

SIGMA AGM – FRIDAY 1st JUNE 2012

Item	Subject	
1	Welcome.	<p>Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members. 47/5 = 10.</p> <p>Quorum was reached with 20 in attendance and 5 proxy votes.</p> <p>Stan apologized for having a cold and welcomed members to the AGM. It was appreciated that 20 members had turned up, especially as 20% of the paid membership is required for quorum. This represents 10 members. Members were reminded that they can submit resolutions for discussion at the AGM ahead of the meeting by contacting the secretary.</p>
1a	In attendance	<p>Stewart Argo, Stan Barber, Moira Barber, Stuart Brooks, Jean Chart, Robin Frankton, Sam Hampton-Smith, Ian Kay, Bill Leslie, Andrew Reddy, Jean Stocks, Kevin Stocks, Chris Stradling, Helen Williamson, George Morris, Karen O'Donnell, Tim Schroder, Kay Stuart, Celia Hawco, Derek Watson</p>
2	Apologies.	<p>Bill Ford, Anne Burgess, Anne and Richard Mitchell, Sam Fletcher-Harrison, Roger Williams, Pete Sherman (proxy voting form provided), Brian Young, James Bow</p>
3a	Minutes of Previous AGM	<p><i>Previous AGM held 3rd June 2011</i></p> <p>The minutes were published on the Sigma website three weeks after the last AGM.</p> <p>No discussion was required as everyone remained silent when asked to raise points or queries over the previous minutes!</p>
4	Matters Arising	<p>Planetarium and charitable status</p> <p>One of the resolutions on the previous AGM agenda was to adopt charitable status on the basis of claiming gift aid and being more qualified to receive funding. The primary reason, however, was the desire to establish the planetarium. Unfortunately there was insufficient time and available energy from the interested parties during a very busy year, so this has not been progressed as planned.</p>
5	Chairman's Report	<p>Stan Barber, Chairman</p> <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>We started the year off on 8th January with BBC Two's Stargazing LIVE at Lhanbryde and a very successful bit of public observing in the snow. We held another public observing session on 26th March again at Lhanbryde but cloud rolled over so it was talks though these were very much appreciated.</p>

Events:

8th January – BBC Two Stargazing LIVE Lhanbryde
5th March – Moray Science Festival
26th March – Public Observing Lhanbryde
2nd April – Joint HAS Talk Open to Public – Prof Morison
13th May – Creatures of the Night Falconer Museum Forres
14th May – Creatures of the Night Elgin Museum
1st July – SOAKE Lhanbryde – **Solar Outdoor Astronomical Kitchen Event**
20th August – Portknockie Gala
3rd September – Cabrach Community Association Open Day
29th October – Nethy Bridge
22nd November – Cabrach CA Teach-in/Observing night

Activities:

July – October – Assistance to successful application by Cabrach CA for Dark Sky Discovery Status awarded on 24th October.

Outreach:

21st February – West End Primary
1st March – Pilmuir Primary
7th March – Bishopmill Primary
22nd March – Milne’s Primary
13th April – Cranloch WI
3rd November – Findhorn Over 60s Club
10th December – West End Primary

Our Club talks were given by a mix of external speakers and members’ and were of the high standards we’ve come to expect.

Membership

This will be covered in the membership report but it’s neither up nor down.

Financial

Though this will be covered by the Treasurer’s report in essence we covered our costs in 2011 and created a surplus due to fund-raising activities and the financial state of the Club as at 31st December 2011 was healthy and sustainable.

		<p><u>Record of Thanks</u> I should like to place on record my thanks to a number of people for their hard work and unwavering support over another year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Committee, Pete Sherman, Stewart Argo, Sam Hampton-Smith, Brian Young, Bill Ford, Chris Stradling and Chad Gray have continued to do sterling work. That said, having voted Chad Gray in as treasurer he was offered a job down south in September, so I picked up the treasurer's duties. We also shuffled the events duties, which Chris Stradling took over. However, the Committee does a huge amount of running around and organising from Committee meetings, to both openings, to public events and with fuel prices the way they are it has been at considerable personal expense.</p> <p>I'd also like to thank members Bill Leslie, Celia Hawco, Kaye Stuart, Moira Barber, Tim Schroder, Gordon Grant, Barry Hodge, Karen and Rob Cox, Rhiannon Stradling, Kevin and Jean Stocks, and Karen O'Donnell who have helped out at public events. Thanks too to those who continue to provide help, advice and images, Bill, Tim and Alan in particular. SIGMA provides an exceptional vehicle to promote astronomy and science to a wide audience, and none of this would be possible without the Committee's and members' support.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	Membership Secretary's Report	<p>Bill Ford (apologies received), presented by Stan Barber We've lost some members in 2011 and gained others so the membership remained fairly stable. At year-end we had 54 members made up of 38 Full, 3 Life, 7 Concessionary, 1 student and 5 children. Given the public events we could have expected a slight increase in membership, especially with the impact of the BBC's Stargazing LIVE initiative. Perhaps the economic climate was a factor with people tightening their belts, but we still provide good value entertainment, especially with the quality of external speakers. I'll finish as I did in 2011 and encourage everyone to drag along that friend or neighbour who's always been interested but can't quite make the 1st Friday. It normally only takes one visit to hook them, unless it's the AGM of course.</p>
7	Treasurer's Report and Membership Fees for 2013	<p>Stan Barber (in the stead of Stuart Brooks who is new to the post) Stan provided a summary of the accounts for the year. Speaker's expenses were just under £400 for the year, more or less the same as the previous year. Speaker's gifts remained the same as in previous years, room hire saw an increase but this reflected the additional events held. Spending on refreshments were up</p>

