

Agenda of Committee Meeting		FAS
Date:	23 Jan 2024	Chair: Bobby Manoo
Time:	19:00 GMT	Secretary: Asra Jilani
Venue:	Greenwich West CC	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ✓	
Attendees:	Bobby Manoo	✓
	Clive Inglis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Asra Jilani	✓
	Simon Hurst	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Mike Meynell	✓
	Barry Cassells	✓
	Paul May	✓
	Poly Philippou	✓
	Adrian Challinor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Mark Jeffery	✓
	Gurinder Lall	✓
	Roger Geeson (co-op)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Richard Summerfield (co-op)	✓
	Tom Riley (co-op)	✓

Coordinators:

Lectures and Talks Coordinator:	Paul May
Observing Coordinator:	Mike Meynell
Workshops and Events Coordinator:	Poly Philippou
IT Coordinator:	Simon Hurst
Media and Comms Coordinator:	Adrian Challinor

FAS Administration

Apologies from Clive, Simon, Adrian who were unable to attend.

Committee Structure

- **Simon** has spoken to committee members checking that everybody is happy with their workload. Positive feedback.

FAS Membership

- Adrian has been highlighting issues with the membership list and is considering using a database. The NMM provide an Excel spreadsheet with changes but this appears to be incomplete, inconsistent and doesn't capture all the required categories. Mike mentioned that he had in the past provided the NMM with an excel spreadsheet using array formulae so that Excel could be effectively used as a database. It never got used but he'll see if he can find it. Bobby also did some work with Adrian more recently in created automated formulas to drive the dashboard but it appears that there may be additional codes and formulas causing issues with the updates to the mailing lists. **Simon, Mike & Bobby** volunteered to work with Adrian and to discuss separately.
- We need to perhaps review the last audit that was done on ensuring that we have updated email addresses for current members.

Finances

- No issues to report on reimbursement or expense payments.

Alternate Venue

- We can use Greenwich West Community Centre as an alternative as it seems to be good for public transport, not so good for parking but workable.
- Can try this for HoA for May as others months for HoA are already booked at Mycenae House.

Feedback on Christmas Social

- There was agreement that the Christmas Social came off very well and was well organised with Poly driving it.
- Agreement to do 2 social events, use an outdoor venue for summer, suggestion was the Old Brewery and **Poly** will look into this.

Lectures and Talks Team

Main lectures – **Paul, Mike**

- Paul outlined the upcoming schedule with a monthly talk scheduled until June. From March we potentially have to use Queen's House rather than the NMM lecture theatre. **Paul** to check with Sarah whether this is absolutely necessary for March and following lectures.
- Previously there were acoustic problems at Queen's House but apparently these have improved. **Simon** to check with Richard (NMM).
- Volunteers for short talks still mainly from the committee so we need to continue to encourage. Manish may give the Sky at Night in February following his successful Sky News in January (Mike is backup) and another non-committee member scheduled for March. The June slot is still open.
- Refreshments are working fine. Poly, Clive and Roger are the main crew. Richard and Barry can help when needed.

- Numbers have been reasonably good (90ish with full capacity of 120) but we still need to boost numbers and potentially need to extend invites beyond member guests. Agreement to try and push the option of members bringing guests over the next few months. Then evaluate at the next cttee meeting if we should open it up to RMG members at a fee.

HOA talks - **Mark**

- Mark outlined the upcoming monthly talks. Paul Wright will be doing a talk for HoA and there is also a book review session taking place in March. A member has also written a book and will also make a short presentation.
- Mark has been in touch with Louise Devoy about the History of the ROG.
- **Mark** to consider an HoA session consisting of 4 talks, 15 mins each. And this can be used as a means of getting members involved in giving short talks.

Observing Team

Blackheath

- Before this month all the Blackheath sessions went well, this month has not been good for the weather. The members appreciate having all the dates planned ahead of time and the attendance for the season thus far has been really good.
- **Mike** will continue with 1 main date with 3 backups.

