



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Federation of Astronomical Societies held on Saturday, 15th October
2011 at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge.**

Apologies for absence were received from Frank Johns and Dave Evetts.

Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The minutes of the 2010 AGM were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no items arising from the minutes of the 2010 AGM.

Reports from Officers

President's Report from Richard Sargent

Richard gave a report which highlighted MARS – the new FAS online Membership Management system and noted that options for online payment were being considered by Council as a possible future enhancement. Richard noted it was vital the member societies keep their details up-to-date on MARS.

Richard noted the FAS Member Societies web site competition and noted that the top three website, as judged by Council were:

1. Blackpool & District AS
2. Derby & District AS
3. Stratford upon Avon AS

Richard noted the continuing development of the FAS publications portfolio and commented on the excellent value for money which these represent.

Richard concluded his report with asking member societies to communicate with the Federation and reminded members of the communication channels available:

- Officer email links via the FAS website
- Events diary on the website
- Fedastro Yahoo Group

Vice President's Report from Callum Potter

Callum stated he had little to add as Vice President but gave an update on the FAS Handbook, Callum apologised for the delay in production of the Handbook which at the time of the meeting was with the printer and it was expected that distribution would take place by the end of October.

Secretary's Report from Shaun O'Dell

Shaun firstly echoed Richard's comments and thanked Council members for their work for the FAS and their personal support.

Shaun's report then focussed on the FAS Public Liability Insurance – following the long running clarification of cover exercise the scheme is much better understood and improvements to its administration have been made including greater use of email for distribution of documents and confirmation of cover letters.

Treasurer's Report from Peter Cooke

Peter reported on the income and expenditure and cash assets of the Federation. Council are committed to reducing the surplus over target reserve levels and looking for ways to do this that benefits member societies and supports them in uncertain financial times.

Peter noted his thanks to Gary Gawthrop (Deputy Treasurer).

The proposal to adopt the accounts was made by John Axtell (Guildford AS) and seconded by Mark Thompson (Norwich AS) and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The proposal to appoint Bob Turner as auditor was made by Tony Questa (Guildford AS) and seconded by John Waller (Stratford on Avon AS) and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The proposal to maintain the current subscription rates for 2011/12, i.e. Small society £28.50, Medium £45.50, and Large £57.00 with prompt payment discounts available was made by Paul Whiting (Orwell AS) and seconded by James Fradgley (Weymouth Astronomy Club). The proposal was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers 2011/12

The following nominations were made by Council and no further nominations were forthcoming:

President	Richard Sargent
Vice President & Deputy Treasurer	Gary Gawthrop
Secretary & PLI Officer	Shaun O'Dell
Treasurer	Peter Cooke
Membership Secretary	John Axtell
Newsletter Editor & Publications	Frank Johns
Meetings Organiser & Publications Distribution.	Steve Williams
Handbook Editor	Callum Potter
Website Co-ordinator	Samuel George
Council Member	John Evans
Council Member	Richard Last

The proposal to elect the above *en bloc* was made by Frank Hill (Heart of England AS) and seconded by Bob Barclay (Maidenhead AS) and was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Any Other Business

The Council were thanked, from the floor, for the time and effort they give in volunteering to run the Federation.

Close

There being no other business, Richard thanked everyone for attending and the AGM was closed.