



South Downs Astronomical Society

President:

Founder: Geoffrey Buss

Draft Minutes for SDAS committee meeting on Friday 21st March 2025 at 19.00 held on Zoom

Apologies for absence David Sammons

PRESENT

Trevor Pitt (Chair)

Maddie Johns (Treasurer-MJ)

Peter Burt (Outreach-PB)

Roger Burgess (Webmaster-RB)

Martin Pickard (Attendance Officer-MP)

Mark Ford (MF)

Jasmine Barnes (Co-opted member-JB)

Cheryll Pitt (Secretary-CP)

Chair welcomed JB and MP.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION: RB to upload to website after CP has sent them to him having amended the date period of the Financial Report. MJ suspects that the figures have not been recorded in the Minutes correctly. CP has now no access to these figures and so the date period will be changed but not the figures.

MATTERS ARISING

1. PURCHASE OF TELESCOPE:

ONGOING ACTION :Chair is to apply for 5K lottery funding to purchase a Celestron Origin smart scope and a SeeStar S50 telescope. The latter could be bought out of the reserves.

UPDATE: SeeStar S50 has been purchased from reserves. **ONGOING ACTION** to be put on hold until the status of the Trustees is clear and then **Chair** to continue application for 5K.

TASCO telescope has been offered to the Chair's U3A group if they don't want it **Chair** will offer to SDAS. **ACTION CLOSED:** Chair offered the telescope to both groups and has now returned it to the owner.

2. TRUSTEES AND BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES:



South Downs Astronomical Society

President:

Founder: Geoffrey Buss

The **Chair** explained at the last meeting that he had investigated the Charity Commission site (CC site) and John Mason, John Green, John Letherin and John Whittington were listed at 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.

FOLLOWING ACTIONS CLOSED: **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 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.

ACTIONS CLOSED as **RB** reported that he, John Mason and David Sammons are now listed as Trustees on the Charity Commission website and his address is the contact address. **RB** is about to upload the 2024 accounts to the Charity Commission website.

ACTION: **David Sammons** to log into the Charity Commission website to sign in.

FOLLOWING ACTION CLOSED: 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. **ACTION Ongoing** as **Chair**, need to be signed in via a form now signatories to the SDAS account and the address changed to that of **RB**.

3. OUTREACH AND EVENTS

FOLLOWING ACTION CLOSED: **PB** to arrange a similar series of Observing events and Outreach events with the RSPB for 2025.

PB has now arranged with the RSPB an observing event which will be attended by the public on Friday March 28th and also a solar observing event on August Bank Holiday.

JB remarked that she has academics and professional services' employees who wish to attend the event this Friday. It was pointed out that they would need to book and pay. **PB** stated that he has 3 SDAS members attending so far to assist including **MP**. The weather forecast is not good.

JB stated that she was thinking of booking a classroom at the University for a SDAS member(s) to use to give an astronomy talk. This was enthusiastically received and we need to make it happen.

ACTIONS: **JB** to ascertain: interest at University, which topics, at what level etc. **JB** to report back and then a volunteer to talk can be nominated, **JB** can book the room and advertise the talk.

ACTION: **PB** to speak to Richard Austin to see if SDAS can arrange an event with Chichester Harbour.



South Downs Astronomical Society

President:

Founder: Geoffrey Buss

4. GIFTAID

ONGOING ACTION: MJ to claim Gift Aid. Chair is willing to help get these data uploaded for last 4 years. Chair advised that the status of Gift Aid on subscription was being investigated by the Inland Revenue and many clubs are reporting claims being rejected.

5. MEMBERSHIP

MP has had a smooth start and is learning a lot of new names!

6. RISK ASSESSMENTS

This is a Standing Agenda item. No new risks to control.

END OF MATTERS ARISING

FINANCIAL REPORT MJ 1ST JANUARY 2025 – 21ST MARCH 2025

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

AOB

1. **MP** suggests a session for SDAS members to sort out hardware issues. Perhaps after the main talk?.
2. **Chair** suggests a telescope workshop.

ACTION: Chair to ask Members at next meeting.

3. **Chair** listed 3 telescopes for lending: Celestron Evolution mount which he has updated with an 8" Meade Schmidt Cassegrain scope, the SeeStar S50 and the Meade Solarscope.

ACTIONS: PB stated that he can store them and so the mount and 8" need to be moved to his house. The meeting decided that £30 returnable deposit will be charged and £5 per month per loan of the scopes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11th July at 19.00.