SIGMA AGM MINUTES – FRIDAY 3rdJUNE 2016

Item	Subject	Notes		
1	Welcome.	The health and safety requirements were covered and no alarms were scheduled for testing. Morayvia gives quite a dark sky, has ample parking and good facilities hence is a potential alternative location for SIGMA events.		
		Given the seeing conditions it was decided to forego the solar viewing and have two planetarium sessions instead, one before the AGM, the other after.		
		Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members. 79 voting = 15.8 members There were 41 SIGMA members present at the AGM, hence quorum was easily achieved.		
2	Apologies.	Stewart Argo, Chris Stradling, Michael Reid, Anne & Richard Mitchell, Malcolm Bradley, Pamela Ingleby, Natalie & Steve Storey, Ian Sutherland, Mick O'Donnell, Peter & Helen MacDonald, Pamela Dale, Frances Reddy, Joyce Park, Valentine Kemp, Derek and Ailsa Spark, Donna Williamson,		
3	Minutes of Previous AGM 5 th June 2015	Background; The 2015 AGM minutes have been on the SIGMA website for a year and vote later is simply to accept the minutes as a record of the previous AGM Discussion:No items needed discussing from the previous minutes		
4	Matters Arising	Nil		
5	Chairman's Report	Report: This has been another busy year and my sixth year as Chairman. They say time flies when you're enjoying yourself Our financial year runs from 1 st January to 31 st December but my report covers from last AGM in June 2015 to this AGM and I'll briefly explain further as to what we've been up to.		
		<u>Activities</u>		
		14 th July – Prof George Fraser Memorial Lecture –Gordonstoun – this was very well received in 2015. Unfortunately we have been unable to arrange the lecture this year but Prof. Martin Hendry has agreed to do the lecture next year. It may be that this lecture is only presented every second year.		

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		15 th January SIGMA SG Live 2015. We only got to hear about BBC Two's event quite late but managed to get ours advertised on their website. Ours has become a bit of an institution and may continue at Lhanbryde for some time.
		12 th March – Moray Science Festival – This was also well received in 2016 and we will continue to support it into the future
		9 th May – Transit of Mercury – About 90 school children attended the transit at Morayvia and thoroughly enjoyed it.
		Bothy – Few opportunities and a lack of volunteers to open. Must do better!.We are looking for a couple of volunteers to open the bothy of a Friday and/or Saturday night from September, probably one experienced observer and a second person to help with the H&S aspects and to learn the ropes
		Facebook& Twitter
		While social media is not everyone's cup of tea, and it has its drawbacks such as unwelcome and undesirable posts or comments. However, it has allowed us to reach out to a wider audience as evidenced by a number of our posts. Thanks again to Bill Leslie and Pete Sherman who have been the main contributors.
		Membership & Financial
		Both will be covered in detail later but membership has jumped even though we have lost a few members last year. Financially, as at 31 st December 2015 the Club was healthy and sustainable.
		Record of Thanks The Chairman thanked all the standing committee members and I 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

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		well attended throughout active and vibrant.	the year, and	a number of speakers commented that the Club was
		The Committee comprising up to this AGM of Stewart Argo, Stuart Brooks, Chris Stradling, Mike Thornton, Anne Mitchell and George Miller. I again call for new blood if only to rest some members. It may seem obvious but the Committee does a huge amount of running around and organizing from Committee meetings, to bothy openings, to public events and SIGMA would cease 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 taken over the refreshments side of things and to wish them well for their climb of Mt Kilimanjaro in September. Thanks too to those who continue to provide help, advice and images, Bill, Tim, Pete and Alan in particular.		
		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	ORDINARY	39	
	Report	LIFE	3	
		CONCESSIONARY	34	
		STUDENT/ CHILD	10	
		Total	86	
		Report: By the Membership Secretary and 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. The membership is up by about 20, partially due to the very good speakers we get at the monthly meetings. This means that the Birnie venue is now rather stretched. Only members over 18 are allowed to vote according to the constitution. Post Meeting Note: The Constitution allows those aged 16-18 to join as paid-up members and hence have voting rights. It was felt important at the time that only paid-up members could vote. Any change would need formal approval at a GM.		

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7	Treasurer's Report and Membership Fees for 2017	Report: As per attached 'Inspected and Checked Accounts 2015 Summary Sheet'. The revenue from the fees and general financial position are good with membership fees down slightly, but in part because some had paid in the previous FY. There are very few donations and very little interest from the bank. Merchandising is stable with a 4 th set of binoculars for sale. The accounts have been checked as required and the cross-checking built into the accounts spreadsheet gives confidence in the smooth running of the funds and expenditure. Speaker expenses are relatively low and some have commented on the enthusiasm and welcoming nature of the SIGMA members. The speakers will continue to be given small gifts and any expenses they deem necessary to claim. The continued accumulation of funds from fees and meetings helps secure a solid financial footing for the group. Discussion:Bill Leslie suggested that we consider giving retiring committee members a small gift in recognition of all the help and support. The Chairman noted that this was the norm and he will progress it this year for retiring committee members.		
8	Resolution A16.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2015.	Proposer:Kevin Stocks Seconder:Stuart Brooks For: 41		
8	Resolution A16.2 To accept the Accounts for 2015.	Proposer:Pete Sherman Seconder:Duncan Gray For: 41		

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8	A16.3 - To Maintain	Proposer:Jean Stocks Seconder:Dave Williamson			
	Membership Rates for 2017 at 2016 Rates				
	at 2016 Rates				
		For: 41	Against: 0	Abstain:0	
		Postal/ Proxy Votes:			
		For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
		Totals: For: 46	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
8	Resolution A16.4 To appoint	Proposer:Helen Willia	amson		
	Stanford Barber as Chairman	Seconder:Tim Schroo	dar		
		Seconder. Hill Schlod	uei		
			ngainst: 0	Abstain:0	
		Postal/ Proxy Votes:			
		For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
		Totals: For: 46	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
8	Resolution A16.5 To appoint	Proposer:Carrie Helly	yer		
	Neil Kemp as Secretary	Seconder:Bill Leslie			
		Occorder.biii Lesiic			
			Against: 0	Abstain:0	
		Postal/ Proxy Votes:		A la -4-la - O	
		For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
		Totals: For: 46	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
8	Resolution A16.6 To appoint	Proposer:Mike Thornton			
	Stuart Brooks as Treasurer Seconder:Helen Williamson				
		Seconder. Helen Willi	iai115011		
			Against: 0	Abstain:0	
		Postal/ Proxy Votes:	5		
		For: 5	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	
		Totals: For: 46	Against: 0	Abstain: 0	

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8	Resolution A16.7 To appoint Stewart Argo,Pete Sherman,	Proposer:Jean Stocks		
	Chris Stradling and Mike Thornton as Committee	Seconder:Stuart Brooks		
	Members.	For: 41 Against: 0 Abstain:0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: 5		
		For: 5 Against: 0 Abstain: 0		
		Totals: For: 46 Against: 0 Abstain: 0		
9	AOB	No A.O.B. had been proposed prior to the AGM. Nothing was raised at the AGM.		
	Close	Time20:14		

Neil Kemp Secretary SIGMA 10th June 2016