

# MINUTES OF THE IRISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

## 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019.



The 45<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Irish Astronomical Association was held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the Bell lecture Theatre, Physics Building, Queens University Belfast. An attendance of 38 persons was noted with President Brian Beesley presenting the meeting.

### 1.0 MID SUMMER BBQ:

To take place on at 15<sup>th</sup> June with a majority decision to hold the BBQ at Delamont Country Park and not at Armagh Planetarium.

### 2.0 PRESENTATIONS:

Brian presented Hayden Geraghty with a framed photo of Chris Hadfield for Hayden's inspiration in astronomy. Applause and photo taken with Brian. Brian also presented Hannah, Hal, Eve & Eli Kempston with three framed astronomy images for all their contributions within the IAA. Applause and photo taken with Brian.

### 3.0 AGM:

The AGM started at 19:35 with President Brian Beesley in the chair.

### 3.1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Pat O'Neill.

### 3.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Printed copies of the previous minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM were circulated along with copies of the Secretary's report.

### 3.3 TREASURERS REPORT:

A preliminary set of accounts were circulated with a full set of accounts to be handed out at a future lecture.

### 3.4 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Brian Beesley stated that current membership now stands at 208. Long-time IAA member Peter Paice was awarded Life Membership of the association.

### 3.5 PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Brian paid tribute to the IAA council members for all their help in running the association with emphasis on newly joined council member Adam Jeffers and new youth council member Hannah Kempston for their future input. Brian thanked Stephen Smartt of QUB for subsidising the Bell lecture theatre and concluded his report by asking members to contact himself or a council member if they can provide any input to make the association more attractive and thanked everyone for attending the lecture meetings and other IAA events.

### 3.6 ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS:

The new 2019/2020 IAA Council were unanimously elected by show of hands and the election was duly carried:

President & Membership Secretary:	Brian Beesley.
Vice Presidents:	Danny Collins, Dr Andy McCrea (Stardust Editor).
Hon. Secretary:	Tony Kempston.
Hon. Treasurer:	Pat O'Neill.
Webmaster:	Paul Evans.
PR Officer and Meetings Organiser:	Terry Moseley.
Council Member:	Adam Jeffers.
Ex-officio Members:	<i>Prof. Mike Burton, Director, Armagh Observatory &amp; Planetarium.</i>
	<i>Prof. Mark Bailey, Emeritus Director, Armagh Observatory.</i>
	<i>Prof. Alan Fitzsimmons, Astrophysics Research Centre, QUB.</i>
	<i>Prof. Stephen Smartt, Astrophysics Research Centre, QUB.</i>
	<i>Prof. Francis Keenan, Astrophysics Research Centre, QUB.</i>
	<i>Mr. Robert Hill, NI Space Office.</i>

Proposed: Peter Millar.

Seconded: Jude Evans.

New Council Member: Mary Kirwan-Mackey.

Proposed: Andy McCrea.  
Seconded: Jude Evans.

New Youth Council Member: Hannah Kempston.

Proposed: Brian Beesley.  
Seconded: Terry Moseley.

### **3.7 AIDEN P FITZGERALD AWARD.**

Not applicable this year.

### **3.8 AOB:**

None.

The AGM ended at 19:45 with Brian introducing Paul Evans for the lecture talk.

### **4.0 LECTURE: APOLLO 11 “ACHIEVING THE GOAL”; PAUL EVANS, IAA:**

Past President Paul Evans brought his Apollo series of talks up to date with an excellent talk on the Apollo 11 mission that achieved Presidents Kennedy’s goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. During the lecture Paul talked about the computers and hardware used during the mission highlighting an IBM/360 mainframe with 1MB RAM, 4MB hard drive computer and tape storage and a 4kbyte magnetic core RAM with 72kbytes rope core memory used in the Apollo Guidance Computer. Paul also talked about the work of Margaret Hamilton, the mission crew, Command and Lunar module, landing site, experiments deployed and returning home to Earth etc. The lecture ended with Paul providing a Q/A session which ended at 20:25 to applause!

The meeting then ended with Brian thanking everyone for attending with applause. Refreshments were provided afterwards.

### **5.0 TOUR OF QUB ARC OBSERVATORY:**

After the AGM concluded Alan Fitzsimmons of QUB provided members of a comprehensive tour of their new robotic observatory on the roof of the Physics Building, comprising of a 14” Meade ACF LX850 telescope, one ATIK CDD and two ZWO CMOS cameras enclosed within a 2.7m Pulsar Observatory. All observations can be carried out remotely within the ARC building using ‘Sky X Pro’ (mount/dome) and Maxim DL software (image/data manipulation).

Tony Kempston  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2020