

**Swindon Stargazers**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**17th March 2017**

**Minutes**

**Opening remarks by the Chairman**

**Actions**

There were 23 members in attendance.

**1. Appointment of Chairman.**

Peter Struve agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Rob

Seconded: Pete

**2. Appointment of Vice Chairman.**

Charles Vince agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Hilary

Seconded: Pete

**3. Apologies for absence.**

Mike.

**4. Confirmation of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 18th March 2016.**

The minutes were confirmed and agreed by all those present.

Signed off: Chairman

**5. Report of Chairman.**

Pete thanked all the guest speakers of the past year. He reminded members present that it was their club. So, if they wanted any changes in the way that it was run or if they wanted specific topics or speakers then they should let the Committee know.

**All**

**6. Report of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Malcolm Woods.**

**Club Finances**

There is a current balance of £804.74 in the bank, plus £95.41 in cash making a total of £900.15. A further fixed payment to be made this calendar year is the hire of Liddington Village Hall for the remainder of 2017 (Sept - Nov) @ £20/month. This balance of money comprises the balance from the previous year plus income from the 2016/17 membership subscriptions, plus some donations from outreach activity and members (total £54). The balance

continues to remain relatively healthy due to the continued low expenditure on speakers. However a healthy balance must be maintained in order to cover the 'Excess Payment' of £500 in the case of any third party damage to property claimed on our Public Liability Insurance (there is no excess payment on third party injury claims).

Expenditure in the previous year has included payment for the hire of the Liddington Village hall; membership of the Federation of Astronomical Societies (including Public Liability Insurance), and the cost of hosting the club's web site. A total of £140 was spent on speaker's expenses, £14 on Leaflets advertising the club and £18 towards tea / coffee expenses. There was no subsidised Christmas social event this year in the hall but instead 19 members had a successful Christmas meal in the Liddington Village Inn.

### **Club Assets**

In terms of assets the club owns a projector, a 'wireless presenter' with laser pointer, a microphone extension lead, several telescopes and a pair of binoculars:

**Celestron 127mm (5") f10 Schmidt Cassegrain**

**Phenix Optics Co 125mm (5") Achromatic Refractor**

**Eclipse Makview4 105mm (4.1") Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope  
OTA**

**Celestron SkyMaster 15x70 Astronomy Binoculars**

**Unbranded 150 /1400 Short-Tube Catadioptric Newtonian f/9.33**

The club were kindly donated the telescopes and they are available for short term loan by members on completion of a loan form.

### **Club Membership**

The 2016 /17 club membership was 33 paid members (30 paid for the full year and 3 for the half year). It continues to be a concern that membership numbers remains stagnant with no real growth in numbers over recent years.

It is recommended that the annual subscription remains at £18 for a full year and £10 for a half year. Members children 18 and under should continue to attend free of charge so long as they are accompanied by the member.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Proposed: Malcolm

Seconded: Pete

## **7. Appointment of Secretary.**

Bob Gatten agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Hilary  
Seconded: Pete

## **8. Appointment of Treasurer and Membership Secretary.**

Malcolm Woods agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Owen  
Seconded: Pete

## **9. Appointment of Public Relations and Web Site Communications Officer.**

Robin Wilkey agreed to continue in this post for the forthcoming year.

Proposed: Peter  
Seconded: Pete

## **10. Appointment of Committee members**

Other current Committee members, Nick Hughes, Mike Walker and Hillary Wilkey will continue for the forthcoming year.

Peter asked if one of these members would act as a 'Speaker Co-ordinator' to keep in touch of each chosen speaker. Malcolm to ask Nick Hughes to perform this task

**Malcolm**

## **11. Membership Fees 2016/17.**

Current fees for subscriptions to be retained for forthcoming year, i.e.£18 for 1 year, £10 for half year and £3 for visitors. Young adults up to the age of 18 to be admitted as long as they were accompanied by a paying adult.

## **12. Any other business.**

- A. Ad hoc viewing: No one has volunteered to take over from Mike after he resigned as Ad hoc viewing manager. Some members suggested that a closer site might be more workable but that this site must be a relatively dark site also.
- B. Pete C. donated some astronomical publications to members who wished to take them away.
- C. Robin and Hilary said that they had a surplus telescope which would be free to an interested member.

The AGM was concluded.