil at the end of February, 2010. Questions could be submitted beforehand or written down on the night to avoid 'exposure' or embarrassment. A less formal seating arrangement than the Planetarium was suggested, such as the Wynyard Cafe or the Railway Carriage. Action Alex, to talk to Ed about his (Ed's) availability and suitable dates and venues.

12. AGM

The date will be the February 12th, before the Member's Night, as last year. Neil had indicated that he was preparing a humorous astronomy talk for that evening. Alex to produce an Agenda.

13 AOB.

- i) Transit entries required for the AGM/Members' Night and for the next Workshop date. Andy Fleming is standing in as Editor for the next edition and should be informed.
- ii) Thomas Wright Trophy. After the last quiz recently, Durham University had indicated that they would not only like to be invited next year but would be willing to host the event.

14 Next Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be at the start of the week before the AGM, ie Monday, 7th February, 2011 at Julia's house at 20, West Acres, Middleton St George, DL2 1LJ.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:00.

AM

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