

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Held on Friday, February 8th, 2013 at 19:30  
at the Wynyard Woodland Park Planetarium

Present were Jürgen Schmoll, Chairman  
Neil Haggath, Programme Secretary  
Sue Barnes, Treasurer  
Peter Hannah, general member

and about 35 other members.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:37 and welcomed members to the 2013 AGM, thanked them for their attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Rod Cuff, Julia McBride, David Lewis, Don Martin.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2012 AGM

Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to all members after the last meeting. In the absence of corrections or comments, the minutes were accepted on a show of hands with none against. The minutes were therefore formally adopted.

4. Chairman's Report

The chairman summarised the last year of CaDAS which saw a big change in the committee where long standing members left and replaced by new members. Highlights included retiring the former committee members formally, the refurbishment and installation of the new public telescope and the relaxation of the CRB policy that Stockton Borough Council followed in the past.

Member Ray Hauxwell, who passed away in August, has been remembered.

The chairman stressed that the strength of the society depends upon its members and more active input is beneficial to long standing and new members. He encouraged everybody who wants to start a new group within the society, work with beginners or the public, or likes to write in the TRANSIT magazine, to come forward.

## 5. General Secretary's Report

The general secretary's report has been included in the chairman's report. There have been 11 ordinary meetings:

Jan 13: "Building the Universe", Prof Carlton Baugh (Durham)  
Feb 10: AGM + Member's night  
Mar 09: "How the outer planets were NOT discovered", Dr Colin Steele (Manchester)  
Apr 13: "The minor planets", Paul Money  
May 11: "What's in a name ?", Neil Haggath  
Jun 8: Presidential Address: "Sky at Night's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Sir Patrick Moore's home in Selsey", Jack Youdale  
Sep 14: "Life in a cluster of galaxies", Prof Richard Bower (Durham)  
Oct 12: "Transit of Venus Special", Neil Haggath and members  
Nov 9: "Extrasolar Planets", Pete Edwards (Durham)  
Dec 14: "Searching for the most distant objects in the universe", Prof Andrew Levan (Warwick)  
Jan 11, 2013: "A Yorkie Down Under", Martin Whipp (York)

### Committee Meetings

4 meetings were held: April 4<sup>th</sup> 2012, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2012, October 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.

#### AGM 2012

February 10th, 2012. Held in WWP Planetarium.

Major items were Chairman's Report, General Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement, Election of Officers including new chairman, secretary and treasurer. Minutes circulated by email.

#### Selected Major Issues Discussed in Committee

Transit – still looking for an avid writer who can replace Rod Cuff

Web Site - updated and improved; thanks to Don Martin, Sue and Rod

Planetarium - continuing in use for meetings.

Public events – the Brainwave 2012 event has been successfully attended by CaDAS members.

Thomas Wright Trophy - successfully held in Durham Astronomical Society venue.

Accounts - Multi-signature bank account set up with new committee members in place.

Observatory access: sorted by Ed and Jürgen after meeting Craig Willows (SBC).

CaDAS trip: Now happening on 2013 March 09 to Kielder Observatory.

4 instead of 2 general members in the committee to reflect changes in society size.

## 6. Treasurer's Report and Financial statement

Sue Barnes summarized the current financial situation of CaDAS:

### **CLEVELAND & DARLINGTON ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

#### **2012 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
<b>012 Opening Balance</b>			<b>2006.09</b>
Room Hire SBC	300.00		
Speaker Expenses	115.00		
Website Hosting	71.28		
Membership fee FAS	48.00		
Retirement gifts for 3 Committee members	99.10		
Catering end of season	123.00		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>756.38</b>		
Subscriptions 2012		745.00	
2013		240.00	
Entry Fees		68.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>1053.00</b>	
<b>2012 Closing Balance</b>			<b>2302.71</b>

Note: The Society has a number of astronomy related assets which for accounting purposes have a zero value. Any disposal of assets for cash will normally result in a donation to the Society accounts.

The accounts have been audited and approved by Barry Hetherington on the 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013.

The overall increase in the CaDAS account is £276.62. Only two speakers charged during the period, while extra costs arose from the retirement do and gifts. Further £36.64 are due to delays of billing for TRANSIT postage costs.

It has been proposed to charge first time visitors £2 (£1.50 concession) to create an additional income.

Expected pay outs in 2013 are £300 to the SBC for venue hire, £150 minimum web hosting costs, £100 minimum speaker expenses and about £50 for the FAS membership renewal.

The CaDAS membership numbers continues to rise from 73 members at the end of 2011 to 100 members at the moment. The main increase is due to family memberships. Here the numbers went from 7 to 16 families, with 40 people in total.

Currently CaDAS members consist of 58 adults, 16 families and 2 students.

## 7. Election of Officers

Elections were required for three general members, as one of them was standing down and it has been opted for two additional members. were elected to the posts of Chairman and General Secretary.

The result of the votings are:

Chairman:	Jürgen Schmoll re-elected unopposed
Treasurer:	Sue Barnes re-elected unopposed
Programme Secretary:	Neil Haggath re-elected unopposed
Information and Communications Secretary:	Rod Cuff re-elected unopposed
General Secretary:	Julia McBride re-elected unopposed.
General Members:	Peter Hannah re-elected unopposed.
	Ian Riach elected unopposed.
	Ian Morris elected unopposed.
	Malcolm Banister elected unopposed.

The members have also decided on

- (i) charging first time visitors £2 (£1.50 concession) at the door – voted for unopposed.
- (ii) the chairman as official contact person to the outside world – voted for unopposed.

## 8. Membership Fees

It was decided to introduce a £2 fee for first visitors (£1.50 concessions) while the general fees remained unchanged. There was no opposition against this decision.

9. Any Other Business

No other business.

10 Chairman's Closing Remarks and Closure of Annual General meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the AGM at 20:14

signed ..... General Secretary

..... Chairman

Draft 1.1, 12th February, 2013