

## Minutes of Sigma Annual General Meeting Held at Birne Village Hall, 1 June 2007

Present:

Karen Cox (Chairman)  
Ian Brantingham (Secretary)  
Andrew Reddy (Treasurer)  
Bill Leslie (Events Co-ordinator)  
Peter Sherman (Committee Member)

James Bow	Kay Stuart	Stuart Huyton	Tim Schroder
Paul Browne	Peter Fitch	Christopher Jennings	Jean Stocks
Pam Gordon	Eric Hughes	John Taylor	Kevin Stocks
George Young	Wendy Hughes	Iain Macfarlane	Cecilia Hawco
Helen Williamson	Stewart Argo	Ron O'Neill	Anne Paton

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman, Karen Cox welcomed the members present to the seventh Sigma AGM.

### 2. Apologies

Anne Burgess, Rob Cox, Graham Douglas, Gordon Grant, Charlotte Jennings, Helen Jona, Daisy Macdonald, Christine & Duncan Macfarlane, Chris Stradling, Alan Tough, Donald Urquhart, Ian Watson & Roger Williams.

### 3. Minutes of Last AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006 had been distributed to members prior to the 2007 AGM. All members present unanimously agreed that these documents were a true representation of this event.

### 4. Matters arising

- a. The investing of club funds was investigated by the committee & found to take too much time and provide too little reward.
- b. A club inventory of all equipment will be available for members to see, but not for the general public.
- c. A list of books that are recommended reading for astronomy is now on the Sigma web site.

### 5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented her report on the Society's activities during the year. She outlined the year's accomplishments, paid tribute to the guest speakers, and thanked the Committee Members for their help and hard work, and all those people who supported Sigma. Finally she thanked all the members for their continuing support and help throughout the year.

### 6. Membership Secretary's Report

Karen Cox reported on behalf of the membership secretary. A membership of 64 for the year, with 24 brand new members joining during the year, and very good meeting attendances.

### 7a. Treasurer's Report 1

Peter Fitch presented the Annual Accounts for the accounting period 1.11.2005 - 31.12.2006. Club income was £1842 and expenditure was £1974 for the year, and the balance at 31 December 2006 was £537. With no change in membership for 2008, it will be held at £15 for Ordinary Membership, £20 for Family Membership, and £7.50 for Student Membership. A sliding scale system of fees will be introduced

	Ordinary	Student	Family
Jan to Apr	£15	£7.50	£20
May to Aug	£10	£5.00	£14
Sep to Dec	£5	£2.50	£7

Proposed by Ian Brantingham & seconded by Eric Hughes that the accounts be passed. All members unanimously agreed.

#### **7b. Treasurer's Report 2**

Andrew Reddy presented a ½ year report for the time of his office. Club income was £1083.30 and expenditure was £660.50 for the year, and the balance at 01 June 2007 was £959.80.

#### **8. Proposed Constitution Change 3.7.**

It was proposed to change section 3.7 from “two thirds” to “over 50%”. Proposed by Bill Leslie & seconded by George Young. All members present unanimously agreed.

#### **9. Proposed Constitution Change 4.2.3.**

It was proposed that the special membership category 4.2.3 be replaced with a new membership category to read “Family membership is for any children as defined in section 4.10 and their parent(s)/ guardian(s)”. Proposed by Eric Hughes & seconded by Andrew Reddy. All members present unanimously agreed.

#### **10. Proposed Constitution Change 4.10**

It was proposed to change section 4.10 to read “18” as opposed to “16” to comply with the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003. Proposed by Eric Hughes & seconded by Wendy Hughes. 23 for & 2 against

#### **11. Green Laser Pointers.**

Under article 3.10 of the constitution, it was decided by the committee to ban all green laser pointers except those owned by the club. The following rule is implemented immediately. “Only laser pointers provided by Sigma may be used at Sigma Observing Sessions. No other green lasers will be tolerated”

#### **12. Election of Office Bearers**

##### **a) Chairman**

Proposed by Bill Leslie and seconded by Jean Stocks, that Karen Cox be elected as Chairman. All members present unanimously agreed.

##### **b) Secretary**

Proposed by George Young, and seconded by Peter Sherman, that Ian Brantingham be elected as Secretary. All members present unanimously agreed.

##### **c) Treasurer**

Proposed by Paul Browne, and seconded by Christopher Jennings, that Andrew Reddy be elected as Treasurer. All members present unanimously agreed.

##### **d) Committee Member**

Proposed by Eric Hughes, and seconded by Tim Schroder, that Bill Leslie, Peter Sherman & Alan Tough be elected as Committee members. All members present unanimously agreed.

##### **e) Committee Member**

Proposed by Bill Leslie, and seconded by Karen Cox, that Chris Stradling be elected as a Committee member. All members present unanimously agreed.

This brings the total of committee members to 7.

#### **11. Programme for 2006**

Bill Leslie outlined the programme arranged for the last half of 2007 & the plans for 2008, which are well under way.

## **12. Any Other Club Business**

### **12.1 Community Fund**

Bill Leslie asked if any of the money made available by the wind turbine operators to the community fund would be available to Sigma, as the club operates in the area. All agreed this was a good idea, and the committee will look into it.

### **12.2 Refreshments**

Karen Cox asked for new volunteers to help with the refreshments at club meetings.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm.

Ian Brantingham  
Secretary