
Wednesday 26th February 2025

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Peter Corbett (PC), Lillas Haye (LHe), Nigel Bond (NB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Paul Foreman (PF), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to meeting. Special thanks to Lillas H for agreeing to host meeting. Apologies noted from Lloyd Hughes.

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account, can be posted to website.

3. Actions

NB to look into alternative platforms for presentations. Nothing to report at present. Ongoing.

MK to talk to Mark Proctor re Mastadon and Rebranding of AAA. Nothing to report at present. Ongoing.

PF to review list of proposed equipment purchases. Complete

MK and NO to discuss how borrowing club equipment can be made more accessible and appropriate. No urgency. Ongoing

LHu to look into implications of AAA if charity status was sought. Report advised very complex and not something we should pursue. Complete

4. Finance

PC updated meeting – currently 48 paid up members for 2024/5. (6 under 18s included)

£3000 in current account. £680 of SCC grant spent to date.

PL insurance due for renewal 15/3/25 at cost of £278, this covers a membership of up to 50.

PC will advise company to seek increase in number to 60, unsure if premium will be affected. (PC)

PF asked the question as to whether now that we have considerable funds in general account should the club consider a more substantial equipment purchase, suggestions such as Smart Scope, Portable Planitarium. Agreed committee to consider and create list of possible ideas. (All)

Financial Update – 25/02/ 2025

General Account: £3,000.63

1. Balance Last Update (12/01/2025): £3,690.70
2. Outgoings
 1. Eyepiece Case / Trolley / Telescope Bags x 8 (Peter Corbett): £680.08-
 2. Solar System Crystal Ball for Joan Brame (Peter Corbett): £9.99-
3. Income
 1. (none)

Cash: £98.30

1. Coffee Pot: £61.30 (see below)
2. Membership (1 x £24 couple / 1 x £13): £37.00

Liabilities: £119.92-

1. Suffolk County Council (Storage Container): £119.92-

Total: £2,979.01

Coffee Pot

2. Balance Last Update (12/01/2025): £14.00
3. Takings: £49.00
4. Re-stock: £8.70-
5. Donation (Martina McGovern): £7.00

5. Members Programme

a) General Update – all in place until October. Several Guest speakers including Frank Dutton presenting on Southern Hemisphere skies. If well received then will be approached for further presentations.

AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st October, usual format followed by quiz.

b) Visit to Mullard RAO – NB advised that 19 people have reconfirmed their interest in attending. More can be accommodated so any last minute requests can attend.

Free event, NB suggested a small gift for the engineer who will lead the visit.

NB will give short presentation at meeting on 5/3/25 as to the history of MRAO. MK and committee thanked NB for his work on arranging this event.

Suggestion made that committee should look into arranging further visits, Breckland and Cambridge were suggested as both previously successful and well attended.

6. Events

a) Stanton Primary School – reply received to MK previous e-mail regarding visit, had only just been read due to contact having been away from work. Agreed the evening would be rescheduled for Oct/Nov time

b) BSE Spring Fayre- May 25/26th. Usual format, 3 gazebo's, extra tables and chairs.

NO agreed to lead along with LHe. Possibly look at having Solar observing via camera, sundial. Will need Risk Assessment as usual to be sent to organisers.

LHe to approach members for help over the 2 days.

c) 29/3 Partial Solar Eclipse – should AAA organise event for this Saturday morning, need someone with specialist Solar Observing to lead, doubtful at short notice as many members not available.

Go Stargazing website has Solar Observing glasses available for purchase at small cost, agreed to purchase 100 pairs for members. (Cost approx £14)

7. Resources

Discussion around what resources we have in addition to scopes etc. Agreed we have a lot of good items such as posters etc but we are not able to make best use of them. Need foldable screens that we can display educational/interesting information on to use at meetings. Still have £120 from grant available which could be used.

Agreed that at present we do not need to purchase further scopes but possibly new educational items.

PF asked who should be responsible for notifying members about Observing evenings and asking those who had club scopes to bring them along, all agreed anyone could do this via 'whats app'

8. AOB

a) AAA rebrand – following poll of members agreed that the name Athenaeum would be dropped in favour of Bury St Edmunds. (Bury St Edmunds Astronomy Association). We will continue to be known as an Association.

MK had several images for new logo, discussion around these, agreed to get mock ups for Polo shirts made to show design. (As previously NB will organise through his brother).

Question asked as to whether name has to be changed on Bank Account and Insurance. PC will check but not thought likely. (PC)

b) Members Bring and Buy – PF had asked if this was considered a worthwhile idea, allowing members to bring along surplus equipment to sell. Table could be set up at meeting, possibly every couple of months, would allow members to see different bits of kit and generate conversation. Make clear that these will be private sales and nothing connected to AAA. MK to post on 'whats app' when happening.

PC asked whether as an association we wanted to join FAS, they do not appear to offer much extra to the club apart from insurance which we already have so decision was no need to join.

Committee meetings 2025

Wednesday 21st May

Wednesday 16th July

Wednesday 10th September

Wednesday 19th November

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
15/1/25 P2	NB to look at alternative platforms to offer presentations such as Teams, 'Whats app'	NB	Ongoing
15/1/25 P2	MK to talk to Mark P re Mastodon messaging on website, together with AAA rebranding, new logo etc	MK	Ongoing
15/1/25 P3	PF to review list of proposed purchases and advise of options	PF	Complete
15/1/25 P3	MK to discuss ideas with NO to tighten up the conditions for borrowing club equipment.	MK	Ongoing
15/1/25 P4	LHu to look into implications for AAA of seeking charity status.	LHu	Complete
26/2/25 P1	PC to contact insurance to increase level of PL cover for 60 members	PC	New
26/2/25 P1	Committee members to consider ideas for further specialised purchases for AAA	All	New
26/2/25 P3	PC to check whether name has to be changed on Bank Acc and Insurance.	PC	New

