

SIGMA AGM– Friday 5th June 2020

ITEM	SUBJECT	LEAD
1	Apologies No apologies. Other Pete welcomed the Membership and Committee to the Meeting Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last AGM were read and approved.	Pete
2	Matters Arising. No matters arising	All
3	Chairman's Report Well, 2019/2020 has been another very successful year, all be it the first half of 2020 has been a little strange. And the club has had to adapt to changing the way we hold our meetings during this unusual time. Which with great effort from the committee we have made this change rather well I think. This year does of course mark the 20 th anniversary of SIGMA and we planned to have a get together tonight in celebration of this milestone, but for obvious reasons we not able to do that. But what I thought we might do is, after Howie's talk and the club news, those of you who want to, the host can allow you to turn on your video and mic and you can have a (virtual face to face) chat with the other Sigma members here. I hope you will agree that we have had some fascinating speakers with varied and diverse subject matter in the last twelve months. Which, with Donna's superb organizational skills, will continue into 2021. As the speakers and events program is almost complete for next year, as you will see shortly. And you might be please to know that we are bringing back The SOAK in 2021. I also hope you are all happy with SIGMA's transition to online meetings. I understand, this is not the way that we want to hold our meetings and we would all rather be gathering in the hall. But, this is the next best thing and in fact has opened up some new avenues for the club. Not least, what I think was SIGMA's first ever international meeting. When Robin Catchpole joined us to give his presentation form South Africa. We are now able to bring speakers from all over the world via Zoom and have them present live at Lhanbryde. Of course, this would not be a regular thing more like special events.	Pete

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It has also meant that we have been able to build closer links with our fellow Astro clubs here in Northern Scotland.

We will of course get back to some sort of “normal” meetings as soon as we can. Whatever that sort of Normal will be. And, plans are already in the pipe line on how we can do this safely following government guidelines.

OUTREACH

The 2019/20 outreach program had been very busy up until March and was looking promising though out 2020, but are partially on hold for now. Though we are still continuing to do a small amount online.

THANKS

I know this is a dangerous thing to do as it is inevitable that I shall forget to thank someone. I there for apologize in advance for those I have missed out.

I will start with the committee:

DONNA- I know I have already mentioned you, but it’s a very important job that she is doing especially with all the reorganizing we have had to do over the last few months. As well as that she keeps the social media events currant and up to date. At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank her and Dave for their catering expertise over many years with making the teas, coffees and refreshments during the breaks and organizing the outside caterers.

RICHARD- For all the secretarial work he does with preparing the agenda and writing up the minutes. And for the support he gives me in the background with many things, to many to list here, that keeps the club running. Also the help with hosting the zoom meetings, along with

MICK- You’ll be amazed just much goes on in the background of a Zoom meeting, Chat, Q&A, and ensuring presenters have their mic turned on at the right time.

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Mick I also want to thank you for the fantastic job you are doing as membership secretary. By keeping precise records of meeting number and the membership database ensure that members receive important information and emails and no one is missed out. Also he liaises seamlessly with the treasurer with regards to the collection of membership fees.

STUART – I must thank you for the sterling work you are doing, and have done now for many years as treasurer. There never seems to be any anomalies in the accounts. Which just goes to show what a great job you are doing.

Also, I thank you for the Space News section you put together and present at the monthly meeting. Anyone who has ever put a talk together will know that it's no small feat and takes a lot of planning and time.

If that isn't enough, he is also SIGMA's press officer ensuring the clubs info is included in both local and national publications.

KEVIN- You are an integral part of the committee, and I like to think of you as the ideas man. You always come up with some superb ideas that would probably be missed if you weren't here. And, not to mention the outstanding work you do with the Christmas quiz every year.

BILL AND TIM - I would like to thank the club presidents for their input, and for giving me a nudge now and again to ensure I keep things right. Tim thanks also for the Astro Basics section you have done at the monthly meeting and hope you will be able to do them again sometime soon.

HELEN - Thank you so much for your help with building and maintaining the website. Giving me a hand to learn how to use a website builder. I think I said in the past that I was totally Manuel on all thing to do with websites, (I KNOW NOTHING). Now, I'm probably more like Basil Fawlty, which I guess make you Cybil.

Helen also updates our flicker page adding any new images and photos to it. Once again, no small feat and help spread the load for everyone.

MAARTEN DEVRIES - I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maarten DeVries for his help and continuing

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support in setting up and using the Zoom webinar platform. I'm sure we would have work the operation techniques out, but it made it much easier and quicker having him on board.

MEMBERS - Finally, I want to thank you the members, for your continuing support, (and your membership fees) that allow us to continue arranging superb speakers both old and new for you. And, for turning up to the meeting whether that is in person or online.

We constantly have 60 to 70% of the membership at meeting which is outstanding. This has in fact been noticed by many visiting speakers who have commented on what a vibrant and active club SIGMA is. That can only be down to the people we have in it.

