

NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY SOCIETY LIMITED

A company limited by guarantee (No. 3048646) and a Registered Charity (No. 1048807)

The Annual General Meeting of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society Limited held in the Donald Barber Lecture Theatre, Norman Lockyer Observatory, Salcombe Hill, Sidmouth on Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30pm.

2015 AGM draft Minutes – to be agreed at the 2016 AGM

1. Welcome & Apologies

Our Chairman, David Strange (DS) , opened the meeting

apologies from: Michael Hayes, Bill & Diane Janes, Kerry Powell, Janice Skinner and Jack Wickings.

2. Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were approved with no matters arising

3. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman

DS had circulated a written report but wished to thank all Members who contribute to NLOS. In particular: Allan Brittan, retiring Director who would continue as Telescope Engineer; Tuesday afternoon Technical Team, Peter Bradley, Derek Moreton & Brian Ward-Smith for work on Planetarium, Siderostat & Connaught Dome; Heather Grant, who works virtually unseen on the grounds developing heather beds and grounds maintenance; Kathleen Dollery who continues to run the Astroscouts; Derek Moreton for introducing and driving the Plans & Proposals Summary, which is now established as the basis on which the Board plans and controls spending; Iain Grant, the champion of the Lockyer Technology Centre which has relatively recently become a most popular destination for NLO visitors and which promotes the NLO through university, Met Office, Cubesat & meteor detection networking; Steve Boyce and the IT team progressing digital storage and video displays; Sandy Moreton & Kerry Powell who lead the Friday night Observers Group with Helen Smith, Steve Larsen & Jan Hunt as new Planetarium presenters; George Wilkins who runs the History Group; Mac Currie, Iain Grant, John Alexander & Ken Bailey who are the mainstays of our presenters to group bookings, apart from public opening events. By the way, we have just placed a self-imposed maximum of two events per week on bookings. More volunteer members to help in this area are always welcome. Thanks also to: Kate Kay for the Friday night talks and facilitating the Members' Forum; Kate Nursey for her efficient organising of Astronomy Fair which goes from strength to strength and is now well-established; Bob Miles who has taken on Speaker Secretary duties and all Directors who have supported me in running the Observatory. David stated that he had been persuaded by the Board to continue as Chairman rather than standing down as he had suggested at last year's AGM. Turn-over in Directors and other key positions was always healthy and to be encouraged, members who were interested should contact the Chairman. One particularly rewarding part of being a Chairman is receiving letters and emails of thanks following an open event. David's words were well received by the meeting.

4. The Treasurer, Bill Hitchings stated that the Society's financial state was healthy, due to visitor entry fees and membership subscriptions. He explained the anomaly of electricity expenditure between last year and this, but noted the continued large use of electricity. However he highlighted the LTC's migration away from using relatively power-hungry computers to the use of Raspberry Pi computers which use a tenth of the power. The LTC's days as the warmest place on site may be numbered! Gift aid was now being claimed annually by the Treasurer. Proposed by Alan Green, seconded by Kathleen Dollery the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 were unanimously approved.

5. Re-appoint of the Society's auditors Easterbrook Eaton Ltd and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration proposed Lorna Nichols, seconded Brian Ward-Smith and approved unanimously.

6. Appointment of Directors (agreed by a show of hands)(P=proposer, S=seconder, U=unanimously passed)
 - a. To appoint **David Strange** as Chairman P:Bill Hitchings, S:Elizabeth Carter, U.
 - b. To appoint **Bill Hitchings** as Director Treasurer P:David Strange, S:Richard Crisp, U.
 - c. To appoint **Richard Crisp** as Director Secretary P:Alan Green, S Bill Hitchings, U.
 - d. To appoint **Colin Smith** as Director P:David Strange, S: Sandy Moreton, U.
7. Resolution that, in accordance with Rule 15 of the Society, the outgoing Board recommends that the annual membership subscription be increased to: Adults £25; Couples £40; Children/students £10 (age: 5 – 17) Proposed: Pete Youd, Seconded: Derek Moreton, all but one (proxy vote) in favour. The Treasurer explained the new definition of children/student membership eligibility.
8. Before bringing the formal proceedings of the AGM to a close, the Chairman thanked Elizabeth & Derek Carter for their previous achievements in providing refreshments over many years for Open Evenings and special events. Lorna & Keith Nichols and Val & Ray Lovitt were thanked for taking this job on now as was Sharon for her transitional tenure. He thanked Stephen Walker for the successful relaunch and continuing development of the new NLOS website.

There followed short presentations from:

David Alexander on the Observers Group
Kathleen Dollery on Astroscouts
George Wilkins on the History Group
Iain Grant on the Lockyer Technology Centre
Kate Kay on the Members' Forum

Derek Moreton informed the meeting of how the Board perceived the years ahead, in terms of priorities for developments. Accommodation space was the key priority. Two items were uppermost currently: the need for suitable clean dry storage space and the expansion of the LTC in order that it can accommodate the same number of visitors as does the Mond dome. In the future, expansion of the main building was desirable, but would depend upon planning consents and intensive fund raising. He mentioned various purchases that had been made to date and the intention to use the John Pope legacy to fund a solar telescope for the Society. Discussion and input from Members was always welcome at any time.

- A suggestion was made that tutorial sessions on a weekday evening be re-instigated. *[The first steps would be to find a tutor, to gauge numbers willing to sign-up and to agree a suitable day of the week.]*