		<p>due to Tim’s observation about lack of chocolate biscuits. The insurance quote went up and the committee decided to forgo the insurance altogether as the combination of depreciation and excess meant that there wasn’t any value to be insured by the policy. As a consequence this cost was eliminated. FAS membership was as previously. Capital expenditure was up due to the additional events held</p> <p>£1484 total expenditure</p> <p>Membership was up a little bit to around £1000. Teas was up, but this was partially due to a hold-over of tea money from the previous year. Two draws during the year led to additional funds in that category. £150 was donated by the Cabrach event organizers, and we also got additional donations in respect of the planetarium</p> <p>£1957 total income</p> <p>This provided a healthy surplus for the year.</p> <p>Last year we had a difference between the money in the bank and what the spreadsheet represented. This was due to the speaker’s gifts. This year we have the same difference due to speaker’s gifts – paid for in 2009.</p> <p>£2539 in the bank</p> <p>Stan expressed the desire to retain two year’s membership income in the bank, so expressed his satisfaction at the current fiscal situation. We applied for a grant last year, and failed to get it – potentially due to the amount of money we’re holding in our account – but Stan felt it was a good prudent approach to retain this backup.</p> <p>The committee recommended the membership fees were retained at 2011 levels for the 2013 year.</p>
8	Resolution A12.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2011.	<p>Proposer: Stewart Argo</p> <p>Secunder: Stuart Brooks</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</p> <p>Totals: For: 24 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</p>

8	Resolution A12.2 To accept the Accounts for 2011.	<p>Proposer: Chris Stradling</p> <p>Secunder: Kevin Stocks</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8	A12.3 - To Maintain Membership Rates for 2013 at 2012 Rates	<p>Proposer: Tim Schroder</p> <p>Secunder: George Morris</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4 Against: 1 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 24 Against: 1 Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A12.4 To appoint Stanford Barber as Chairman	<p>Proposer: Jean Stocks</p> <p>Secunder: Helen Williamson</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A12.5 To appoint Sam Hampton-Smith as Secretary	<p>Proposer: Tim Schroder</p> <p>Secunder: Helen Williamson</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

8	Resolution A12.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer	<p>Proposer: Stewart Argo</p> <p>Secunder: Jean Chart</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A12.7 To appoint Stewart Argo, Bill Ford, Pete Sherman, Chris Stradling and Brian Young as Committee Members.	<p>Proposer: Bill Leslie</p> <p>Secunder: Kevin Stocks</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
8	A12.8 - To invite William (Bill) Leslie and Timothy (Tim) Schroder to hold the honorary non-executive positions of joint Presidents	<p>The resolution is to invite Bill and Tim to hold the non-executive position of joint honorary presidents of the club. Stan provided an explanation of the role, including their position as ambassadors of the club; a function both already fulfill as long-standing members. The role is advisory, doesn't carry any vote or obligation to attend committee meetings (although they're welcome to at any time).</p> <p>Stan provided a selection of images demonstrating both Bill and Tim's long-standing commitment to the club, ahead of the vote as follows:</p> <p>Proposer: Stewart Argo</p> <p>Secunder: Helen Williamson</p> <p>For: 20 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 25 Against: 0 Abstain: 0</p>

9	Programme for 2013	<p>Chris Stradling</p> <p>Chris provided a summary of the events upcoming. The remainder of 2012 is already sorted thanks to the work put in by Pete as the previous: 5 confirmed external speakers for next year, including Prof. Ian Robson, Martin Hendry, Maarten DeVries, Bill Leslie. Chris is awaiting replies from several other potential speakers.</p> <p>Running a tiny bit over-budget this year on speakers' costs but this will be comfortably covered by the budget excess.</p> <p>Tim Schroder Tim proposed a congratulation to the committee and Chris in particular for the quality of speakers and expressed his feeling that this was a significant differentiator for SIGMA.</p>
10	AOB	<p>Bill Leslie: The Royal Observatory Film Night</p> <p>This was discussed informally.</p> <p>19th October 2012, Junior School at Gordonstoun for an event with films on exoplanets.</p> <p>Bill requested that the club provided it's best wishes to Karen O'Donnell ahead of her charitable run weekend commencing 8th June 2012 in just a bra!</p>
	Close	Time 20:35, 01/06/2012