

SIGMA AGM – FRIDAY 7th JUNE 2013

Item	Subject	Discussion
1	Welcome	The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.45pm with 27 Members in attendance (3 by proxy), meeting and exceeding comfortably the quorum requirements. (Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members - 51/5 = 11)
1a	Present	Stewart Argo, Stan Barber, Moira Barber, Stuart Brooks, Bill Ford, Robin Frankton, Duncan Gray, Sam Hampton-Smith, George Miller, Anne Mitchell, Richard Mitchell, Andrew Reddy, Pete Sherman, Hazel Sherman, Chris Stradling, Derek Watson, Helen Williamson, Brian Young, Tony Mason, Tim Schroder, Alan Tough, Dave Williamson, Celia Hawco, Kay Stuart, Roger Williams (by proxy), James Bow (by proxy), Anne Burgess (by proxy)
2	Apologies	Anne Burgess, James Bow, Roger Williams (all submitted proxy forms), Bill Leslie
3	Minutes of Previous AGM	The minutes had been available for a year. No comments were raised, and the minutes were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Discussion: None
4	Matters Arising	There were no actions or matters arising.
5	Chairman's Report	<p><u>Chairman's Report AGM 2013</u></p> <p>SIGMA's financial year ran from 1st January to 31st December but the report covered from the last AGM to 2013's. It had been another busy year and the Chairman explained further as to what we'd been up to with a short Powerpoint presentation.</p> <p>Activities: We started the year off on 11th January with a combined monthly meeting and BBC Two's Stargazing LIVE at Lhanbryde. This was our most successful event with 106 attendees, and we also managed some public observing.</p> <p>Events: 4th July – SOAKE at Nethy Bridge 17th August – Portknockie Gala 3rd September – Cabrach Community Association Fun Day 19th October – Exo-Planet Film Screening Gordonstoun 11th January – BBC Two Stargazing LIVE Lhanbryde 9th March – Cabrach Stars & Supper 16th March – Moray Science Festival</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
		<p>Outreach: Roseisle WI – 12th September (Brian) Grantown WI – 8th January (Brian) Anderson’s Primary Forres P6 – 31st January (Stan) Hythehill Primary Lossiemouth P6 – 4th February (Stan) Elgin High S2 – 12th February (Brian) Hythehill Primary Lossiemouth P3 – 12th March (Stan) East End Primary Elgin P1 – 8th May (Stan) Caithness Astronomy Group – 17th May (Chris)</p> <p>Our Club talks were given by a mix of external speakers and members’ and were of the high standards we’ve come to expect.</p> <p>Membership This would be covered in the membership report but it was neither up nor down.</p> <p>Financial Though this would be covered by the Treasurer’s report in essence we covered our costs in 2012 and created a surplus due to fund-raising activities. The financial state of the Club as at 31st December 2012 was healthy and sustainable.</p> <p>Record of Thanks The chairman placed on record his thanks to a number of people for their hard work and unwavering support over another year. First of course were the members who faithfully turned up at meetings. Meetings had been well attended throughout the year, and a number of speakers commented that the Club was active and vibrant. Next was the Committee, Pete Sherman, Stewart Argo, Sam Hampton-Smith, Brian Young, Chris Stradling and Bill Ford, who’d continued to do sterling work. We had shuffled duties a bit with Brian taking over as Vice-Chairman and also Membership, but we needed to get some new blood if only to rest some members. It might seem obvious but the Committee did a huge amount of running around and organising from Committee meetings, to bothy openings, to public events and SIGMA would cease without this tireless effort. The Chairman also thanked our Presidents Bill Leslie and Tim Schroder who had continued to represent the Club and provide advice since they were elected to do at last year’s AGM. Finally, he thanked Celia Hawco, Kaye Stuart, Moira</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
		<p>Barber, Gordon Grant, Karen O'Donnell, George Miller, Helen Williamson, Jean Chart, and Nick Lane who'd helped out at public events. He also thanked those who continued to provide help, advice and images, Bill, Tim Pete and Alan in particular. SIGMA provided an exceptional vehicle to promote astronomy and science to a wide audience, and none of this would have been possible without the Presidents', Committee's and members' support.</p> <p>The chairman commented that it was dangerous to mention names as the chance of missing someone out was pretty much guaranteed. If he had missed anyone then he offered his humble apologies.</p>
6	Membership Secretary's Report	<p>Brian Young, the membership secretary, provided the following report:</p> <p>The membership had fluctuated slightly, but from the financial point of view we were practically where we were last year. We had 31 ordinary members, 3 life members, 16 concessions, 1 student and 7 child members - 58 in total. If we were going to have growth in the future, it was felt that this would best come from youth membership.</p> <p>Brian promised to produce membership cards for the next year.</p>
