



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Yearly Summary

Welcome to the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Weymouth Astronomy Club. This has been another successful year with the club. This year has brought us a variety of astronomical activities to encourage the members from a broad spectrum of interests and experience. The lecture evenings provided the club with a variety of topics from the club's own members covering everything from the entertaining 'Astronomical Fakes' by Geoff Kirby. Geoff once again managed to entertain and teach the members to really 'look' at astronomical references in our daily lives and question whether they are valid representations. Geoff twice appeared during the year with the second talk entitled 'The Goldilocks Universe - Why Is It Just Right For Us'. This topic is always an area of debate and divide with this event being no different. Geoff did a super job as always expending the way we think about subjects. A practical subject was covered by Ron Nash on 'Constructing an Orrery'. His experience certainly inspired a few members to look into the materials and time required to construct such a wonderful astronomical keepsake. The author presented a historical account of the discovery of the Van Allen Radiation belts which allowed footage of the actual time period to be presented for the first time to the club. A sensible use of modern internet technology and practical use of YouTube. We were lucky to welcome the always superb speaker Dr Robin Catchpole with a very informative talk on 'What is new in the Solar System'. The latest images shown by Robin of Enceladus were truly stunning! Several fascinating talks were given by members of neighbouring astronomical societies. Wessex Astronomical Society Chairperson Bob Mizon enlightened us with astronomical sights in the winter skies where we were even lucky enough to have the clouds part late winter to enjoy a live sky tour during the evening. The dark skies of Upwey providing a wonderful backdrop despite the freezing temperatures!

One particular evening stands out for the second year running as a real representation of the breadth of knowledge available in the club. The recent Members 10 Minute Talks was once again a menagerie of topics from various astronomical topics ranging from Big Stars to Murphy's variable nebula. This event looks set to remain on the calendar as an annual night with such great contributions and feedback!

Club Events

This year the WAC scheduled two events specifically organised. The Christmas Meal was a roaring success with a good turnout and lively discussions amongst members and partners. We hope to continue this event for the coming year. The second travel trip to the Herschel Museum in Bath

unfortunate had to be cancelled due to the poor uptake by members. The organisation of both of these events by Events Coordinator Chris Bowden were top notch and I want to personally thank him for his hard work and dedication to providing these opportunities to the club members.

Viewing Evenings

Despite the unpredictable British weather, a few open viewing evenings at Fleet Farm were well attended. There was a good turn-out for the viewing nights which provided a great opportunity to have a look through a variety of scopes owned by members and compare the views between apertures. Viewing Night Coordinator John Wiltshire did a great job of keeping members up to date with scheduling for the viewing nights and introduced the Weymouth Astronomy Twitter account for even more timely notifications with the ever changing weather conditions. Very well done John and thank you for all your hard work.

Sky Watcher Newsletter

The Sky Watcher newsletter is ever evolving as a supplement to the WAC. It continued to showcase fascinating articles have been provided by JPL as part of their NASA Space Place with Astronomy Club Resources for member clubs around the world. Other features include upcoming local astronomical talks and events have been covered to keep members updated of interesting programmes within other groups. Many fine examples of member's astro-images have also been featured on the Sky Watcher newsletter and supporting member's article submissions as well as being featured in the club website Gallery.

FAS Membership

The WAC remains a member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies which allows the club linkage with many amateur astronomical societies across the country. They provide the club with many valuable benefits including liability insurance cover and access to events and speakers across the country. The WAC plans to continue their membership with the FAS through this year.

I would like to thank the committee members Nigel and Felicity for the very hard work in the behind the scenes of bringing the WAC together and keeping it going over the first year. Nigel's tireless efforts to lead the WAC meetings in my absence and keep us all up to date with the club website and regularly emailed news items of interest. Felicity has been great at keeping the accounts in order and ensuring we have accountability of the budget during this third year. At the close of this fourth successful year I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members and guests for helping the WAC to continue to provide a variety of activities and topics to keep us all enthusiastic about our hobby. It is the right time to pass the leadership of the WAC to a fresh team to carry the group onwards and upwards. I look forward to welcoming the new committee and helping them in any way possible.

