

SIGMA AGM– Friday 3rd June 2022

ITEM	SUBJECT	LEAD
1	<p>Apologies Stuart Brooks, Donna and Dave Williamson, Ken and Ann Holmes sent their apologies.</p> <p>Other Pete welcomed the Membership and Committee to the Meeting and explained the format of the AGM. For the resolutions to be passed it must be approved by a quorum, which is 20% of membership, this is 12 people with a membership of 57, 26 people had voted, so the meeting has a quorum.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last AGM were approved as no comments had been received.</p>	Pete
2	<p>Matters Arising. No matters arising</p>	All
3	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Well, 2021 has been yet another very successful year for SIGMA, although the virtual meetings are not our preferred method of meeting they have given several advantages; in future we do plan to continue with a mix of in person and online meetings but the methods still need to be decided upon and is principally dependant on the Hall's internet connection. Pete noted that the overwhelming consensus from the membership survey was to continue with the virtual meeting, have local speakers at the Hall, with observing and social meetings happening at this venue weather permitting. Pete noted that the 20" Dobsonian telescope which had been collected in kit form from Argye could be used as a Club project to increase the range of meetings offered. Pete thanked the 2/3 of membership who had completed the survey as it gave us a great deal of help in planning the future. Pete noted that we had collected most of the substantial donation of equipment given by Helen Pollack but a home for the 2.7 metre dome still had to be found. Pete noted that we had also received a donation of equipment from former member Stewart Argo's estate. Pete suggested that the range of diverse speakers in the last year had been excellent largely thanks to Chris's expertise in organising matters, which sees presentations already planned for 2023.</p>	Pete

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THANKS

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

Pete start with the committee and said the team worked well together and everything worked seamlessly and it was a great pleasure to work with the current group:

CHRIS - Pete noted the very important job that he has done over the past year, given the shifting sands of the pandemic and the extra responsibility of organising Zoom practice sessions.

RICHARD - For the work done to generate a solution in light of Pete's evolving family issues at the beginning of the year, 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 how 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.

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.

Additionally I would like to thank Mick for the Moray Sky at Night section of the meetings and contributing the information to the Newsletter.

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.

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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 be probably be missed if you weren't here. Additionally the outstanding work you do with the Christmas quiz every year especially this year with it's virtual format.

HELEN - There are many jobs involved in running a Club like ours and Helen provides much of the mortar between the bricks to keep the club functioning and her tasks include running the website and Flickr pages, arranging the brochure printing and many other key tasks.

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. Pete commented that their role is a real asset to the club and their wisdom of running the club is priceless.

Pete went to thank the visiting speaker for their superb talks and adapting quickly to the Zoom format.

MEMBERS - Finally, I want to thank you the members, for you continuing support, (and you 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. Pete suggested the online format and Youtube presentations have allowed everybody to see the meetings.

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

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Mick

4. Membership Secretary Report

Once again, we are losing members and gaining members as the year progresses at the time of the AGM, we are now at 57 members.

Membership breakdown for the year is as follows:

More members have renewed this than last year the better in terms of income, cost spread, social interaction and pool for volunteers. Please get recruiting, or dragging along that interested friend.

Membership 2022	
CHILD	0
CONCESSIONARY	27
ORDINARY	23
LIFE	6
FREE	1
STUDENT	0
Total Membership 2022	57

Membership Totals	
Members in 2021	67
Notified as not renewing in 2022	2
Life Members	6
Free Membership (Auditor)	1
Free Membership (For 2022)	3
New Members in 2022	3
Members renewed for 2022	44
Total Membership 2022	57

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5 (a) Budgets and Accounts.

Rich in Stuart's absence reviewed and explained the Income and Expenditure for the Y/E Dec 2021 listed below:

Stuart

Check & Balances 2021

Statement of Accounts for SIGMA 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Income			Expenditure		
2020		2021	2020		2021
£ 1,090.00	Membership Fees	£ 823.50	£ 154.90	Meetings Costs	
£ 84.70	Meetings and Excursions		£ -	Sosakars' Expenses	£ 3.89
	Tee Contributions	£ -	£ 88.00	Sosakars Gifts	£ -
			£ 20.77	Room Hire	£ -
£ 8.00	Donations and Sponsorship	£ -		Refreshments	£ -
	Donations		£ -	Bolton	
£ -	Merchandising		£ -	Buying Materials	£ -
£ -	Books/Bear Mats/Tea Shirts/Mugs	£ -	£ -	Silo Rent	£ -
£ -	Binoculars	£ -	£ -	Races	£ -
			£ -	Buildings Insurance	£ -
£ -	Draws			Fundraising	
£ -	Christina Dew	£ -		Merchandising	
£ -	George Fraser Memorial Lecture	£ -		Binoculars	£ -
			£ -	Mugs	£ -
	Other income	£ 25.00	£ -	Management Costs	
	Outreach		£ 28.00	Public Liability Insurance/Employer's	£ 74.48
£ 2.15	Bank Interest	£ 2.19	£ 30.00	FAS Subscription	£ 30.00
£ 800.20	Zoom Support	£ -		Stationery	£ -
£ 2,392.51	Total Income	£ 833.69	£ -	Postage	£ 45.67
			£ 98.02	Presentations/Copying/Printing	£ -
			£ -	Website	£ -
			£ 410.50	Films	£ 99.98
			£ 41.51	AGM Raffle	£ -
			£ -	Capital Expenditure	£ -
			£ 280.07	Events	£ -
			£ 12.00	Laser Plot/Son Bag/Coastal Kit	£ -
			£ -	Ridges/Engraving	£ -
			£ 7.07	Turbines	£ -
			£ 377.89	Other inc Zoom	£ 598.10
			£ 827.80	Total Expenditure	£ 797.98
			£ 2,784.03		
				INSPECTED AND FOUND TO BE CORRECT	