7	Treasurer's Report	<p>Stuart presented a report which included the following subjects:</p> <p>Total income for the year 2012 was £2937.50 Total expenditure for the year 2012 was £3088.79 Current balance of funds at end of year: £2388.64</p> <p>Anne Burgess audited the accounts again for us, for which we were very grateful. (Copies of the accounts had been circulated with the May and June newsletters, and also posted on the website under newsletters)</p> <p>Discussion: The cost of the hall hire was queried, as it seemed to have gone down, but this is because the outreach events hall hire was moved into the events column. Tim commended Chris and the committee on achieving value for money with regard to the quality of external speakers the club attracts, which he felt was far superior to other comparable clubs, some with bigger budgets. The committee discussed whether membership rates should be raised, but it was decided to recommend that rates remain at the same level as the previous year.</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
8	Resolutions	<p>Resolution A13.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2012.</p> <p>Proposer: Pete Sherman Seconder: Stuart Brooks</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8		<p>Resolution A13.2 To accept the Accounts for 2012.</p> <p>Proposer: George Miller Seconder: Brian Young</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8		<p>A13.3 - To Maintain Membership Rates for 2014 at 2013 Rates</p> <p>Proposer: Tim Schroder Seconder: Sam Hampton-Smith</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
8		<p>Resolution A13.4 To appoint Stanford Barber as Chairman</p> <p>Proposer: Helen Williamson Seconder: Bill Ford</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8		<p>Resolution A13.5 To appoint Sam Hampton-Smith as Secretary</p> <p>Proposer: Pete Sherman Seconder: Tim Schroder</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8		<p>Resolution A13.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer</p> <p>Proposer: Chris Stradling Seconder: Stewart Argo</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
8		<p>Resolution A13.7 To appoint Stewart Argo, Pete Sherman, Chris Stradling and Brian Young as Committee Members.</p> <p>Proposer: Duncan Gray Second: Richard Mitchell</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 27 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8		<p>A13.8 - To amend the Constitution para 4.10 to allow children 16-18 to attend monthly meetings unaccompanied.</p> <p>4.10. When attending society events, as described in 2.2, children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian or an adult authorized by the child's parent/ guardian. <i>Children aged 16-18 may attend monthly meetings on their own, but may not attend other activities unless accompanied by a parent/ guardian or an adult authorized by the child's parent/ guardian. Under no circumstances are children to be left alone with any adult at any of SIGMA's activities unless that person is a parent/ guardian or an adult authorized by the child's parent/ guardian.</i></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Stan mentioned that he'd attended a PVG session, which brought him up to speed on changes to the legislation on child protection. The law is a double-edged sword - you must protect children from harm, but also protect their rights. In Scotland anyone 16 or under is considered a child, at 16 some rights are inherited. Stan asked whether we were excluding and thereby denying 16-18 year-olds their rights as a consequence of our policy not to allow 16-18 year-olds to attend without a parent accompanying them. This is only for meetings, not the bothy, but as a result we've added the proposed amendment to the constitution.</p> <p>One comment received by proxy suggested that we perhaps should instead ask parents to assign the chairman <i>in loco parentis</i> instead of amending the constitution to cover this. Stan had investigated, and it's not a great option for any chairman – and he personally was unwilling to become a parent to additional children - even temporarily!</p> <p>There was some further discussion about the relative merits of the resolution, the likelihood of SIGMA meetings being used as a crèche facility. Tim suggested that perhaps the club could also be doing more to appeal to younger members, by offering a range of different activities and approaches to welcoming them. The proposed change to junior membership would be a good start.</p>

Item	Subject	Discussion
		<p>Tim also proposed changing the last paragraph to read '<i>Children are not to be left alone with any adult at any of SIGMA's activities unless that person is a parent/ guardian or an adult authorized by the child's parent/ guardian</i>'. As this did not change the spirit of the amendment it was agreed that the change could be incorporated and voted on.</p> <p>Proposer: Brian Young Seconder: Chris Stradling</p> <p>For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 <i>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</i> For: 2 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 26 Against: 1 Abstain: 0</p>
9	Events Programme 2014	Chris Stradling presented an outline programme for 2014, including details of speakers that were being lined up. The programme was still being developed and would be finalized as soon as speakers had replied as to availability. The programme planned included a good mix of high-quality local and more distant speakers.
10	AOB	<p>Tim Schroder suggested making the AGM a little less dry in future by sending out much of the material before the meeting, so the meeting becomes more of a "Vote and move on" affair. Stan took this as an action.</p> <p>No other business was introduced.</p>
	Close	The meeting was officially closed at 20:51.

S Hampton-Smith
Secretary
7th June 2013