

NORMAN LOCKYER OBSERVATORY SOCIETY LIMITED

Annual General Meeting Minutes of the meeting held 11th November 2019

1. Welcome & Apologies

Kerry Powell, Hugh Taylor, Karen Williams, Julian Bishop, Vikki Brown, Eric Gordon, Mark Stephens, Des Howlett

2. To approve the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Approved subject to the addition in Section 3 Paragraph 4 line 2, the name of "Pete Bradley".

3. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman

There cannot be that many astronomical societies that are as well supported in their local community as the NLO. Since my last AGM report, we have received several generous bequests and grants that have enabled all our building plans to reach fruition. We have named the new classroom extension the Jeanne Edyvean Centre after her most generous bequest of £85,000. The new building was formally opened by the Sky at Night presenters Pete Lawrence and Paul Abel during our South West Astronomy Fair on August 12th. We must also thank the Sid Vale Association's Keith Owen Fund for a wonderful grant of £20,000 and the Co-op Local Community Fund who are also supporting us this current year. These generous bequests and grants show just how much the NLO is valued in East Devon.

In reviewing our activities this year, I hope we can show that we have earned the support of our benefactors. We have held 32 public openings including our main full day events of our British Science Week Family day on March 9th, our South West Astronomy Fair on August 10th and our Sidmouth Science Festival Family Fun Day on October 13th. In addition to these events we have held 54 private group bookings in the past year which include 14 schools, 24 Cubs, Scouts & Guides groups, and 16 Rotary/W.I./Lions/Probus groups et al. Many thanks to Mac C, Dave A, and Alan G for hosting these group visits. For maintaining such a busy schedule, we are indebted to all those who help to run our open evenings. To other NLO members please don't be afraid to come forward and offer your services, it's just a lively interest in the subject that is required, not a degree in astrophysics!

On the educational side many thanks are due to Kate Kay for running a very popular GCSE Astronomy course (8 attendees), and for Kathleen in leading our Astroscouts (12). Many thanks are also due to Karen Williams, Andy Anning and John Meacham who have run the younger Astroscouts in the past year.

We have welcomed 39 new members to the NLO in the past year. Our current membership is 223 with 26 student members. There are a wide range of interests to

pursue at NLO be it Visual astronomy, Imaging, Spectroscopy, History of Astronomy, Meteor Detecting, or Solar Observing. We also now have a newly created Cosmology Group under Leigh Edwards leadership.

The LTC extension has now been signed off by the building inspector and will soon be up and running again. The 50cm Newtonian has been very successfully installed on the Kieron McGrath Paramount by Brian, Peter and Allan and is working exceptionally well.

As regards future projects, we are looking forward to proceeding with the NLO Plate Digitisation project with Exeter University. We are awaiting news from the Leverhulme Trust who may be able to support this worthwhile project of scanning all the Lockyer lantern slides and spectral glass plates.

We also hope to install the Mond Equatorial in the new alcove in the passageway of the JEC. This will be an exhibit with a running commentary and video of the work of Lockyer and this telescope. A further idea that we are currently pursuing would be to install a full dome projector alongside our Spitz in the planetarium. This would extend our educational opportunities and bring us in line with the other main digital planetarium systems available in Bristol, Winchester and London.

The chairman confirmed that the NLO would be receiving a donation of £2290.00 from the Co-op, this was in addition to the £319 received last April.

The Chairman gave us his vision of our future, with improvements to the visitor experience.

Thanks were expressed to those who ran the various Astronomy courses and to the gardening team.

We were asked to remember those members that had passed away this year and in particular, George Wilkins, Colin Smith and Steve Bastion.

There was then an address from the floor given by Derek Carter regarding the decision to close the Lockyer Technology Centre and the setting up of a review group to investigate the reasons behind this decision.

4. To receive the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018

The Treasurer gave an upbeat report on our accounts. With work now completed on the Jean Edyvean Centre and the generous donation made from the estate of the late Jean Edyvean enabling us to pay for the extension. There was also mention of a generous donation of £20,000 from the Keith Owen fund and a loan from EDDC of £50,000 at a competitive interest rate. £25,000 has been taken from this loan to pay towards the extension of the Technology Centre, the board is investigating possible uses of the remaining £25,000.

The Treasurer also welcomed Vikki Brown who will be taking over the role of Finance Officer.

A vote to receive the accounts was taken and approved.

- 5. To re-appoint as the Society's auditors Easterbrook Eaton Ltd and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.**

A vote to reappoint the auditors was taken and approved.

- 6. Election of Directors:**

A vote was taken, and the following nominees were re-elected onto the board and were congratulated.

Bill HITCHINGS
Kathleen DOLLERY
Ken BAILEY

- 7. Any other business**

The Chairman gave a presentation on the work of the RAG Review sub-committee.

At 8:05pm the Chairman closed the formal proceedings of the AGM and then invited the various interest groups, Member's Forum and Work groups to report on their achievements for the past year.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm

Dave Alexander

Temporary NLOS Company Secretary