

**Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society**  
**Minutes of extraordinary committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 19:00.**  
**Venue: 48 Linden Road, West Cornforth, Ferryhill, DL17 9NR**

**Present: Jürgen Schmoll in the Chair (JS), Sue Barnes (SB), Julia Goudge (JG), Peter Hanna (PH), Ian Morris (IM), Malcolm Bannister (MB), Ian Riach (IR)**

**Apologies: Neil Haggath (NH), Rod Cuff (RC), David Lewis (DL)**

**1. Review of the previous minutes 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and apologies**

The last meeting marked the split between CaDAS and the new organisation TASC that runs the planetarium as a volunteer based charity. The notes got referred to the TASC committee.

The future meetings of CaDAS will entirely focus on CaDAS activities now.

**2. Treasurer's report**

SB reported she circulated the AGM summary. Closing balance at the end of the year was £3166.79 This includes a donation of £500 to be used for the future of the Planetarium. The year-end overall increase was £844.08 including the £500, so £344.08 by membership payments and small donations.

To date the TASC money in CaDAS account was:

2013	£500.00
2014 Transfer from WWPET	£332.38 + £209.16
Total	£1041.54

Of this, £451.95 got spent for internal domain (£8.38), DBS checks (£72.00), cash float for planetarium shows (£50.00), the building survey (£300) and stationary (£21.57). This leaves £589.56 as TASC money still in CaDAS accounts until TASC gets its own bank account.

Membership: Reminders were sent off by Rod – 13 adults and 3 families (8 individuals) have not renewed. Currently we have 87 members, of which there are 13 families (37 individuals), 47 adults and 3 honorary members.

IM suggests to see a list of post codes where members are. The planetarium is on the edge between Cleveland and Darlington, and travel distances are quite high with no sensible public traffic connection. It would be nice to get a visual idea about where our members are coming from. This can help with setting up events to meet the member's needs. Practical events like astronomical observing sessions would definitely help to get CaDAS more active and more attractive for the membership.

SB will produce a basic overview about where the members come from for the AGM.

ACTION SB: Provide overview about membership locations.

**3. Situation of speakers for the new season**

Keith Johnson volunteered to give an astrophotography talk in February 2015. JS put himself forward for a beginner's talk in January again, addressed at the newcomers that may just got a telescope for Christmas.

SB suggested leaving the TWT off the annual programme and treating it as a separate event as attendance numbers are always lower. This will free up one slot for an astronomical presentation. IM seconded this suggestion.

ACTION NH: Fill the TWT slot with a talk rather in the future (not a problem this year as Durham Student's AS is hosting this event on another date anyhow).

#### **4. AGM preparation for 2014 June 13**

RC announced he is to step down from his office as communication and information secretary. CaDAS member Jon Mathieson has volunteered to take over so Rod will propose him-to be seconded by JS.

ACTION SB: Contact Rod to get more information about Jon .

No other committee members intend to step down this year.

The AGM will be held at the Hamilton Russell pub in a reserved private area, using printouts for the members to go through the formal part, followed by the social part to help members to socialise.

#### **5. Social programme for meeting on June 13**

IM priced up options in the Hamilton Russell pub. A private area can be taken for free as long as drinks are being purchased. Food is available at £7 per person (group of 50) or £8.30 per person (group of 30) which includes mince on onion pie with chips and peas. This price may be reduced if a lower grade of mince is being used. Alternatively, a cold buffet is available at £6.95 per person for a minimum group size of 30.

Entertainment like raffles or a quiz can be arranged – astronomically themed.

The committee agreed on the following points:

Event free with free buffet for 30 persons. It was acknowledged that CaDAS will have to find a charge model for social events in the future.

No partners (apart from family memberships), some fund raising by a raffle happening at the night.

Booking of the room from 7pm till late, with buffet being served at 8:15pm.

There will be a raffle with items donated by the membership.

Furthermore there will be a quiz with a picture round, a music round and a question round. Prices will be astronomically themed candy bars (Mars, Milky Way, Galaxy ...).

A “pick the supernova” game will be held with a bottle of wine as a price.

Actions for the night:

ACTION SB: Organise an astronomically themed picture round.

ACTION JG: Organise an astronomically themed music round.

ACTION JS: Organise an astronomically themed quiz question round (15 questions).

ACTION IM: Purchase prizes and the raffle book.

ACTION JS: Provide a large astronomical print with a grid on it.

ACTION IM: Book the room and buffet at the Hamilton Russell pub.

ACTION RC: Inform membership about the event and appeal for raffle price donations.

#### **6. CaDAS venue**

The planetarium is currently safe as a venue, but it is likely that TASC has to charge rent for CaDAS to fulfil its charity regulation after which no third party is allowed to get advantage. However, the modest charge will be used to assure the planetarium stays open and as a fee is charged everywhere else, it should not be prohibitive.

## **7. Any other business**

- PH mentioned about what else we could do with CaDAS in terms of practical observing etc. – could be evaluated on the AGM in form of an informal questionnaire collected in a bucket.

ACTION JS: Create questionnaire for members to be filled in and collected at the AGM event.

- PH mentioned the insurance situation at the planetarium site. At the moment all assets in the planetarium is owned by SBC or CaDAS. TASC will not be able to pay for the insurance, so CaDAS owned kit has to be insured separately. Action PH to clarify situation. Many items on the asset list are not having real value or the match funding value does not reflect the insurance value. The joint ownership between SBC and CaDAS may be the main problem.

ACTION PH: Clarify insurance situation.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

In about 3 months time from now to follow the temporal pattern of quarterly committee meetings.

ACTION JS: Put meeting DOODLE poll on in August 2014.

End of meeting: 21:25 UT.

This is version 1.0, produced 2014 May 15 by JS.