

Cleveland and Darlington Astronomical Society
Minutes of committee meeting of Wednesday, May 18th, 2022, 7pm.
Venue: ZOOM meeting (teleconference)

Attending: Jurgen Schmoll (JS), Teresa Threadgall (TT), Neil Haggath (NH), Julia Goudge (JG), David Churchward (DC), Peter Hanna (PH)

1. Apologies: Alan Kennedy (AK), Jon Matthieson (JM)

2. Minutes of 2022 AGM and last committee meeting of May 18, 2022

The minutes have been accepted unanimously.

3. Financial and membership developments

JG reported a balance of £3365.49 with £53.20 as cash which is a health balance. However, part of the balance is due to the auction last June. JG suggested to increase the annual fees as without any other funding sources the balance would recede.

It was suggested that £5 for visitors (currently £3), £15 for an annual adult fee and £25 for family membership would be moderate but sufficient. There will be no concessions as currently there are not any.

This also covers for increased travel costs for speakers, and planetarium room charges. Currently the only payment method for CaDAS is cash or cheque, as there is no online banking available yet. JG will try again to contact the CaDAS bank to check for BACS transfer methods.

For the membership payment, cash and cheque are currently the only methods. The payments for memberships are actually done in January which should be included on the membership form.

Membership development wise, JG found that here are no families or younger people currently joining. Currently there are around 50 members. There is one member who filled in a membership form on the May12 meeting. TT will update the membership list after this committee meeting.

4. AGM preparation

The AGM will be held in person at the planetarium. After the AGM there will be short contributions of members.

Membership: Start at January. Members joining in other times pay the fraction of remaining meetings only. This needs discussion and agreement at the AGM together with the new membership fees. It was suggested to pay the old rates in half in January 2024 as a “bridge payment” and then move the subs date to September 2024, when the new fees apply. JS will prepare some explanatory viewgraphs for the AGM to discuss, to be sent to the committee beforehand.

DC annotated he cannot attend the AGM but wants to vote by proxy. JS will annotate such votes to the membership beforehand offering proposals.

JS asked the committee attending and they all are happy to keep their committee roles.

5. CaDAS online

It was concluded to keep committee meeting to ZOOM. About online activities, it would be good to have some volunteers to increase activities e.g. on social media. There are some members including the chairman who are allowed to post there. Setting it to “friends only” as a private group can circumnavigate spam and misuse.

6. Any other business

NH struggles for speakers. He suggests to make a ZOOM talk arrangement with Paul Money who cannot travel. So the meeting can also be hybrid, with members able to join who cannot join physically. PH mentioned there is no camera for the audience at the moment, but a simple webcam could be installed to the lectern. Paul Money is willing to do a practice run and his talk will be in December.

NH appeals to find more speakers to finalise the next season. DC knows about a STEM member of NASA who may be available.

Meeting closed at 20:02