**Minutes of the 2016 AGM of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society, held in the David Barber Hall on 14/11/16**

1. Chairman, David Strange opened the meeting  
2. Apologies received from: Guy Bradley-Smith, Michael Hayes, Bill Hitchings, Derek & Sandy Moreton  
3. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted with the correction to the forename of David Alexander.  
4. Chairman’s Report Society Chairman’s address at the 2016 AGM “You’ve all had sight of my Chairman’s report so would just like to make a few general points & give a few words of thanks.

Friday evenings: There’s a real buzz about the NLO on Friday evenings. There are many astronomical  
societies that are largely attended by middle age folk, but we are unique in having such a thriving group of  
young astronomers. Many thanks to Kathleen, Kate & Karen & also parents who are nurturing this very  
commendable group. I was with them last night & I learned something about this super moon which is  
happening right now! We made a short recording for the Radio Four Today programme, so we may get a  
mention from John Humphries tomorrow morning! For the rest of us oldies the universe keeps turning, or as Obama would say, the sun keeps rising every  
morning.

The observing group continues to battle the clouds every Friday evening, but Sandy Moreton &  
Kate Kay have arranged a great variety of 7.30pm & 8.30pm talks during the year & many thanks to all who  
have contributed to those. We continue to see great astro-images from our imaging group. More people are taken up narrow band imaging now, & we have seen some amazing H Alpha images recently. Don’t forget to submit your images to or annual Jack Wicking’s NLO Astro photographer of the Year Award. Speaking of Jack Wickings, you all know that he has been unwell this year. Jack was of course our founding Chairman & together with Gerald White  
as secretary laid the foundations of the NLO, some 30 years ago? I should like to thank both Jack & Gerald  
with an honorary lifetime membership of NLO (this probably sounds more glamorous than it is in reality! –  
but is a small token of our appreciation for all they have done for the NLO over the years).

The LTC continues to enthral visitors with their varied systems of detecting meteors, & are to be commended for their recent collaboration with Exeter University in setting up an on-line magnetometer.

Thanks to George Wilkins for arranging the varied programme of talks for the History Group. For the benefit  
of new members, they meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. Congratulations to David Love  
who has recently had his book about Kepler: Tortured Genius published.  
Thanks to Bob Miles who is our speakers’ secretary & has arranged a great line up of talks this year. Bob also  
sits on the Sidmouth Science Festival committee, & I know that I can speak for them that they are very  
grateful for our support for hosting events here during the festival week.

I should like to propose a vote of thanks to our retiring directors: Richard Crisp & Iain Grant. Richard has  
been our very efficient secretary & took over when Mike Gillard resigned. Thanks very much Richard for all  
your support & advice that you have given us over the past three years as our secretary. But I am also very  
happy to report that the directors have appointed a very capable Sharon Tubb to be our new Company  
Secretary to the Board. Welcome Sharon, & many thanks for taking on the task, for which you have  
formidable qualifications!

I should also like to thank retiring director Iain Grant. Iain has been a stalwart in promoting the NLO, & in  
supporting us with group & school visits. He really engages with all our visitors & makes the LTC one of the  
highlights of their visit. You have all now seen our wonderful 19th century orrery which was donated by Howard Anderson, & lovingly restored by John Bardsley, Bill Hitchings & Pete Youd. It is great that the NLO continues to receive these historic instruments & that we are deemed to be worthy recipients. You may also be interested to  
hear that we have been offered the return of the Mond Equatorial. This is currently owned by Glyn Marsh on  
the Isle of Man. He is proposing to make a new cast iron pillar for it & restore it to its original condition. Once  
completed he wishes to ultimately bequeath it to the NLO. It is a large instrument, & we would need  
somewhere to house it, but as it was such an integral part of the history of the NLO it would be a shame not  
to accept this generous offer.

Thanks to Kate Kay who not only organises all our astronomy courses, but arranges our public events  
programme & the staffing roster. She also leads our member’s forum, which is our ear piece for anyone who  
has any ideas or suggestions that they would like us to develop. I should also mention that the 2017  
Programme of Events is currently with the printers & should be available next week.  
Many thanks to all our NLO Maintenance team. To Alan Green, to whom no task is too smelly! To Derek,  
Peter, Brian & Alan for all your ongoing maintenance & repairs to all our telescopes. & to Heather who  
continues tirelessly to keep the NLO grounds in such excellent order.  
Lastly, thank you to our members who by your support keep the NLO in such good heart!” David Strange.

5. The Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 were unanimously accepted (Alan Green, Alan Martin)  
6. The re-appoint of the Society’s auditors Easterbrook Eaton Ltd and the authority for the Directors to fix their  
remuneration was agreed unanimously. (Kathleen Dollery, Barry Sangster)

7. Election of Directors  
a. To appoint Ken Bailey as Director – Derek Moreton, Brian Ward-Smith  
b. To appoint Kathleen Dollery as Director – Barry Sangster, Elisabeth Carter  
c. To appoint David Jones as Director – Sharon Tubb, Kathleen Dollery  
d. To appoint Derek Moreton as Director - Brian Ward-Smith, Ken Bailey  
8. Close of formal Meeting

There followed short verbal presentations by Kate Kay on Observers & Spectroscopy, Kathleen Dollery on  
Astroscouts, & George Wilkins on History Group. Iain Grant then gave a 5-minute audio-visual presentation on the Radio Astronomy Group’s recent collaboration with Exeter University showing the time variant graphs of the 3 components of magnetic flux. Studies will be conducted to correlate these data with solar activity and other data monitored by RAG.

Richard Crisp

Company Secretary