



# South Downs Astronomical Society

President:  
Founder: Geoffrey Buss

## Minutes for SDAS committee meeting on Friday 13th December 2024 at 19.00 held on Zoom

**Apologies for absence:** Barry Redman

### **PRESENT:**

Trevor Pitt (Chair) **Chair**

Maddie Johns (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) **(MJ)**

Roger Burgess (Web master) **(RB)**

Peter Burt (Observing and Outreach Lead) **(PB)**

Mark Ford (Committee Member) **(MF)**

Cheryll Pitt (HonSec) **(CP)**

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**ACTION:** **RB** to upload to website after **CP** has re-sent them to him and Maddie. **CLOSED**

**ACTION:** **RB** to upload minutes for December 2024 meeting when **CP** sends through the final version.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **1. PURCHASE OF TELESCOPE:**

**Chair** is to apply for 5K lottery funding to purchase a Celestron Origin smart scope and a SeeStar S30 telescope. The latter could be bought out of the reserves.

*There is SDAS Facebook page but Chair is only contributor* should read

**ONGOING ACTION:** **Chair** to continue application.

The **Chair** explained that he had investigated the Charity Commission site (CC site) and John Mason, John Green, John Letherin and John Whittington were listed as Trustees, with John Green's address listed as a contact address and the email contact is **MF's**. The **Chair** cannot continue with the application until the issue with Trustees not being active and the site being updated are resolved. At this time, access to the site belongs to one (or more) of the Trustees.

**ACTION:** **CHAIR** to contact Trustees as above and ask them if they wish to continue as Trustees. **CLOSED**

**ACTIONS:** **RB** and **CHAIR** to become the two new Trustees, John Whittington to continue. If John Mason responds and stands down **Chair** will ask him to be President. **Chair** will



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remove the old Trustees from the Charity Commission site and upload the three new Trustees after the AGM. The contact address and email will be changed to **RB's**. The **Chair** has the code from **MJ**. The **Chair** will announce these changes at the AGM saying that this is a committee decision as per the Constitution..

**ACTION:** After the AGM **MJ** to phone Barclays Bank and change the account signatories so that the **Chair** and other new Trustees are added and other signatories (except **RB**) removed.

## 2. DONATED BOOKS

**ACTION:** Chair to offer books to U3A Astronomy Group. If books not sold they will be donated to Oxfam Bookshop in Chichester. **CLOSED**

## 3. OUTREACH AND EVENTS

EVENT: RSPB solar observing on August 24th. 18th October Astronomy night is listed. Update: PB reported that there were no volunteers for the solar observing event! The Committee expressed concern that the RSPB would discontinue this useful source of Outreach.

**ACTION:** **CP** to announce the forthcoming Observing Event at the RSPB at the SDAS Main Meeting on Friday 4th October. **ACTION CLOSED.**

**ACTION:** **PB** to arrange a similar series of Observing events and Outreach events with the RSPB for 2026.

## 4. AGM AND TRUSTEES

**ACTION:** **Chair** to contact existing 3 trustees regarding the appointment of a new trustee once more (nil response on first occasion). **ACTION CLOSED SEE ABOVE**

## 5. DISCUSSION OF AGM ON JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

**ACTION:** **CP** to send out the Agenda, including an item on Trustees and the Attendance Officer's resignation, to existing Trustees and the Committee. The AGM will be held after the speaker's talk on January 10th as the latter is travelling.

**ACTION:** **MJ and Chair** to meet at 18.00-19.00 on Monday 16th for the end of year accounts to be audited prior to upload to the Charity Commission's site and circulation to all attendees prior to the AGM.

## 6. GIFTAID

**ONGOING ACTION:** **MJ** to claim Gift Aid. Chair is willing to help get these data uploaded.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP



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**NEW ACTION: RB to send PB updated Members' list. PB to update the "Observers' list removing ex-members. ACTION CLOSED.**

## 8. RISK ASSESSMENTS

No additions required. This is a Standing Agenda item.

## 9. FUTURE OF SDAS VENUE

**ONGOING ACTION: PB to make casual enquiries to see if the Scout Hut he uses is available on Friday evenings. ACTION CLOSED.**

## END OF MATTERS ARISING

### FINANCIAL REPORT MJ 1ST JANUARY 2024 - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2024

#### RECEIPTS

Subs	£504.00
Donations	£37,00
Visitors	£15.00
Raffles	£79.00
Bank interest	£9.18
Total	£644,18

#### PAYMENTS

To MJ for:

Federation of Astronomical Societies and Public Liability Insurance	£83.00
New web domain	£24.00
Storm Dunlop	£14.00
Total	£121.00

#### AOB

**CP** reported that Barry Redman intends standing down at the AGM.

**ACTION: CP** to ask BR at the next Main Meeting if he minds her seeking volunteers during announcements. If not she will seek volunteers. **ACTION CLOSED**

**PB** has had contact from a lady wishing to sell Meade ETXEC Non go to Electronic Version. The Committee suggest £50-£100.



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**ACTIONS: RB** to put into Newsletter. **PB** to announce at Main Meeting. **ACTION CLOSED.**

TASCO telescope has been offered to the Chair's U3A group if they don't want it **Chair** will offer to SDAS. **ACTION: Chair** to pursue this.

**Chair** asked about new young potential member (Jazz ?), **PB** is offering her a pair of binoculars of his. **ACTION ALL** to make her feel welcome.

**MJ** suggested we need a social media presence. There is SDAS Facebook page but **Chair** is main contributor. It is doubtful as to what else we could do.

The **Chair** has been through the Constitution, it has a few outmoded phrases but in the main serves our purpose. The SDAS reflects the Charitable Objects of the Society. The Constitution will not be changed.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Friday March 21st at 19.00.**