

**SIGMA AGM – FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014**

Item	Subject	
1	Present	<p>Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members. 56/5 = 11.2</p> <p>Present were: Stan Barber, Sam Hampton-Smith, Stewart Argo, Stuart Brooks, Pete Sherman, Helen Williamson, Bill Leslie, Andrew Reddy, Malcolm Bradley, Tim Schroder, Susan Bedford, Pamela Dale, Cecilia Hawco, George Miller, Richard Mitchell, Frances Reddy, Michael Reid, Kevin Stocks, John &amp; Penny Straiton, Richie Summers, John Valentine, Derek Watson, Donna Williamson, Dave Williamson, Kay Stuart.</p> <p>Therefore the meeting was quorate with 26 members present, and 4 proxy voting forms. The meeting opened at 19:40.</p>
2	Apologies.	<p>Apologies were received from: Bill Ford, Craig Coull, George Morris, James Bow – all of whom provided proxy voting forms via the secretary.</p> <p>Apologies also received from Jean Stocks, Joyce Park and Stephen Nasrat</p>
3	Minutes of Previous AGM 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	<p>Background; Minutes were posted to the website immediately following last year's AGM and have therefore been available to view for a year.</p> <p>Discussion: There was no discussion – everyone seemed happy with the minutes as presented, thus they were deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting.</p>
4	Matters Arising	<p>There were no matters arising from the previous AGM</p>

5	Chairman's Report	<p>Report: This has been another busy year and my fourth year as Chairman. They say time flies when you're enjoying yourself..... Our financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December but my report covers from last AGM in June 2013 to this AGM and I'll explain further as to what we've been up to.</p> <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>Events:</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> July – SOAKE at Lhanbryde 10<sup>th</sup> January SG Live 2014 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March National Astronomy Week     1<sup>st</sup> March – St Giles Centre     1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> March – Public Observing – Cancelled due to the weather 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Moray Science Festival &amp; Public Observing Session at the Bothy 29<sup>th</sup> March – Messier Marathon at the Bothy Outreach: 4th Elgin Brownies, SG LIVE 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> Lossiemouth Cubs, 1<sup>st</sup> Forres Brownies, National Astronomy Week, 4<sup>th</sup> Elgin Boy's Brigade, Facebook.</p> <p>Members' Activities</p> <p>Pete's Supernova &amp; Bill's Sun The Aurora of 27<sup>h</sup> Feb Alan Tough's Perseid Alan Tough's NLC</p> <p><u>Facebook</u></p> <p>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. Our 'heads-up' for the Aurora of 27<sup>th</sup> February meant many went outside, with viewer numbers of nearly 7500 for one of the posts.</p>
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### Membership & Financial

Both will be covered in detail later but membership is healthy though we could always do with more, members and money! The workload doesn't increase much until membership reaches the hundreds. Financially, as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 the Club was healthy and sustainable.

### Record of Thanks

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 well attended throughout the year, and a number of speakers commented that the Club was active and vibrant.

The Committee comprising up to this AGM of Pete Sherman, Stewart Argo, Stuart Brooks, Sam Hampton-Smith, and Chris Stradling has continued to do sterling work. 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 organising 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 Celia Hawco, Kay Stuart, Pete Hindley, Anne & Richard Mitchell, Sam Fletcher-Harrison, Hazel Sherman, Richard Summers, George Miller, Helen Williamson, Nick Lane, Dave & John Williamson. It really is a case of people helping when they can such as Heather Sherman coming down to help us with Windows 8 on our laptop, last meeting!

Thanks to Donna, Dave and John Williamson who have taken over the refreshments side of things this year. Thanks too to those who continue

		to provide help, advice and images, Bill, Tim, Pete 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 Presidents', Committee's and members' support.
6	Membership Secretary's Report	Report: By 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.
7	Treasurer's Report and Membership Fees for 2015	Report: As per attached 'Inspected and Checked Accounts 2013 Summary Sheet'.  Discussion: Bill Leslie asked why there was no site rental for the Bothy during 2013. This was due to an invoice being late being presented, so it was actually settled in 2014. A small amount of discussion was held over the amount of capital held by the club. Tim recounted the experience of HAS where they've offered a reduction in the cost of membership to reduce cash holdings. The chairman recommended retaining the current level of membership fees.
8	Resolution A14.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2013.	Proposer: George Miller  Seconder: Pete Sherman  For: 26      Against: 0      Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 4      Against: 0      Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 30      Against: 0      Abstain: 0
8	Resolution A14.2 To accept the Accounts for 2013.	Proposer: John Staighon  Seconder: Richard Mitchell  For: 26      Against: 0      Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 4      Against: 0      Abstain: 0

		Totals: For: 30          Against: 0          Abstain: 0
8	A14.3 - To Maintain Membership Rates for 2015 at 2014 Rates	<p>Proposer: Kevin Stocks</p> <p>Seconder: Donna Williamson</p> <p>For: 26          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 30          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A14.4 To appoint Stanford Barber as Chairman	<p>Proposer: Bill Leslie</p> <p>Seconder: Tim Schroder</p> <p>For: 25          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 29          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A14.5 To appoint Sam Hampton-Smith as Secretary	<p>Proposer: Helen Williamson</p> <p>Seconder: Stuart Brooks</p> <p>For: 25          Against: 1          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 29          Against: 1          Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A14.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer	<p>Proposer: Tim Schroder</p> <p>Seconder: Bill Leslie</p> <p>For: 26          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 4          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p> <p>Totals: For: 30          Against: 0          Abstain: 0</p>
8	Resolution A14.7 To appoint Stewart Argo and Chris Stradling as Committee Members.	<p>Proposer: Sam Hampton-Smith</p> <p>Seconder: Pamela Dale</p>

		For: 26      Against: 0      Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 4      Against: 0      Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 30   Against: 0      Abstain: 0
9	AOB	<p>Discussion over whether there was scope to attract speakers from further afield if they're worthwhile. Stan reflected on our willingness to make compromises where appropriate, but that we must work within our means. There are occasionally grants available to help support speaker costs, but if we fully have to bear the cost we have to create a balance – we will do it under exceptional circumstances!</p> <p>There was further discussion over stock holdings of merchandise. Stan explained that we've run down the stock of badges, beanie hats etc so that we don't really have much sitting in stock.</p> <p>There was a question over the acoustics in the hall, and whether it might be possible to mic up the speaker, and make use of the hall PA system. Stan is already in discussion with the hall committee.</p> <p>Tim Schroder proposed a vote of thanks to the committee, which was adopted by the meeting by way of applause.</p>
	Close	The meeting closed at 20:35.