**Norman Lockyer Observatory Society**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Held Monday 13th November 2017 in the David Barber Lecture Hall**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The chairman David Strange (DS), opened the meeting. Apologies were received from: Ken Bailey, Alan Smith and Caroline Smith.

1. **Minutes of the AGM held 14th November 2016.**

Accepted as an accurate account of the meeting. Dave Jones approver, Alan Green seconded. All unanimously agreed.

1. **To receive an Annual Report from the Chairman**

The written Chairman’s report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. DS provided a verbal account of the report accompanied by a pictorial slideshow summarised below. The Chairman expressed thanks to all members who have helped throughout the year with the running of various events.

The BSW Family Day event on the 18th March supported by Colyton Grammar School was very successful and well attended. The Virtual Reality headset that the ‘Space Detectives’ demonstrated was very popular.

The Launch of the Orrery with Alan Chapman was another very successful event on the 6th May. Alan Chapman has been invited back to attend a very special anniversary in 2018 which will mark 100 years since Norman Lockyer discovered helium.

On the 19thJuly the NLO supported Exeter University’s IAU symposium: Space Weather of the Heliosphere. This event was well attended by delegates and the public.

The South West Astronomy Fair was on the 12th August. This was very successful and there was good weather. The Sidmouth Science Festival ‘Sky’s the Limit’ event took place on the 15th October. This was another success with 420 visitors. The Keith Owen Fund kindly sponsored the helium balloon launch.

On the 28th July, the ‘BBC Sky at Night’ filmed an episode at the NLO. They bought a scanning electronic microscope with them and found a micro meteorite on the roof. BBC Sky at Night have asked to come back to film for a January episode. The filming is likely to take place in the 2nd week of December. They will be looking at galaxy redshifts. John Barry-Smith has kindly agreed to do a demonstration. This is excellent publicity for the Observatory and is long overdue.

Other exciting developments include the generous donation of the Paramount Equatorial. This would cost around 10-12K new. The plan is to install this in the Connaught. Pete Youd, Brian Ward-Smith, Allan Brittan and Alan Green have been working hard to prepare the site. This should all be up and running in the new year.

EDDC have recently been offered the return of the Mond Equatorial, which is of a huge historical interest. Glyn Marsh had bought it and refurbished it. Sadly, Glyn passed away in July. The plan is to have the Mond delivered sometime in the spring next year. Discussions will need to take place with regards to where it will be housed and whether it will be operational or an exhibition piece.

The NLOS proposed extensions were discussed and plans showcased. The purpose of the extensions will be to support all educational activities which take place at the NLO as there is currently not enough room for the Astro Scouts and the School groups. In addition, there is a proposal to have the Connaught extended to allow additional numbers of visitors thus making handling group tours easier. There are also plans to reinstate the ramp outside of the building. It was noted that planning permission has been sought and has been submitted to the planning authority. The cost is likely to be in the region of 70-80K. Fundraising projects will be lined up and there is an option to apply for a low interest loan.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking everyone for making the NLO a success this year. He also thanked Heather for keeping the grounds under control and Dave Alexander and Barry for taking care of the lawn. Thanks were also expressed to Sharon in her role as Company Secretary.

1. **To receive the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017**

A document of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 was circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. The Treasurer reported that the NLOS is in a healthy position financially and able to go forward with plans of a low interest loan. The NLOS is able to get the lease extended, the current lease is fixed until 2035 and costs £700 per year plus 10% of takings. The plan is the avoid applying for a new lease at this stage as Commercial Rent would apply to a new lease, the current lease is more favourable. The NLOS is able to claim back Gift Aid from the Inland Revenue which has generated an income of £987. Also reported was that the electric bill is very high. The plan was to move as many as possible of the PCs over to raspberry pi’s to reduce electric costs but this has not made noticeable savings to the current costs. There were no questions with regards to the accounts and they were accepted. Colin Smith approver, Brian Ward-Smith seconded. All unanimously agreed.

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

All agreed to re-appoint Easterbrook Eaton Ltd. Alan Green approver, Kathleen Dollery seconded. All unanimously agreed

1. **Election of Directors**

Personal statements were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

1. To appoint Steve Boyce as a Director. Nominated by Alan Green and seconded by Bill Hitchings. All unanimously agreed.
2. To appoint Alan Green as a Director. Nominated by Bob Miles and seconded by Dave Jones. All unanimously agreed.
3. To appoint Sandy Moreton as a Director. Nominated by Kerry Powell and seconded by Elizabeth Carter. All unanimously agreed.
4. To appoint Peter Youd as a Director. Nominated by Dave Jones and seconded by Kerry Powell. All unanimously agreed
5. **Any other business**

7.1 The Chairman announced that Bill Hitchings, who has been Treasurer for the NLOS for 30 years will be retiring from his position at the end of the financial year in March 2018. Huge thanks were expressed to Bill for the fantastic work he has done with taking care of the accounts. Another member has expressed an interest in the position. Confirmation of the new appointment will take place in due course.

7.2 The Chairman announced that the NLO has been very successful in attracting new members with 45 new members this year. New members were welcomed and invited to get involved in running the NLO. It was also announced that despite the rain, 104 people showed up to the open evening last Saturday.

7.3 Thanks were expressed to the Management Committee. It was announced that there is now a recycling and bin collection at the site.

7.4 Dave Jones (DJ) urged all members to contact a Director or the Company Secretary if they or someone they know are not receiving emails so the email distribution list can be updated with any changes.

1. **Close of formal meeting**

The Chairman closed the formal proceedings of the AGM and invited the Interest Groups, sections, Members’ Forum & Workgroups to share their achievements of the year.

Sharon Tubb

Norman Lockyer Observatory Society

Company Secretary