

# MINUTES OF THE IRISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

## 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020.



Due to the Covid-19 virus the 46<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Irish Astronomical Association was held online at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 using the Zoom video conferencing software. Council members present were Danny Collins, Andy McCrea, Gerry Davidson, Paul Evans, Hannah Kempston, Tony Kempston, Terry Moseley and Pat O'Neill. Non-council members present were Veronica Brown, Lee Gordon and Barry Sloane with John O'Neill joining towards the end of the meeting. An attendance of 12 persons was noted with council member and webmaster Paul Evans managing the Zoom meeting.

### 1.0 AGM:

The AGM started at 19:30 with council member and IAA Webmaster Paul Evans in the chair.

### 2.0 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Brian Beesley, Mary Kirwan-Mackey and Adam Jeffers.

### 3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

The minutes of the previous AGM were read and approved.

Proposed: Terry Moseley. Seconded: Andy McCrea.

### 4.0 SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Online copies of the Secretary's report of the year 2019-2020 were available and also to download on the IAA website. Tony paid tribute to all the IAA council members for all their help in running the association and to all our loyal members. Queens University Belfast was thanked for accommodating the Bell lecture theatre and the report was concluded by providing a summary of each of the lectures that took place and a list of outreach events for 2019-20. The report was read and approved.

Proposed: Hannah Kempston. Seconded: Pat O'Neill.

### 5.0 TREASURERS REPORT:

Online copies of the Treasurers report of the year 2019-2020 were available and also to download on the IAA website. Pat stated that the net income for the year 2020 was £-727.20 mostly due to slight membership decline and costs from Stardust production (£1,855) and postage (£1,306.72). QUB room hire was £1,225 (should now be free of charge) and with a closing balance of £10,974. Pat gave a big thank you to the Astrophysics Research Centre, QUB for their generosity in continuing to host our lectures and now providing free room hire, Our President & Membership Secretary, Brian Beesley, for collecting, lodging the membership subscriptions & maintaining the membership database and to our Independent Auditor, Erin Wigston. Finally, Pat thanked all of the IAA members. The report was read and approved.

Proposed: Danny Collins. Seconded: Terry Moseley.

### 6.0 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Online copies of the Membership Secretary's report of the year 2019-2020 were available and also to download on the IAA website. Brian's report stated that current membership now stands at 190. Paid up membership comprising 155 Individual & 35 Family. Unpaid membership 9 comprising 3 Life Members & 6 Ex Officio. Brian's report mentioned a fall of 8 members since last year, but he did not consider this significant. The report was read and approved.

Proposed: Andy McCrea. Seconded: Hannah Kempston.

### 7.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Online copies of the President's report of the year 2019-2020 were available and also to download on the IAA website. Outreach events were held at Castle Espie WWT, St Patricks Academy Dungannon, Queens University (in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Science Festival) and Marble Arch Visitor Centre, the last being particularly successful. The location of the Summer Solstice BBQ was moved to Delamont Country Park but due to bad weather this was not successful although Tony stated that he and his family had a great time when John Flannery turned up with two teachers who spent a few of hours entertaining his family with science projects/tricks and finished with a BBQ. The Belfast lecture programme was also very successful with attendances usually around 80 and on one occasion (coincident with the Northern Ireland Science Festival) probably twice that! Brian also gave gratitude for the way in which Queens University Astrophysics Research Centre has supported the Association during his term as President and hopes that this can continue well into the future. Brian paid tribute to all the IAA council members for all their help in running the association including Stardust Editor Andy McCrea and the efforts of the Kempston family in steering it from the printers to your letterbox. Paul Evans was thanked for his sterling work on the web site and Terry Moseley for being Terry and carrying the bulk of the effort involved in arranging the lecture programme. As Brian's term as President has come to an end, he thanked last but not least the Members of the Association who made his task so rewarding.

The report was read and approved.

Proposed: Tony Kempston. Seconded: Pat O'Neill.

## 8.0 ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS:

The 2020/2021 IAA Council were elected by all members during the video conference and the election was duly carried:

President:	Mr. Danny Collins.
Vice President:	Dr Andy McCrea (+ Stardust Editor).
Vice President:	Mr. Brian Beesley.
Membership Secretary:	Mr. Brian Beesley.
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. Tony Kempston.
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. Pat O'Neill.
PR Officer:	Mr. Terry Moseley.
Council Member:	Mr. Paul Evans (+ IAA Webmaster).
Council Member:	Mr. Adam Jeffers.
Council Member:	Ms. Mary Kirwan-Mackey.
Council Member:	Mr. Gerry Davidson.

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: Barry Sloan. Seconded: Lee Gordon.

## 9.0 AOB:

**9.1 Terry - Bog Meadows Event 28/08/20:** Due to Covid the event was cancelled but a possible future event could take place when restrictions ease.

**9.2 Pat – IAA Members who Passed Away:** It was with sad news that IAA members Brian Sloan and David Beesley had passed away lately.

**9.3 Andy – Students returning to QUB:** It was discussed that if we return to QUB for lectures a larger room might have to be provided dependant on current social distancing.

**9.4 Terry – Possible Alternative Venues:** It was discussed that alternative venues for IAA lectures including the Belfast Camera Club & The Pavilion in Dundonald could be a possibility if QUB remain in lockdown.

**9.5 Barry – Confirmation of IAA Subscription:** Barry suggested if it is possible to confirm IAA subscriptions when paid by email/text to avoid any confusion with Pat to check with Brian.

**9.6 Paul – Hannah Leaving Council:** Paul thanked Hannah for her support and wished her well in university with Hannah confirming that the Stardust Kids insert will continue as it is a joint effort with the rest of her family. Veronica applauded Hannah for the quality and content of the Stardust Kids insert.

**9.7 New IAA President:** All the present members congratulated Danny on becoming the new IAA President.

**9.8 Pat – Council Meeting using Zoom:** It was agreed that future IAA council meeting and lectures can take place using Zoom and YouTube with Terry to check with future speakers for permission to record lectures.

**9.9 Andy – Stardust Inserts:** Andy reminded the council for any submissions for Stardust ASAP and also for Tony to include the membership renewal form in the next issue when posting.

**9.10 Terry – Non-Council Members at AGM:** Terry and the council thanked Veronica Brown, Lee Gordon and Barry Sloane for attending the AGM with thanks to John O'Neill who joined towards the end of the meeting.

**9.11 Date of Next Council Meeting 09/09/20:** The date for the first IAA Zoom council meeting was set for the 09<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - 2 weeks before the first lecture of the season 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 with Terry highlighting the opening of Davagh as a main item of agenda for the next council meeting.

The AGM meeting ended at 20:25 with members thanking Paul for organising and chairing the AGM Zoom meeting.

Tony Kempston  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2021