

Weymouth Astronomy Club Annual General Meeting –12th May 2017

1. Apologies

Geoff Trim
Bill Foote

2. Minutes of last year's AGM

Last year's AGM minutes were approved unanimously:

Proposed by: James Fradgley

Seconded by: Enio Tabone

3. Accounts and Treasurer's Report by Nigel Dalley

This year we have again only two sources of income which have been members' subscriptions and the visitor fees. Total membership numbers have fallen again for the third successive year and are down from 34 last year to 30 this year but Visitor income has increased from £57 to £109.

Therefore income is slightly up by £17 compared to the previous year.

There has been a slight rise in speakers' expenses by £10 but we had 2 external speakers compared to 1 for 2015/16.

Overall the net income of the club for 2016/17 is £59 which is £2 lower than the previous operating year.

To conclude the committee believes the current membership fees should remain the same for the 2017/18.

Summary:

- Membership down from 34 to 30 (£35 down compared to last year)
- Visitors fees up from £57 to £109 (an increase of £52)
- £175.71 cash in Tin
- £1057.93 in the club's bank account (as of statement dated 18th March 2017)
- Therefore total assets equal, £1233.64
- Income up by £17 – Expenses up by £19
- Net Income for 2016/17 £59 (£2 down from previous year)

WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY CLUB				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 2016				
	2016		2017	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Memberships	485		450	
Visitors	57		109	
		<u>542</u>		<u>559</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Meeting Hall	384		394	
Speakers	25		35	
Refreshments	19		18	
Subscriptions	53		53	
Postage and stationery	-		-	
		<u>481</u>		<u>500</u>
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR		<u>61</u>		<u>59</u>

This year we have again only two sources of income which have been members' subscriptions and the visitor fees.

Total membership numbers have fallen again for the third successive year and are down from 34 last year to 30 this year. Visitor income has increased from £57 to £109. Therefore income is slightly up by £17

There has been slight rise in speakers expenses by £10 but we had 2 external speakers compared to 1 for 2015/16.

WAC Net Income down by £2.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 22TH APRIL 2017			
		2017	
		£	£
ASSETS			
Current account		1,057.93	
Cash in hand		<u>175.71</u>	
			1,233.64
TOTAL ASSETS			<u>1,233.64</u>
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Represented by:			
Accumulated profits b/fwd			1,174.43
Profit for the year			59.21
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS			<u>1,233.64</u>

The accounts were approved:
Proposed by: Janice Williams
Seconded by: Robin Welch

4. Chairman's Report by John Macdonald

This is the first AGM at which I've been chairman, but over the seven years the membership has gone up and down. In 2010 it was 35, rising to 36 in 2011 and then to 42 in 2012, where it stayed for 3 years and dropping to 38 in 2015 and 34 in 2016. It has now fallen again to 30 in 2017. This continues to be a concern although the visitors numbers have risen significantly and over the year we have maintained our total assets.

As before, thank you to various members who have put themselves out to keep the show on the road.

John Gifford who has helped both members and visitors with technical advice.

Sheri Karl has of course continued to produce the excellent monthly newsheet which Gordon Walbridge has printed for us.

Chris Bowden has produced and presented 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.

Chris Bowden has arranged our principal activity, the monthly talks, with an excellent programme of speakers over the last 12 months. We're very grateful to Chris for having arranged these speakers at very little cost.

Malcolm has looked after membership as well as the tea and biscuits and Nigel keeps the website up to date along with the club accounts.

Thank you to those who supported us at the Sandsfoot Castle event, which was well received by their committee and very well attended by both their membership and ours. We are hoping another similar event will come together next autumn.

Joe Aindow has expressed a desire to stand down as an ordinary member of the committee but we are looking forward to involving him from time to time in what he describes as a 'willing pair of hands'.

Although we expected Chris Bowden to be moving the area at some point this last year, its good news for us that he is still here! Although it would be good news for Chris if he got the final piece of information he is waiting for that would allow him and Wendy to move to their house in Wales. I think Chris has already made contact with the Swansea Astronomical Society and so I'm sure that when he does finally move our loss will be their gain.

At the last committee meeting we all worked with Chris to get an outline programme together for 2018 and it took less than 10mins, but like last year when James asked for a replacement, this Astronomy club will not be able to keep running without someone stepping forward to contact the speakers and put the programme together. So, I ask you again, that if there is anyone who feels they can write a few emails each year to potential speakers, please let us know.

5. Election of Officers

The constitution requires us to have a committee with 2 defined roles:

1. Chairman
2. Treasurer

Also up to 4 additional members.

Other roles are:

1. John Gifford's is equipment officer to handle queries about the operation of telescopes etc.
2. Joe Aindow is our contact point for people getting in touch with the club.
3. Sheri Karl is prepared to continue to be Newsletter editor.
5. Chris Bowden is our events organiser and produces the monthly notes.
6. Nigel Dalley is the website administrator, and will provide the tea, coffee and biscuits.

Proposed committee:

Chairman:	John Macdonald
Treasurer:	Nigel Dalley
Membership:	Malcolm McCarthy
Other members:	Chris Bowden James Fradgley

Are there any offers for a member to replace Joe Aindow on the committee?

Enio Tabone agreed to join the committee.

Proposed by Robin Welch

Seconded by Nigel Dalley

Voting en bloc was agreed unanimously:

Proposed by: Ivan Perry

Seconded by: John Samways

The committee was agreed unanimously:

Proposed by: Robin Welch

Seconded by: Ivan Perry

6. Fix Subscription Rates

The current membership rate is £15, the visitor rate £3 and the half-year sub £10. The committee propose no change to these rates.

We will of course review it annually, and changes will need approval at the next AGM.

7. Any Other Business

No other business items were raised.

The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

8. Report by the Website Administrator, Nigel Dalley

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.

During the previous year, newsletters and star maps were kindly printed out by one of the club's members but unfortunately this will not be the case for the rest of 2017. So this content will now be available on the club website for members and visitors to download at their leisure.

The club also utilises an open-source free of charge online mailing system - this has now been adopted as the single club contact list and the primary written method of communication between the committee and club members.

As well as the website, the club's online/digital presence is enhanced by the use of social media such as Twitter. A twitter API widget is included on the home page of the site which is the quickest and easiest way to announce last minute/breaking club news and advertise any club events. It is hoped that members who are 'online' follow the club's Twitter account and are of course encouraged to 'tweet'/reply to any relevant topics. It is the club's intention to take advantage of various social media applications to keep members informed of club activities.

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.