

**SAstroS AGM Minutes**  
**Island Hall, Board room**  
**13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 6:30pm**

**Present:** Anthony Beaumont (Chair), Reg Guille (Secretary), Jo Birch (Treasurer), Edd Stone, Aga Wajszezuk, Lucy Belfield, Annie Dachinger, Harry Rauser, Jolie Booth, Jurgen Blankenagel

**Apologies:** Christopher Harris, Jan Guy, Katy Hamon, Marizel Fourie, Steve Lord, Wendy Guille, Susan & David Synnott

**1. To approve the minutes of the AGM held 12 May 2022**

No amendments to the minutes were raised and the minutes were approved.

**2. To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held 20 June 2022**

No amendments to the minutes were raised and the minutes were approved.

**3. Matters arising**

No matters were carried forward from previous meetings to be addressed.

**4. Chairman's address**

AB summarised the past year as one of both positives and negatives. The Society has been able to obtain and install a new 12" Meade LX200 at a cost of £4,200 and continues to hold healthy cash reserves despite this expense. The telescope was installed in February and it has been a steep learning curve which continues to present challenges ahead of the busy season for star guides.

The decision to purchase the new scope was expedited following an unfortunate incident with the observatory roof being left open for a number of nights during stormy weather. Thanks were given to Phil Godwin for providing dehumidifiers free of charge, emptied regularly by JB and RG, and Chris Blythe was also key in repairing the water damage to the observatory and telescope.

The Society was successful in holding two events during the year with guest speakers Bob Bower and Paul Fellowes, both were well attended despite the weather conditions.

Finally, AB led all those present in thanking Reg for his years of hard work both for SAstroS and the island in virtually all aspects. Reg will be greatly missed.

**5. Secretary's report**

Registration with the Data Protection Commissioner was renewed in January, which is free of charge. Insurance premiums have also been paid up. Details of both have been forwarded to the proposed new secretary.

**Chair:** [anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** [eddstone@gmail.com](mailto:eddstone@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** [jo.birch@cwgsy.net](mailto:jo.birch@cwgsy.net)

With thanks to Annie, the Facebook page is very active with excellent photos and articles. We also now receive regular updates from the Guernsey Observatory which ES has recently attended and hopes to work more closely with them in future.

We have experienced difficulties with the new telescope and guides have found it to be erratic when trying to lead guiding sessions which is very difficult with our busy season of July to September now upon us. It was suggested that an evening be spent with guides to learn from each other how best to use the scope, although this is difficult during the summer months.

Thanks were expressed to Bob Bowers and Paul Fellowes for their work which included getting the old Meade GoTo and tracking to work accurately.

#### **6. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts**

JB presented the year end accounts showing a healthy closing balance of £2,182 as at 8 June. The bank balance was down from £6,213 following the acquisition of the new Meade.

Observatory collections for the year totalled £1,916 which was up from £1,400 the previous year. The total cost of hosting events was £1,331 which mainly consisted of transport and accommodation for guest speakers.

Membership subscriptions had increased to £312 from £84. Members are reminded to renew their subscriptions (just £12) as soon as possible to avoid being removed from the current membership list which stands at 26. Payment should be made to the bank details below, giving member name as a reference:

Sark Astronomy Society SASTROS  
Sort code        40-22-25  
Account no      64174763

The accounts were approved and signed by AB.

#### **7. Election of secretary**

ES volunteered to replace RG as secretary prior to the meeting. With no other members wishing to be considered for the position, the election was unopposed and accepted by all present. A SAstroS t-shirt was presented to ES as thanks, which was gratefully received. Consideration was given to a rerun of the t-shirt design to raise more funds.

Any enquiries for observatory bookings should now be sent to Edd either on 07940727500 or eddstone@gmail.com.

#### **8. AOB**

- a. AD questioned whether the new scope had been collimated. ES confirmed that Chris Blythe had attempted this on install and the optics seemed to be working well but it has not since been reviewed. AD shared an article on collimating and ES will look in to this.

**Chair:** [anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** [eddstone@gmail.com](mailto:eddstone@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** [jo.birch@cwgsy.net](mailto:jo.birch@cwgsy.net)

- b. ES has taken stock of the old scopes that have been donated to the Society and is attempting to sell these to free up space. All agreed they should be used by someone even if they cannot be sold.
- c. It was agreed that a training evening should be held to help each other use the new Meade and any new guides would be very welcome to help with evening sessions.
- d. JB confirmed that the IDA report was submitted in December with thanks to efforts from Steve Lord as the report has become much more onerous this year. Nothing was heard back from the IDA. The IDA accreditation is held by the island itself (not the Society), this was noted by Chief Pleas at the 18 November meeting. It was agreed that SAstroS should work more closely with Chief Pleas to make sure Sark continues to benefit from its dark sky accreditation.
- e. HR expressed interest in future potential projects for SAstroS to enhance Sark's tourism appeal in the shoulder months of the season. This led to a discussion of possibilities and what limiting factors could be, HR offered to host a brainstorming session one evening to discuss these further. Ideas included a promotional video, astrophotography evening, website improvements.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm for drinks to raise a toast in thanks for Reg's years of hard work.

**Chair:** [anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybeaumont1302@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** [eddstone@gmail.com](mailto:eddstone@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** [jo.birch@cwgsy.net](mailto:jo.birch@cwgsy.net)