

## SIGMA AGM – FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2018 - NOTES

Item	Subject	
1	Welcome.	<p>The health and safety requirements were covered and no alarms were scheduled for testing. Exit was to the right of the cinema or via the planetarium.</p> <p>Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members. 62 voting = 12.4 members There were 30 SIGMA members present and one potential new member hence the quorum was easily achieved</p>
2	Apologies.	Chris Stradling (+ Proxy Vote), Mick O'Donnell (+Proxy Vote), Alan Tough, Tim Schroder.
3	Minutes of Previous AGM 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	<p>Background; The 2017 AGM minutes have been posted on the SIGMA website and issued with the May Newsletter. The vote is simply to record that the minutes were issued not on the quality or accuracy of the minutes.</p> <p>Discussion: Nothing from the previous AGM to discuss.</p>
4	Matters Arising	Nil
5	Chairman's Report	<p>Report: Not such a busy year as we have managed little observing. Just to note that I have done 8 years as chairman. Our financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December but my report covers from last AGM in June 2017 to this AGM and I'll briefly explain further as to what we've been up to.</p> <p><u>Activities/ Events</u></p> <p>These were a bit reduced from last year for a number of reasons. We held a very successful George Fraser Memorial Lecture from Prof. Martin Hendry and Maciej Winjarczyk's talk at Morayvia was also very well attended with visitors coming from as far as Dumbarton. The Christmas Quiz by Kevin Stocks was also very successful and I was told the astronomy round scored a little higher this year? Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Stargazing event at Lhanbryde was again successful even though we had fewer members of the public. We had a lot of publicity from the event thanks to Howie Firth writing an article for KN news. We have also had a string of very successful club meetings with some fantastic speakers, with attendances up in the low 40s,</p>

which is some 2/3rds of the membership. We have even delved to the cutting edge of cosmology with the search for Dark Matter. Rachael and I discovered Dark Matter when we were in a shop in St Andrews. (PP Slide of Dark Matter Rum).

Bill, Pete, Neil and now Mick O'Donnell I have also carried out a number of planetarium shows at Morayvia. The planetarium continues to be a showcase for SIGMA but we could do with a few more presenters. No experience is necessary just a willingness to help.

#### Bothy

We've had very few opportunities to open the bothy for observing, due to unsuitable weather/ lack of volunteers/ a full moon, and have only opened once. Thanks go to Pete and Mick for persevering but we do need additional volunteers to open more often, and of course suitable observing conditions! As for the bothy hut, we have decided that we don't use it enough and have agreed to let the Gliding Club take it over. We will continue to use the airfield for observing for an annual payment of £50 but will review our use to decide if it's worth continuing in 2019.

#### Facebook & Twitter

We continue to be very active on Facebook with a huge number of likes and interest. It seems to be the best way to keep the public informed of interesting astronomical events. Thanks again to Bill Leslie and Pete Sherman who have been main contributors.

#### Membership & Financial

Both will be covered in detail later but membership numbers have remained stable even though we have lost a few members last year. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 the Club was very healthy and sustainable financially.

#### Record of Thanks – from Stan

I once again should like to place on record again my thanks to a number of people for their hard work and unwavering support over another year. It's dangerous to mention names as the

chance of missing someone out is always pretty much guaranteed. If I have missed anyone then you have my humble apologies. First of course are you the members who faithfully turn up at meetings. Meetings have been well attended throughout the year, and a number of speakers commented that the Club was active and vibrant. The Committee comprising up to this AGM of Stuart Brooks, Chris Stradling, Mike Thornton, Neil Kemp, Pete Sherman and Donna Williamson. We always want new committee members and I am very grateful to my wife Rachael for volunteering as secretary, one of the 3 posts required by our constitution. The Committee does a huge amount of running around and organizing from Committee meetings, to Bothy openings, to public events and SIGMA would cease to exist without this tireless effort.

I'd also like to thank our Presidents Bill Leslie and Tim Schroder who have continued to represent the Club and provide advice and support since they were elected. Finally, I'd like to thank the event helpers. Thanks to Donna, Dave and John Williamson who have run the refreshments side of things so brilliantly. Thanks too to those who continue to provide images for our social media and Flickr with Pete and Alan in particular. I must also mention Helen Williamson's work as Webmaster Thanks to Helen the website is kept up to date and relevant. Helen's task is to eradicate all evidence of lower case Sigma and replace it with capitals to denote that its stands for Special Interest Group of Moray Astronomers not the Greek letter or the mathematical term.

Finally, SIGMA provides an exceptional vehicle to promote astronomy and science to a wide audience, and none of this would be possible without the Presidents', Committee's and members' support.

6 Membership Secretary's Report

<b>ORDINARY</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>LIFE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CONCESSIONARY</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHILD</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

Report: By Chairman. The more members the better in terms of income, cost spread, social interaction and pool for volunteers. Get recruiting, or dragging that interested friend. We seem to be losing people and gaining new members. so the numbers appear to be steady from 2017.

7 Treasurer's Report for 2016 and Membership Fees for 2019

Report: As per attached 'Inspected and Checked Accounts 2017 Summary Sheet'.

8	Resolution A18.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2017.	Proposer: Pete Sherman Seconder: Stuart Brooks  For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Postal/ Proxy Votes:  For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A18.2 To accept the Accounts for 2017.	Proposer: Bill Leslie Seconder: Kevin Stocks  For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Postal/ Proxy Votes:  For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	A18.3 - To Maintain Membership Rates for 2019 at 2018 Rates	Proposer: Doug Cormack Seconder: Donna Williamson  For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Postal/ Proxy Votes:  For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0  Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A18.4 To appoint Stanford Barber as Chairman	Proposer: Helen Williamson Seconder: Jean Stocks  For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

		Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A18.5 To appoint Rachael Barber as Secretary	Proposer: Ann Mitchell Seconder: Rick Mitchell For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A18.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer	Proposer: Bill Leslie Seconder: Malcolm Bradley For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A18.7 To appoint Peter Sherman, Donna Williamson and Michael O'Donnell as Committee Members.	Proposer: John Worthington Seconder: Duncan Gray For: 30 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

		<p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 32 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
9	AOB	<p>Kevin Stocks agreed to once again compile and conduct the Christmas Quiz 2018.</p> <p>Donna Williamson raised the issue of eco-friendly disposable cups as our polystyrene ones aren't recyclable. The use of recyclable cups and also branded travel mugs was discussed at length and there was agreement that further investigation was needed. Donna and Helen agreed to check out the options and to report back through the committee.</p> <p>Tim's had sent by email a vote of thanks to the committee for its work in keeping the Club running.</p>
	Close	Time: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.