



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Astronomical Societies
held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday 22 October 2016
in the Main Lecture Theatre of the Joyner Building, University of Birmingham

The President greeted those attending and explained that, in each ballot, each member Society had one vote.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sean Elvidge, Tony Questa, Mike Pritchard, Ashford Astronomical Society, North Essex Astronomical Society.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held October 24 2015 were unanimously accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Reports and Accounts

Membership

Membership is now 219 Societies.

New Member-Societies:

Anglian Observatory,
East Essex A.C,
Exmoor Stargazers
Euxton Astronomy,
Matlock & Darley Dale Observing Group,
Preston & District A.S,
Seven Sisters A.S,

PLI Report

The year of reporting for PLI is different to the FAS accounting year to ensure that PLI will overlap with membership renewals.

In answer to a question, the purpose and extent of PLI was explained: It is a service to Member-Societies, to insure them against public-liability claims – e.g. injury sustained by someone attending a Society-arranged event.

Accounts

The accounts were accepted without objection.

5. Appointment of Auditor

John Benson was accepted as Auditor for the coming year.

6. Subscriptions

Subscriptions will not change for the coming year. Proposed P Cooke, Seconded Shaun O'Dell, Passed with none against.

For the record: Small Societies £28.50

Medium Societies	£45.50
Large Societies	£57.00

7. Election of Council for 2016/17

The President explained that, yet again, there were vacancies in the ranks of Council, and that volunteers were eagerly sought to share the tasks, and to ensure that the functions of the FAS, including organising Conventions, such as this, are smoothly executed.

Position	2015/16 Holder	2016/17 Holder
President	Callum Potter (acting)	Callum Potter
Vice-President	VACANT	VACANT
Honorary Secretary	Shaun O'Dell	Shaun O'Dell
Minutes Secretary	Shaun O'Dell	VACANT
Honorary Treasurer	Peter Cooke	Peter Cooke
Deputy Treasurer	VACANT	VACANT
Membership Secretary	Mike Pritchard	Mike Pritchard
Website Co-ordinator	Sean Elvidge	Sean Elvidge
Speaker Co-ordinator	Sean Elvidge	VACANT
Convention Co-ordinator	Sean Elvidge/Ben Stanley	Ben Stanley
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Frank Johns	VACANT
Publications Officer	Frank Johns	Frank Johns
Handbook Editor	Frank Johns	Roger Steer
PLI Officer	Tony Questa	Tony Questa
Publication Distribution	Adrian Roach	Roger Steer
Council Member	Graham Bryant	Graham Bryant
Council Member	Roger Steer (co-opted)	VACANT
Council Member	VACANT	VACANT

Proposed Richard Sergeant (Chester AS), Seconded Paul Daniels (Guildford AS), the following were approved by the meeting, without dissent. (2015/16 post-holders shown for comparison)

8. Any Other Business

a. Green Laser Pointers

Graham Bryant explained that the Federation was researching the use of green laser pointers, in order to issue some sort of collective wisdom on the subject. There was a lot of adverse publicity at the moment regarding irresponsible use. To this end he urged any society, that had not already done so, to come forward with any thoughts

or guidance that they have on the matter. He and Roger Steer are planning to consult with the Civil Air Authority to gain their thoughts and concerns.

b. Royal Astronomical Society

Paul Daniels (Guildford AS) gave a plea for amateur astronomers to gain nomination for membership of the RAS. He, as a member of the RAS Council, was particularly interested in fostering 'Pro-Am' co-operation, and an increased amateur membership would help with this

9. Meeting closes

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until next year, and closed at 1:31 p.m.