

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society
Minutes of committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 22nd, 2017 at 19:30.
Venue: 50 Garmondsway Road, West Cornforth, Ferryhill, DL17 9HD

Present: Jürgen Schmoll in the Chair (JS), Julia Goudge (JG), Sue Barnes (SB), Simon Gotch (SG), Keith Johnson (KJ), David Lewis (DL)

Apologies: Neil Haggath (NH), Jon Matthieson (JM), Peter Hanna (PH), Ian Riach (IR)
Ian Riach (IR) requested to step down from the committee. The resignation has been accepted.

Start 19:31

1. Review of the previous minutes January 23th, 2017 and the AGM June 9th, 2017

The minutes have been read out by the chairman and they were unanimously accepted, in case of the AGM with small changes.

2. Position of Honorary President of CaDAS after Jack Youdale

The position has been proposed to leave open at the moment in respect to Jack Youdale. In future this position can be reviewed by the committee.

3. Treasurer's report

SB reported a balance of £3782.18 on 2017 Nov 08th. At the end of the year there will be around £3700 left, with the biggest cost being the TASC rent. The NightScenes books were sold at a loss, with £179.50 paid for 50 books. They sold for £117.00, so the loss was £62.50. It was concluded not to do this anymore. The numbers of new members are in decline: 19 in 2016, 14 in 2017.

4. Situation of speakers and meeting format

NH has arranged the speakers and left numbers of speakers for emergency contact.

5. Membership activities

- Activating telescopes: A 6" f/8 Fullerscope Newtonian has been donated to the society. It has been valeted by JS. Also a donated 6" f/8 Helios refractor is in rework at JS.
- CaDAS website: Needs updating, as last "new" items are back from 2015. SB suggested to update references on the website.

ACTION[SB]: Contact Don Martin about website updates.

ACTION[KG,JS]: Send member astro images to Don Martin to include in website.

- It was discussed how to increase of publicity by public observing events, internet and other means, for example through TASC events. SG suggested having spontaneous observing events depending on the weather to have more observing opportunities at Wynyard Planetarium. Such events could be advertised on Facebook to get large publicity, mentioning CaDAS. KJ expressed an interest to join into public events.

ACTION[SG]: Approach TASC about joint public activities.

- Zetland FM radio interviews: This activity came to an end with the moderator leaving.
- Solar telescope options: KJ suggested various options of Hydrogen-Alpha instrumentation. He suggested an instrument that has a good focuser and an open system to attach cameras or eyepieces easily. The main suggestion is a Lunt LS60THa with a BF600 filter, costing about £1699. This setup could be used on a

tracking mount on top of the pier located outside Wynyard Planetarium. Additional spending could be about £30 for a solar finder and a tracking mount, e.g. a 2nd hand HEQ5 pro for about £450. KJ offered to test a combination with camera using his private equipment before CaDAS may invest into a camera system. SG suggested to use TASC for solar observing to put on an official event so the telescope can be on SBC property.

ACTION[KJ, JS]: Specify a telescope system and procure.

6. Telescope loan scheme

The concept of the permanent loan of the Meade 880 to John Mc Cue was discussed. It was concluded that the wording should be just “loan” to allow retrieval if it is required again by CaDAS. It was decided to get more information about the ownership status of that telescope. JS will continue to communicate to the membership the possibility for members to borrow CaDAS telescopes.

7. Current TASC activities

Still two shows per month, plus now the free Tuesday night observing slots jointly presented by TASC and CaDAS. Additionally there are various shows held during the week for private groups. The A5 projector had its first test run and the refurbishment is making progress.

8. Any other business

- Mailing list: JG suggests getting a mailing list to forward information to the membership.
- Activities of other groups, e.g. the SAS: It was discussed and concluded that any activity of other groups to popularise astronomy is welcome.

Action list

Action	By	Status
Get alternative insurance quotation for CaDAS	PH	Open
Circulate CaDAS asset list within the committee	PH	Open
Activate bank access	JM	Open
Find a solution to display the TWT trophy at the planetarium	PH, JS	Open
Evaluate instruments and test function and portability with the help of other volunteers.	DL, PH	Ongoing
Send SB electronic copy mileage form so this can be converted to a CaDAS claim form in the same format	SG (former PH)	Open
Contact JM to organise a membership email about the Feb18 event.	JG	Done
Purchase 20 off “Night Scenes 2017”	IR, JS	Done
Reimburse IR for “Night Scenes 2017” purchase or do BACS transfer	SB, JS	Done
Look into business card options and purchase cards if economical	JG, IR	Open
New actions		
Contact Don Martin about website updates.	SB	
Send member astro images to Don Martin to include in website.	KJ, JS	
Approach TASC about joint public activities.	SG, PH	
Specify a solar telescope system and procure.	KJ, JS	

End of meeting: 22:00

This is version 1.1, produced 2017 Dec 5th by JS.