Starry skies,
Sheri Karl (Barrington)



SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010

1) Club Membership and Monthly Meetings

Following on from another successful year where we have had a variety of guest speakers who gave fascinating talks ranging from astronomical Fakes to Van Allen Belts.

The club currently has a healthy membership of 43 (which is up from the previous years' membership of 36) and 29 visitors. The club's membership fee has remained at £10 and I recommend this should remain for the forth coming year. I would recommend that the club continues its policy of pro-rata membership for new members who subscribe during the year.

The general format for each meeting has stayed the same i.e. Main feature/guest speaker followed by refreshments and concluding with Club news etc. This format can be changed to suit member's requirements and the Committee are open to suggestions from members.

2) Committee Members/Club Structure

At the last AGM 2 new members joined the committee to take up the roles Events Co-ordinator (Chris Bowden) and Viewing Night Co-ordinator (John Wiltshire). I would like to thank John and Chris for taking on the challenge with great enthusiasm and commitment.

Sheri, Felicity and myself occupied the roles of Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary for the 4th year running. The Club's constitution states that all committee members must stand down at the AGM but can stand for election again for a committee position.

As I am sure you are aware, both Sheri and myself will not be standing for any position this forth coming year. Therefore the club will have a new Chairperson and Secretary for the 2010/11.

I would like to thank for all members who have supported me for the last 4 years and made the role Club Secretary very fulfilling. I have thoroughly the role but unfortunately I do not feel I can give as much time to the role as required so therefore will not be standing for any further committee roles for the forth coming year. I also believe that 'new blood' on the committee will benefit the Club and the new Chair and Secretary will have my upmost support.

3) Website

The club website www.weymouthastronomy.co.uk is regularly updated to advertise meetings, advertise equipment for sale etc and the gallery has some stunning images taken and produced by club members. The website has proved to be a great advert for the club, attracting new members and stimulating interest.

As I will not be standing for any committee role for 2010/11 I would still like to carry on administering/updating the website (and encouraging members to contribute any content they feel would be beneficial to the club including posting their own astro images), pending approval from the new Chair and Secretary.

Nigel Dalley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Income and Expenditure Accounts for 30th April 2010

At 30th April 2010, Weymouth Astronomy Club had made Excessive Income over Expenditure of £181 (2009 - £75).

The majority of income was made up of Memberships £382 (2009 - £293) and Visitors £58 (2009 - £32).

The majority of expenses are made up of subscriptions and public liability insurance. These figures are expected to drop in 2011 as these figures also included some costs that related to 2009.

Financial Update at 30th April 2010

At the end of the year, Weymouth Astronomy Club's bank account had a healthy balance of £398-69 (2009 - £434-69). This was at the last statement date 18th March 2010, no further transactions were expected in April 2010. This balance will carry over in to the next year and will be used for additional funding of the club's expenses. Weymouth Astronomy Club also held £209-54 of cash at 30th April 2010 (2009 - £42-76). This will continue to work as a float at meetings.

Felicity Luke

WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY CLUB

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2009</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| Memberships | 382 | 293 |
| Visitors | 58 | 32 |
| Raffle | - | - |
| Donations | 7 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL INCOME | 447 | 325 |

EXPENDITURE

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Meeting Hall | 30 | 120 |
| Speakers | 20 | 33 |
| Refreshments | 26 | 21 |
| Subscriptions | 80 | - |
| Quiz prizes | - | 56 |
| Postage and stationery | 42 | 10 |
| Insurance | 68 | - |
| Miscellaneous | - | 10 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 266 | 250 |
| EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| FOR THE YEAR | 181 | 7 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | 5 |