

Minutes of Bath Astronomers Coordination Team Meeting

Tuesday 12th March 2024, at PP's House



- 1) Bath Astronomers (BA) Coordination Team Members present were:
Martin Farrell (MF), Meyrick Williams (MW), Primula Pike (PP), Simon Holbeche (SH), Julia Matthews (JM)
Apologies: None. All present
- 2) The minutes of coordination team meeting of 9th January 2024 were approved.
- 3) Prior actions.
 - a) Quiz night. PP still trying to get engagement from Bath university. Herschel have agreed to be involved. PP to approach the university space society, they could encourage professional staff to get involved. This event is now planned for October 2024. **Action PP**
 - b) SH confirmed that he has been reimbursed. **Action complete**
 - c) The Messier Marathon was cancelled this year due to bad weather. If weather improves, we could run an ad hoc event, using attendees' equipment and organise through WhatsApp [NOTE WhatsApp is not representative of majority of members. It shares personal details and behaviours and so many people rightly object to using it]. **Action MF**
 - d) No progress on storage shed at Monkton for 16". **Action SH**
 - e) Insurance – mobile kit and PLI. The FAS is struggling to find Public Liability Insurance (PLI) cover. Existing PLI cover via FAS will run out at the end of March. This will stop us from providing any public outreach and meeting in the Museum. BA have had a quote for equipment, cost is £700 for one year which could have included PLI for a small uplift. Expensive but will have to be considered at least for PLI by end of March.
 - f) Four images have been submitted to be used on our membership cards. A vote will need to be arranged across the membership (as WhatsApp is not representative of majority of members)
 - g) Decision over a switch to using Ticketpass instead of Eventbrite for ticketing if/when considering ticketed events in future.
- 4) Team discussion:
 - a) Current balance is £1788.93 with Reserve account of £4,003.75
 - b) Membership now stands at 121
 - c) Members and Public observing: More bad weather has beaten us again on planned events. With longer days approaching, we could run some solar observing events. These could be held in the park or other locations around Bath under busking rules [NOTE WhatsApp is not representative of majority of members].
 - d) Despite the price increase of the annual membermojo subscription, it is still considered value of money and negates the need for a Membership Secretary.
 - e) The social event with the BRLSI will be rolled into the quiz night. See 3a.
 - f) We discussed if there was an appetite to organise BA trips to sites such as Greenwich and Jodrell Bank. It was agreed that these events often have large numbers of attendee dropping out and could leave us exposed to ticket and travel expense. We agreed that individuals could highlight events of interest using existing communication channels such as WhatsApp and email and organise informal events amongst themselves, as we currently do with things like Astrofest.
 - g) Messier Marathon. We decided to keep a replacement event ad hoc, so no booking Monkton Combe as some notice required – it could be Lansdown Park & Ride. If weather forecast is good, we could plan ad hoc using existing communication channels such as WhatsApp and email. This would be an informal event with observers using their own equipment. **Action MF**
 - h) PP to talk to Gemma Attrill from DSTL about doing a talk to us on space weather satellites. **Action PP**
- 5) Outreach:
 - a) With dark nights ending, most schools outreach will trail off in April.

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- b) Review of current commitments, See 4c
- 6) AOB
 - a) JM to be added to the coordination.team@bathastronomers.org.uk membermojo group. **Action SH**
- 7) **Next meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2024** at 7.00pm at PP's house.