BALANCES AND RECONCILIATION		
2020		2021
£ 4,345.04	Balance b/f	£ 3,064.82
£ 2,392.91	Income For Year	£ 833.69
£ 2,254.03	Expenditure	£ 797.98
£ 5,024.22	BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	£ 5,120.53
	Being	
£ 4,515.92	RBS Bank Balance at 31st Dec	£ 4,590.75
£ 548.90	Cash in Hand	£ 590.78
£ 8,064.82	Total	£ 5,120.53
£ 8,064.82	Balance from Income vs Expenditure	£ 5,120.53
£ 8,064.82	Balance from Bank + Cash	£ 5,120.53
£ 0.00	Difference	£ 0.00

SIGNED: Archie Burgess DATE: 13.4.22
 PRINT NAME: Archie Burgess

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Rich pointed out that there was a net excess of income over expenditure of (£853.69 less £797.97) £55.62 this was reflected in the cash and bank balance of £5120.53. This healthy balance had prompted the Committee to recommend no increase in membership fees for 2023.

Rich noted that the largest expenditure item was the Zoom fee of £580.00 but this had replaced Hall Fees, speaker B&B and travel costs.

Rich pointed out that the Club funds were being maintained in line with Stan Barber's suggestion when he was chair of having two years of expenditure in reserve which gave the Committee an opportunity to change direction should club membership collapse.

Pete noted that the I & E had been audited and verified by Anne Burgess. Additionally Pete suggested that membership may have to increase in future years owing to the large increase in costs especially fuel and this may impact speaker charges in the future.

5 (b) **Membership Fees**

It was recommended to keep membership rates for 2023 at 2022 rates.

Ordinary - £24

Concessionary - £18

Student - £12

Child – Free

6 **Club Programme 2022 Programme Update and 2023 Events**

(a) Chris outlined the program of talks for the remainder of 2022 and for 2023

Chris

8. Event Coordinators Report (2022)



Jan	7	Juan Santisteban (Dr)	University of St Andrews
Feb	4	Oliver Herbort	University of St Andrews
Mar	4	Rose Waugh (PhD Student of the Year 2020)	University of St Andrews
Apr	1	Christopher Jennings	
May	6	Jim Dunlop (Prof)	Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Jun	3	Catherine Heymans (Prof)	University of Edinburgh
Jul	1	Public Event / SOAKE?	SIGMA
Aug	5	Kristin Arnardottir (Dr)	University of St Andrews
Sep	2	Michael Petersen (Dr)	Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Oct	7	Tom Wilson (Dr)	University of St Andrews
Nov	4	Robert Hughes	
Dec	2	Christmas Quiz	SIGMA

Chris addressed the meeting from a sunny Lincolnshire and thanked Donna for arranging the 2022 speakers. He noted that Jim Dunlop had agreed to stand in for Catherine Heyman whose talk had been postponed owing to the

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effects of long Covid and she was not currently taking bookings for speaking events, the rest of the 2022 program stood, with the only change being in November when Dr Neill Reid replaces Robert Hughes. Neill's talk would be on scheduling observer time on the JWST project, this would be via Zoom from the USA. Chris confirmed that details of Neill's talk would be placed on the website when they became available.

Chris noted that Alexander Amen had been approached for a talk in 2023 but no reply had yet been received, he had also spoken to several other people receiving replies from: John Davies, Martin Hendry, Mike Foss, Nigel Bannister (colleague of George Fraser) and agreeing to talk. John Peacock, Tim Bruett and Rita Tocero had yet to reply. Chris thought the 2023 program would be sorted by the end of July.

7. Resolutions

A21.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2020: Mick O'Donnell proposed this resolution and it was seconded by John Worthington, 26 for, none against

A21.2 To Accept the Accounts for 2020: Kevin Stocks proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Sam Robinson, 26 for, none against

A21.3 To Maintain Membership Rates for 2023 at 2022 Rates: Tim Schroders proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Jean Stocks, 25 for, 1 against

A21.4 To appoint Peter Sherman as Chairman: Helen Williamson proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Chris Stradling 26 for.

A21.5 To appoint Richard Oakley as Secretary: Tim Schroder proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Helen Williamson 25 for, 1 abstain.

A21.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer: Bill Leslie proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Rich Oakley 25 for, 1 abstain.

A21.7 To appoint Helen Williamson, Michael O'Donnell, Chris Stradling and Kevin Stocks as Committee Members; Jean Stocks proposed this resolution and it was seconded by Rich Oakley 26 for, none against

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8 AOB & Comments

There were no issues raised under AOB. Jean Stocks suggested that it would be a good idea to carry out some Lunar observing as this astronomical feature frequently prevents deep space observing, Pete thought this was an excellent idea.

Tim Schroder (President), addressing the meeting on the 22nd anniversary of the Club's first gathering commented on the recent addition to the website of the In Memoriam section and pointed out that this was an excellent means of noting the contribution of significant members who had passed. Tim also noted the significant donations of equipment by Helen Pollack and Stewart's family that added a new aspect to the group. Tim thanked the Committee for their excellent management of the club, he thought 2021/22 had been quite a year with a full year of virtual delivery, he thanked the Committee for the vast amount of work involved in holding and organising the online meetings and commended them on the friendly and professional style adopted. Additionally Tim thanked the Committee for working together and making the meetings enjoyable and business like, finally he thanked the members for keenly supporting the group.

9. The AGM finished at 20.30