
Wednesday 16th July 2025

Present:- Mike Kirkham (MK) Chair, Lloyd Hughes (LHu), Liliias Haye (LHe), Nigel Bond (NB), Nigel Osborne (NO), Paul Foreman (PF), Linda Harper (LH) Secretary

1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed all to meeting. Apologies noted from. Peter Corbett

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed as accurate account, can be posted to website.

3. Actions

NB to look into alternative platforms for presentations. No further action needed.

Complete

MK to talk to Mark Proctor re Mastadon and Rebranding of AAA. Complete

MK and NO to discuss how to tighten up conditions for borrowing equipment. Ongoing
PC to contact insurance company to increase level of PLI for up to/over 60 members. Need to follow up. Ongoing

Committee members to consider ideas for special purchases. Complete

PC to check if name needs to be changed from AAA to Bury St Edmunds AA on Bank Acc.
In hand. Complete

4. Finance

Peter C had circulated up to date financial summary dated 29/6/25

a) Membership Fees:- PC had asked for this item to be raised. Question as to whether there is a need to consider raising fees as have not changed since club started in 2016. Although club in a good position financially at present could we sustain an increase in Rent if this is raised due to new storage facilities. PC to be asked to provide up to date membership numbers.

Discussion followed as to whether we should raise fees a little each year or wait until a need arises.

MK to discuss with PC as to forward planning, look at what other clubs charge and compare with what we provide to members. (MK)

b) Purchasing authorisation and process - Due to need for quorate agreement to purchase new equipment, opportunity to do so recently as been missed. Agreed that we need to make quicker decisions on this. 2 members present said that as they did not have specialist knowledge of equipment this led to them not responding when asked to give go ahead.

Suggested that those on committee with specialist knowledge should be able to purchase equipment once a list of what is needed is identified and priced. Reduce quora needed to agree a purchase from 5 to 2 or 3

NO/PF to make a cull of old/damaged/unsuitable existing equipment and produce a list of what further is required. (NO/PF)

MK to raise matter with members to ascertain what they would expect the club to have in terms of resources. (MK)

MK to speak with PC re putting new purchasing process in place to allow specialists to make decisions without full quorate of committee. (MK)

Financial Update – 29/06/ 2025

General Account: £2,639.47

1. Balance Last Update (25/02/2025): £3,000.63

2. Outgoings

1. Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory Visit (Nigel Bond): £50.00-
2. Public Liability / Equipment Insurance (Unity Insurance Services): £278.96-
3. 3a Web Addresses – Easily (Mark Proctor): £29.02-
4. Speaker (Paul Fellows): £60.00-
5. Speaker (Keith Townsend): £100.00-
6. Solar Glasses – Go Stargazing (Peter Corbett): £14.00-
7. Milky Way / Solar System Posters – Things of the Starts (Peter Corbett): £49.20-
8. Picture Frames for Posters (Mike Kirkham): £20.00-
9. Outsunny Steel Shed – Aosom (Peter Corbett): £242.99-
10. Kids Stickers – Spring Fayre (Nigel Osborne): £6.99-
11. Hall Hire – June to December 2025 (Whepstead Community Association): £310.00-

3. Income

1. Spring Fayre (BSE BIDCO): £800.00

Cash: £256.75

1. Coffee Pot: £177.75 (see below)
2. Membership (8 members): £79.00

Liabilities: £138.58-

1. WOW Racking x 2 (Peter Corbett): £138.58-

Total: £2,757.64

Coffee Pot

2. Balance Last Update (25/02/2025): £61.30
3. Takings: £156.65
4. Re-stock: £31.20-
5. Speaker (Frank Dutton): £15.00-
6. Guests: £6.00

5. Members Programme

NB circulated members programme now in place until year end.

October 29th – Open Cluster evening to see how this works. Members to be advised beforehand and asked for suggested topics to be discussed. MK will put together some suggestions.

A return visit to Breckland Observatory has been scheduled for November 11th. This will be Tuesday evening instead of usual Wednesday. NB waiting for confirmation, numbers will be limited to 20.

Members meeting for Observation at Ickworth House NT still to be arranged. MK to contact Daisy Bodewes to see what we would be able to do, ie where we would be, if agreed night not suitable could we just turn up another night? We know that Toilet facilities will be open.

