

## **Weymouth Astronomy Club Annual General Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

### **1. Minutes of last year's AGM**

Last year's AGM minutes were approved unanimously:

Proposed by: John Gifford

Seconded by: Nigel Dalley

### **2. Accounts and Treasurer's Report by John Macdonald**

This year we have only had two sources of income and that has been members' subscriptions and the fees paid by visitors. Although membership subscriptions are slightly down on last year, visitor fees have risen dramatically. This has been partly due to the excellent range of speakers that Chris has managed to secure (which have attracted a wider audience) and partly due to our move into Weymouth which many people find more accessible.

However our hall and speaker costs have also risen. Many of our speakers are not local and incur significant expenses in getting to us. Furthermore, the hire charges at St Aldhelm's Church Centre are nearly double those at Upwey.

Now that we enjoy improved facilities at our new venue, the committee is considering if we need to release the capital tied up in our data projector to the benefit of members. It is probably not worth holding this item if we no longer require it.

With total assets at a little over £800, the club finances are sound although we do expect our expenses to rise considerably this coming year.

The accounts were approved unanimously:

Proposed by: Ken Heathfield

Seconded by: Paul Masham

**WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY CLUB**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2014**

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Memberships	464		476	
Visitors	115		45	
Donations / Refunds	-		22	
Dark Skies Discovery	-		100	
	<u>579</u>		<u>642</u>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Meeting Hall	186		198	
Speakers	185		80	
Refreshments	27		32	
Subscriptions	23		23	
Postage and stationery	-		1	
Hall Deposit	15		-	
Insurance	20		20	
Projector	-		300	
Projector Case	-		32	
Echo Advert	-		66	
	<u>456</u>		<u>752</u>	
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>123</u>			

**WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY CLUB**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH APRIL 2014**

	2014		2013	
	£	£	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current account	655		583	
Cash in hand	153		102	
	<u>808</u>		<u>685</u>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>808</u>		<u>685</u>	
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>				
Represented by:				
Accumulated profits b/fwd	685		794	
Profit for the year	123		-	109
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<u>808</u>		<u>685</u>	

### **3. Chairman's Report by James Fradgley**

As last year, we ended the year with 42 members.

Thank you to various members who have put themselves out to keep the show on the road.

John Gifford often contributes his pictures to our meetings, unless everything's been clouded out over the last month or so, which seems to be the norm.

Sheri Karl has of course continued to produce the excellent monthly newsheet and Chris Bowden the monthly astronomy notes.

Bob Mizon, though technically a visitor, has also given us several short snippets on 'Object of the month', when he has been able to attend.

Of the committee members, Chris Bowden has given us our monthly "what's on" talk as well as an excellent programme of speakers over the last 12 months. We've had an eclectic mixture, including both our own members and outside speakers, who have given us a very wide range of interesting subjects to absorb.

Chris also arranged our pre-Christmas dinner, which was well attended, and which no doubt we will want to repeat.

Gordon has unfortunately been relocated to Aberdeen, but continues to support the Club. We are grateful for his arranging the change of venue to a more central location when it became impossible for us to book consistent dates at the Upwey hall.

John MacDonald has looked after membership and the accounts, and most importantly the biscuits for our break.

Nigel Dalley has looked after the website: remember it's your website, so pictures and articles from members are very much appreciated. The minutes of this AGM will be put up on the website, including a report by Nigel.

In this more urban location it isn't possible to go outside and see much of the sky. Last year we gave up having observation meetings at the Fleet farm site as attendance was very patchy. We propose that members wanting an observation evening attend the Wessex AS open evenings which run monthly from August to April. Their observatory is at Durlston near Swanage. In addition, if there is demand, we can arrange a special meeting there for WAC members. As we are now in the summer months the next open meeting will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you all for all your efforts over the last year, and to any others to whom I should apologise for not having mentioned: together you have all made it another successful year for the club.

#### 4. Election of Officers

The constitution requires us to have a committee with 3 defined roles:

1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

Also 3 additional members.

We intend to change the constitution as its requirements have proved very unwieldy. A proposal will be put to members at the next meeting in June, with a view to ratifying it at the July meeting. As no new committee members have been proposed, and all the current committee are prepared to continue in their roles, the proposed committee is as last year, including Gordon Walbridge who has agreed to keep his official role of 'Secretary' until we change the constitution. More on this at the next meeting!

Other roles are:

1. John Gifford's appointment last year as an equipment officer to handle queries about the operation of telescopes etc.
2. Joe Aindow has agreed to be our contact point for people getting in touch with the club with immediate effect in Gordon's absence.
3. Sheri Karl is prepared to continue to be Newsletter editor.
4. John Macdonald will continue to provide the tea, coffee and biscuits.

Proposed committee:

Chairman:	James Fradgley
Secretary:	Gordon Walbridge
Treasurer and Membership:	John Macdonald
Events Organiser & Monthly Notes:	Chris Bowden
Website Administrator:	Nigel Dalley

According to the current constitution we should have an additional member on the committee but none have been proposed. This will also be covered in next month's proposal to change the constitution.

Voting en bloc was agreed unanimously:

Proposed by: Ken Heathfield  
Seconded by: John Gifford

The committee was agreed unanimously:

Proposed by: Ivan Perry  
Seconded by: Ennio Tabone

## **5. Fix Subscription Rates**

It's now 3 years since we increased the membership rate to £12, and visitor costs to £2.50. As you have seen from the accounts, costs are going to be much higher in future, principally because the cost of the meeting venue is approximately doubled.

We intend to increase the membership rate to £15, and the visitor rate to £3. The half-year sub will increase from £7 to £10. £15 is an average rate for societies such as ours with monthly meetings, but in addition we provide the tea and biscuits, which are paid for separately at most societies.

This will still leave a hole in the accounts, and Chris will try to arrange to have lower speaker costs if possible. As John mentioned, we may also realise some money by disposal of the projector, but that is for future consideration.

We will of course review it annually; as in today's case, any proposed change needs approval at the AGM.

Proposed by: Paul Masham

Seconded by: Keith Wright

## **6. Any Other Business**

No other business items were raised.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

## **7. Report by the Website Administrator, Nigel Dalley**

[www.weymouthastronomy.co.uk](http://www.weymouthastronomy.co.uk)

The WAC website was designed to highlight various club activities as well as providing the necessary exposure to attract new members and visitors. The website is often the first contact for potential new members and the website administrator will continue to answer enquiries where applicable.

The site is designed to be accessible to all browsers and devices as well as being 'Google' friendly although if any members do have problems viewing the site – please can they let the committee know so any problems can be addressed and hopefully rectified.

The home page now contains a twitter plug-in which displays tweets from the club's official twitter account. This allows up-to-the-minute content (latest club news etc) to be visible and accessible from site and can updated from mobile devices.

As well as keeping members up to date about WAC meetings/events, a page has now been added to show the events listings for nearby astronomical clubs/societies. Links to this page have been added to the home page of the site. As the content for this page is external to WAC – the committee cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and have no control if dates/times or venue change.

In line with keeping the running costs to a minimum – the Newsletter will now be distributed in electronic form rather than paper. Therefore members and visitors can download these publications directly from the website. Earlier editions are also available and can be requested if not displayed on the page. Links to the 'newsletter downloads' page are prominently placed on the home page of the site.

Finally the committee would like to thank all members for their contributions and welcome any feedback or content they would like added to the site – especially any astro images they have produced. Much of the content is provided by members including all of the amazing astro images which are currently displayed within Gallery section of the site.