

FLAMSTEED ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

Minutes of a committee Meeting held on Monday 12th October 2009
in the Young Education Services Office at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Lin Potter, Mike Dryland, Mike Dear, Peter Kitcherside, Deborah McGarvey, Linda Ransome and Jane Bendall

Apologies: Roger Geeson

Composition of Committee:

There was a vote of thanks to Pat Wainwright and Mark Duwe who have stood down from the committee.

Lin welcomed Deborah and Linda as our new committee members and thanked them for standing for election.

The committee then unanimously re-elected Lin Potter as Chair and Mike Dryland as Vice Chair. Peter Kitcherside and Pat Wainwright were co-opted onto the committee and David Waugh is to be approached and asked if he would agree to be co-opted as well.

Matters arising from the meeting of 3rd September 2009 – there were no matters arising.

Programming

Tenth Anniversary celebrations: It was decided that the running order will be first the lecture, followed by Eddie and Jane's presentation then a couple of words from Kevin Fewster. Lin will do the shopping for champagne, nibbles etc.

November meeting: Jane to book Ian Morison into a hotel. Those committee members who wish will join Mike and Lin for a casual meal after the talk with the lecturer at Davy's wine bar. Deborah volunteered to supervise catering and Jane will hand over equipment and supplies to her on Friday.

Christmas party:

We shall hold our lecture first followed with food and wine in the area under the propeller, not the podium. Jane will order a cake from Marks and Spencer's and Lin will speak about catering to Laura, who did us proud last year.

Sarah Roots to be invited and introduced before/after the lecture.

Music, Deborah has Christmassy music and/or Lin will follow up contacts with Trinity School of Music.

Evenings with the Stars: The museum has suggested a two fold approach:

Firstly they have offered us three or four dates before Christmas for an hour's viewing for up to 35 people, starting at 7.00 p.m. with one steward and a duty astronomer, probably Tony Sizer. FAS will pay for the steward's overtime and the astronomer's fees. The gallery assistant will open the gates from 6.45 -7.15 and the duty astronomer will escort us out of the park in a convoy. If the event is rained off we are to be offered another date instead. Mike and Jane will head this up.

Secondly they have requested volunteers for the public Evening with the Stars Events: These have been rearranged into a three sessions each lasting 40 minutes – planetarium, 28" telescope viewing and observing through small telescopes in the courtyard. For the last part they need volunteers in good weather to man either their own or museum telescopes. Mike Dear volunteered to head this up.

Viewing coordination: At present as a major astronomy society we do very little viewing for lack of a coordinator, it is not an easy task as the person involved would have to decide dates, coordinate the event, ensure there is an anchor person available and get a group together who could be depended upon to come with telescopes etc.

Blackheath viewing: Deborah and Linda agreed to arrange several evenings this winter with the proviso that David Waugh can join the team as an astronomical adviser, selecting suitable observing dates.

Romney viewing: Pat Wainwright had volunteered to continue arranging visits to the Males on behalf of the Society.

Coronado sessions: Deborah also volunteered to lead and organise the solar viewing programme. It entails getting a trained volunteer group together, to give notice in advance, to liaise with the museum and ensure that there are anchor people present. Peter offered support but was not prepared to lead.

Membership: We are almost at our agreed review limit of 175 members. It was decided that we would wait and see how Friday's event turns out before asking the Members office to start a waiting list.

Any other business:

Website link with the Blackheath Scientific Society: Mike had looked at their website and the jury is still out. Jane had offered them a visit to the ROG but they had not followed up.

Attendance register: since this duty was taken over by the Members office we have never once received a list of attendees at any of our functions. It was agreed that on meeting nights we would take turns to stand with Monika and when she hands out name badges we would ask people to sign in.