The opportunity for another visit to Cambridge Observatory was raised. Agreed to raise this with Matt Bothwell when he is guest speaker next.

6. Events

a) Visit to MRAO feedback – all who went agreed very interesting visit. NB advised that they would welcome us back for another visit. NB will maintain contact.

b) BSE Spring Fayre- May 25/26th feedback – not as busy as previous years. Better having 3 gazebos as this gave room for display of scopes and for people to move around.

Need to update posters/photos, possibly around James Webb images.

Flyers need to be updated with new name.

c) 2026 – 10 year Anniversary. Discussion around should this be public event or a social event for members. Members event seemed to be favourite, able to include family.

Possible suggestions included BBQ, Food Truck or an off-site event. For further discussion.

7. Resources

1 new scope donated from former member.

NO needs to buy tags to label telescope bags but this is minor cost.

NO was thanked for all his hard work putting new storage shed and shelving together and for moving all resources into said storage.

8. Bury St Edmunds Astronomy Association rebrand

MK advised that 34 new style Polo shirts had been ordered by members.

List of areas that may need to be changed due to name change include:

e-mail addresses – should not be needed

insurance and bank account – no problem with name change, PC had advised.

Headers and footers – easily changed

Publicising name change via facebook ?

Flyers – Liz Haarlal willing to help with this.

Purchase of new name Banner and Pop ups or Feather Flags (preferred)

PF wondered if website such as GoStargazing would be worthwhile advising, LH already advised them of new name change. But could see if as well as meeting dates being shown on website could the presentation subject also be shown. LH to send details of GoStargazing details and contact to PF (LH)

There was discussion around the Domain name as to whether this needs to change, agreed that it does. Should it be Bury St Edmunds Astro as used by other local astronomy clubs, general agreement that we want to stand out so Bury St Edmunds Astronomy would be preferred name. MK will discuss with Mark P (webmaster)

MK advised that Mark P has new job and whilst he settles into it he will not have much time to help with website, suggested that members be approached to see if any have website experience, it is thought that there may be one member who does.

9. AOB

a) Discussion around whether format needs to be changed, should there be a guest speaker. Agreed to keep to existing format with re-election of committee members, short Chairman and Treasurer reports followed by Annual Quiz with prize for winning team.

Usual light refreshments at no charge.

Lloyd H gave apologies in advance.

NB advised that he is happy to stand again but requests that he has help from another 2 members to give feedback and advise on special areas. He has members in mind, matter to be raised at AGM.

LHe raised matter re new Committee Member, agreed still needed, possibly could be member approached re help with Website.

Committee meetings 2025

Wednesday 10th September

Wednesday 19th November

Action Plan			
Page/Item	Action	Action by	Status
15/1/25 P2	NB to look at alternative platforms to offer presentations such as Teams, 'Whats app'	NB	Complete
15/1/25 P2	MK to talk to Mark P re Mastodon messaging on website, together with AAA rebranding, new logo etc	MK	Complete
15/1/25 P3	MK to discuss ideas with NO to tighten up the conditions for borrowing club equipment.	MK	Ongoing
26/2/25 P1	PC to contact insurance to increase level of PL cover for 60 members	PC	Ongoing
26/2/25 P1	Committee members to consider ideas for further specialised purchases for AAA	All	Complete
26/2/25 P3	PC to check whether name has to be changed on Bank Acc and Insurance.	PC	Complete
16/7/25 P1	MK and PC to look at figures from other clubs re membership fees. PC to give up date on membership numbers.	MK/PC	New

16/7/25 P2	NO/PF to 'cull' old equipment and advise of what is required to purchase	NO/PF	New
16/7/25 P2	MK to engage with members about their expectations of what equipment club should have	MK	New
16/7/25 P2	MK to speak with PC about new putting new purchasing process in place.	MK	New
16/7/25 P3	MK to liaise with Daisy Bodewes at Ickworth re Observation evening.	MK	New
16/7/25 P4	LH to send contact details for GoStargazing to PF	LH	New
16/7/25 P4	MK to discuss Domain name change with Mark P	MK	New