With that I will now hand over to Mick for the Membership secretary's report.

4. Membership Secretary Report

Mick

Once again, we are losing members and gaining members as the year progresses so although numbers are down on the 2019, we are still at over 60 members.

Membership breakdown is as follows:

Membership Totals		
<i>Members in 2019</i>	69	
<i>Notified as not renewing in 2020</i>	8	
<i>Failed to renew in 2020</i>	7	
<i>Total not renewed</i>	15	
Life Members	6	
Free Membership (Auditor)	2	
New Members in 2020	8	
Members renewed for 2020	48	
Total Membership 2020	64	

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Membership Breakdown		
CHILD	0	
CONCESSIONARY	34	
ORDINARY	23	
LIFE	6	
FREE	1	
Total Membership 2020	64	

The more members the better in terms of income, cost spread, social interaction and pool for volunteers. Please get recruiting or dragging along that interested friend.

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5(a) **Membership Fees**

It was recommended to keep membership rates for 2021 at 2020 rates.

Ordinary - £24

Concessionary - £18


Student - £12

Child - Free

6 **Club Programme 2020 Programme Update and 2021 Events**

(a) Donna outlined the program of talks for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021

Donna

 <p>FUTURE EVENTS</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>2020</p>	
<p>Jul 3rd David Warrington (Scottish Dark Sky Observatory) <i>Scottish Dark Skies</i></p> <p>Jul 4th <i>BAA Webinars, 2 talks in place of cancelled event</i></p> <p>Aug 7th Graham Young (University of Dundee) <i>The Solar System</i></p> <p>Sep 3rd-9th <i>Orkney Science Festival, Online</i></p> <p>Sep 4th Ken Rice (Royal Observatory Edinburgh) <i>Finding Planets Around Other Stars</i></p> <p>Oct 2nd Hugh Hudson (University of Glasgow) <i>Astronomical Dimming</i></p> <p>Nov 6th Pauline McRae (Highland Astronomical Society) <i>Ice Giants</i></p> <p>Dec 4th Christmas Quiz Night</p>	<p>Jan 8th Speaker TBC</p> <p>Feb 5th Ken MacTaggart (Highland Astronomical Society)</p> <p>Mar 5th Maciej Winiarczyk (CAS/wildnorthskies.com)</p> <p>Apr 2nd Denis Buczynski (BAA Comet Section)</p> <p>May 7th Lyndsay Fletcher (University of Glasgow)</p> <p>Jun 4th AGM & Matjez Vidmar (Royal Observatory Edinburgh)</p> <p>Jun 26th <i>Rescheduled BAA Event, full day of talks</i></p> <p>Jul 3rd Solar Observing & Equipment Night (plus food!)</p> <p>Aug 6th David Paterson (Dundee Astronomy Society)</p> <p>Sep 3rd George Fraser Memorial Lecture Prof Charles Cockell (University of Edinburgh)</p> <p>Oct 1st Dr Alec L. MacKinnon (University of Glasgow)</p> <p>Nov 5th Simon Cuthbert (AGH University, Poland)</p> <p>Dec 3rd Christmas Quiz Night</p>

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7. Resolutions

A20.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2019: Tim Schroder proposed this resolution and it was seconded by John Worthington, 17 for, none against

A20.2 To Accept the Accounts for 2019: Kevin Stocks proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Donna Williamson, 17 for, none against

A20.3 To Maintain Membership Rates for 2021 at 2020 Rates: Malcolm Bradley proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Richard Summers, 17 for, none against

A20.4 Addition to the Constitution: Proposed to allow AGM's/EGM's to be held by other remote means when extraordinary circumstance occur which do not allow members to gather. (for example, Corvid-19 virus outbreak 2020). Tim Schroder proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Ian Sutherland, 17 for, none against

A20.5 To appoint Peter Sherman as Chairman: Tim Schroder proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Helen Williamson, 17 for, none against.

A20.6 To appoint Richard Oakley as Secretary: Tim Schroder proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Malcolm Bradley, 16 for, none against, one abstention t

A20.7 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer: Helen Williamson proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Kevin Stocks, 16 for, none against, one abstention

A20.8 To appoint Donna Williamson, Michael O'Donnell and Kevin Stocks as Committee Members; Bill Leslie proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Helen Williamson, 17 for, none against

8. AOB & Comments

There were no issues raised under AOB. Tim Schroder (President), (addressing the AGM from the room at Gordonstoun where the first meeting was held 20 years ago), thanked the Committee for their excellent management of the club, he thought 2020 would be a seminal year in its history with the rapid adoption of virtual meetings in response to the Pandemic and he thanked the members for keenly supporting the group. Bill Leslie (President) commended the Committee for their excellent work especially recently with the virtual meetings owing to the Pandemic and particularly thanked Mick O'Donnell for his excellent work in organising the Membership administration.

9. The AGM Closed at 20.07

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