

SIGMA AGM – FRIDAY 2rd JUNE 2017

Item	Subject	
1	Welcome.	<p>The health and safety requirements were covered and no alarms were scheduled for testing. Exit was to the right of the cinema or via the planetarium. Ticklist up to date but there appears to be some double entries.</p> <p>Some solar observing was done prior to the AGM but conditions were variable. There was no prize draw this year, not need to encourage members to come to the AGM. Food is supplied as part of the Social.</p> <p>Pete will do a planetarium session for people interested and Bill will show people the new wind tunnel he’s designed and had built (20:40).</p> <p>Quorum: 20% of fully paid-up members. 79 voting = 15.8 members There were 35 SIGMA members present and one potential new member hence the quorum was easily achieved</p>
2	Apologies.	James Bow (+ Proxy Vote), Richie Summers, Joyce Park, Chris Stradling (+ Proxy Vote), Mike O’Donnell, Alan Tough, George Morris and Ian Sutherland.
3	Minutes of Previous AGM 3 rd June 2016	<p>Background; The 2016 AGM minutes have been posted on the SIGMA website and issued with the June Newsletter. The vote is simply to record that the minutes were issued not on the quality or accuracy of the minutes.</p> <p>Discussion: Nothing from the previous AGM to discuss.</p>
4	Matters Arising	Nil
5	Chairman’s Report	Report: This has been another busy year and my 7 th 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 2016 to this AGM and I'll briefly explain further as to what we've been up to.

Activities– a bit reduced from last year

Events:

Bill and I went to the Orkney International Science Festival in September with Morayvia's planetarium. October Public Event scrapped as Stan and Bill were not too well after the Orkney trip.

Bill, Pete, Neil and I have also carried out a number of planetarium shows at weekends at Morayvia.

We have also held 3 planetarium/ observing events for cubs, brownies and a private school though we only managed one short observing session due to the weather.

We held our usual Stargazing Night at Lhanbryde on 6th January.

Bothy – Very few opportunities, only opened twice, and a lack of volunteers to open. Must do better..... Stan still keen to move the observing to Morayvia as he has £1000 to update the facilities (chairs, tables, sound system etc) for public events and observing. Cars would be left at the gate to reduce glare for observers. Bill notes that the seeing was 'pretty good' and that there was a good south horizon.

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 main contributors.

Membership & Financial

Both will be covered in detail later but membership numbers have

remained stable even though we have lost a few members last year. As at 31st December 2016 the Club was very healthy and sustainable financially.

Record of Thanks – from Stan

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 Stuart Brooks, Chris Stradling, Mike Thornton, Neil Kemp and Donna Williamson. Again, I 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. Thanks to Donna, Dave and John Williamson who have taken over the refreshments side of things. Thanks too to those who continue to provide images for our social media and Flickr with Pete and Alan in particular. I must also make a special mention of Helen Williamson's work to tame the website and also to establish our Flickr gallery. The website update has been a huge amount of work, and there is still more to do. Thanks to Helen there is much better organization and presentation of information. Helen's task is to eradicate all evidence of lower case Sigma and replace it with capitals to denote that its stands for Special Interest Group of Moray Astronomers not the Greek

		<p>letter or the mathematical term.</p> <p>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.</p>												
6	Membership Secretary's Report	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>ORDINARY</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIFE</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CONCESSIONARY</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STUDENT</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHILD</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>67</td> </tr> </table> <p>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. We seem to be losing people and gaining new people. The numbers appear to be down from 80 in 2016 to 67 new – however, Stuart pointed out that some members had paid for 2017 in December last year so may not be included in the above total.</p>	ORDINARY	32	LIFE	3	CONCESSIONARY	26	STUDENT	0	CHILD	6	Total	67
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7	Treasurer's Report for 2016 and Membership Fees for 2018	<p>Report: As per attached 'Inspected and Checked Accounts 2016 Summary Sheet'.</p> <p>Discussion: The club is still very viable and shows a health balance. Tea sales are up. Binocular sales are down but we now have a new stock of binoculars as they are usually a good sale item. There was no GFML last year so no costs or income. The Bank interest rate is very low/negligible.</p> <p>Stan explained about the original planetarium fund that members had donated towards. He pointed out that the Morayvia planetarium received a gift of £10,000 and a loan of £15,000 from the Baxter Foundation. The loan has now been paid of and the money from the original planetarium fund was transferred to Morayvia. The income from the planetarium sessions did not pay</p>												