Solar

- Planning for the Solar observing sessions should start pretty soon. We need to get dates from the ROG and also backup dates. **Bobby**, to get this organised first with Tania DeSales Marquez and then reach out to Mike, Clive and Richard to follow up with confirming the dates.

ROG team GET and AMAT sessions

- Gurinder, Barry, Simon, Poly and Mike have been great at getting the GET sessions organised.
- We have 5 sessions planned this season and three has been held thus far, the attendance has been great with full bookings and about 20+ in attendance.
- **Simon** is planning to talk with the ROG about using the AMAT on the cloudy nights and also using the small telescopes to do some viewing if the night is clear but the wind is too high for the GET.

Workshops and Special Events Team

Practical workshops (**Clive**)

- The following sessions have been organised for this season:
 - o Electronically Assisted workshop, Bobby, Mike, Richard. Bobby has reported that his setup with Raspberry Pi is now fully operational, Mike has picked up a SeeStar and will also look at what can be done. **Bobby** will look at putting together a workshop with all types of electronically assisted scopes.
 - o Citizens Science is booked and on the website.
 - o Solar Imaging workshop will need to be booked for Summer. **Mike** is happy to run it and will work with **Clive** on a date.

FAS Visits/Trips (**Poly**)

- Poly provided updates on these events.

- 24th Feb - Visit to **UCL Observatory**. This is now fully booked, 32 ppl, and a waiting list is now open.
- 15th June - Visit to **Jodrell Bank**, up to 55 ppl can attend. Invite will go out in March. We will have a meet and greet for the occasion with Ben.
- Consideration for a visit to Norman Lockyer Observatory will be moved to next season.
- Update on planned BAA – FAS collaboration on Astronomy Back to Basics, 30th Nov 2024. Poly working through the agenda. Bobby and Mike are on the list of speakers. Venue is currently Mycenae House but BAA are still evaluating its suitability of this event.
- If no Back to Basics, then we do another session on Intro to Astronomy. Similar to the 3-part series that we did during lockdown.

Program of outreach to Young Adults (**Tom, Richard, Mike**)

- Outreach events will be considered as events that FAS will be organizing that is outside of the RMG compound.
- We need to therefore ensure Safeguarding measures for Outreach Initiatives. **Simon** has put together a document on this with Gurinder and Simon being assigned as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Tuesday 30th January - Morden College, Blackheath. We have 6 volunteers for this. **Mike** to send out necessary comms.
- Friday 9th February - 1st Plaistow Rangers - St Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley. This is in place with a new date.
- Scout Group - The Carey Scutt Hall, Plaistow Lane, Bromley, BR1 3AR. A date for this needs to be confirmed and this may be moved to March.
- Application of Astronomy dates have been carded for 2nd, 9th, 16th Nov 2024. Poly to setup a meeting to follow through on the Outreach session from Tom's proposal. During this meeting we will also review the PDF drafts of the flier that was designed by Tom.
- We also need to confirm if one of the teachers need to be invited. We need to put it to the teachers and if there are no response from them then we can provide the DSL for the event. Tom to approach his Physics teacher and see if he gets a positive feedback from him. Asra will join this meeting.
- 28th April. BAA collaboration event. More information will be provided closer to the time by Poly.
- Poly suggested that we can collectively make any unused Astronomy Books and magazines available to give away at our outreach events. All agreed that this was a good idea.

Media and Comms Team

- Instagram account has been created and shared with Tom.
 - Barry to send Tom a batch of members' astrophotography images and Tom to then post these on IG – one every few days.
 - We can do this initially to get the IG account being used and then evaluate next steps.

IT Team

IT technical

- Simon has sent an update about the Newsletter indicating that the new IT manager at the RMG have reviewed the case study and GDPR roles and does not have any issues with what we are proposing. As such, it is expected that we will get approval to proceed by the end of this week.

AOB

- Bobby to raise with ROG about FAS members providing help at the Astrofest booth.