		for all of the loan.
8	Resolution A17.1 To accept the Minutes of the AGM 2016.	<p>Proposer: Tim Schroder</p> <p>Secunder: Stuart Brooks</p> <p>For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Totals: For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p>
8	Resolution A17.2 To accept the Accounts for 2016.	<p>Proposer: Kevin Stocks</p> <p>Secunder: Rick Mitchell</p> <p>For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Totals: For: 398 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p>
8	A17.3 - To Maintain Membership Rates for 2018 at 2016 Rates	<p>Proposer: John Worthington</p> <p>Secunder: Pete Sherman</p> <p>For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain:1</p> <p>Totals: For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain:1</p>
8	Resolution A17.4 To appoint Stanford Barber as Chairman	<p>Proposer: Donna Williamson</p> <p>Secunder: Dave Williamson</p> <p>For: 34 Against: 0 Abstain: 1</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Totals: For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain:1</p>
8	Resolution A17.5 To appoint Neil Kemp as Secretary	<p>Proposer: Helen Williamson</p> <p>Secunder: Stuart Brooks</p>

		For: 34 Against: 0 Abstain:1 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0 Totals: For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain:1
8	Resolution A17.6 To appoint Stuart Brooks as Treasurer	Proposer: Neil Kemp Seconder: Duncan Gray For: 34 Against: 0 Abstain:1 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Totals: For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
8	Resolution A17.7 To appoint Peter Sherman, Donna Williamson, Michael O'Donnell and Michael Thornton as Committee Members.	Proposer: Bill Leslie Seconder: Kevin Stocks For: 31 Against: 0 Abstain: 4 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0 Totals: For: 34 Against: 0 Abstain:4
	A17.8 To offer Honorary Life Membership to Dr Howie Firth MBE Howie Firth has dedicated a significant number of years to science, particularly the development of science festivals and is a great supporter of SIGMA	Proposer: Bill Leslie Seconder: Tim Schroder For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain:0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 2 Against: 0 Abstain:1 Totals: For: 37 Against: 0 Abstain:1
	A17.9 To offer Honorary Life Membership to Chris Stradling Chris Stradling has given many years sterling service to SIGMA and though moving away deserves this recognition because of his outstanding services to SIGMA	Proposer: Jean Stocks Seconder: Rick Mitchell For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Postal/ Proxy Votes: For: 1 Against: 0 Abstain: 2

		Totals: For: 36	Against: 0	Abstain:2
	<p>A17.10 To add a new paragraph 11 to the Constitution on Green Laser Pointer policy.</p> <p>Green laser pointers have become an increasing hazard to personnel, particularly air crew in flight, and wildlife. There use at SIGMA events needs to be controlled and this requires a policy statement.</p> <p><u>11. GREEN LASER POINTERS (AGM2017)</u></p> <p>At all SIGMA events to minimise the risks posed by green laser pointers to people and wildlife on the ground and in the air the following rules apply:</p> <p>11.1. Only members approved by the Committee may use green laser pointers at SIGMA events.</p> <p>11.2. Laser power output is to be no more than 1mw, currently detailed under UK Government guidelines as Class 1 or 2 devices.</p> <p>11.3. Green laser pointers are not to be used inside for presentations.</p>	<p>Proposer: Malcolm Bradley</p> <p>Seconder: Pete Sherman</p> <p>For: 35 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Postal/ Proxy Votes:</p> <p>For: 3 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p> <p>Totals: For: 38 Against: 0 Abstain:0</p>		
9	AOB	<p>Nothing raised in advance.</p> <p>Tim thanked Bill, Stan as the Chairman and the committee.</p> <p>Tim and Jean Stocks noted (after the meeting closed) that the cinema would benefit from yellow hazard tape on the stairs to alert visitors.</p>		
	Close	Time: 20:10		