



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Federation of Astronomical Societies held on Saturday, 3rd October 2009
at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge.**

Apologies for absence: Received from John Axtell, Callum Potter, Sam George, and Paul Harper.

Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The proposal to accept the minutes of the 2008 AGM was made by Andrew Bates (Chester AS), seconded by Paul Whiting (Orwell AS) and were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes

None were raised.

Reports from Officers

President's Report from Richard Sargent

Richard gave a short report which covered:

- The changes to the Federation's financial year and the resulting free 6 months extension to the current membership year and PLI policy. Richard noted that this was one way in which Council was seeking to reduce the cash surplus the FAS held over and above its stated reserve level.
- Work by Council to resolve problems with the FAS Membership database and the processes by which changes to Society records are made.
- Changes to the presentation of accounts made in response to concerns raised at the 2008 AGM.
- Changes on the FAS Council.

Richard noted the huge amount of work which goes into producing and distributing the Newsletter and other publications and noted his thanks to Frank Johns and Eric Hutton; Eric is standing down this year and Richard thanked Eric for his dedicated service to the FAS over many years.

A brief description of the FAS PLI scheme was given.

Richard reiterated the now annual Presidential Plea: the FAS does not run itself and volunteers are always welcome!

Richard closed his report by inviting member societies to contact him or any Council member to express their views on the role of the FAS or suggestions for ways in which the Federation can be of service to its members.

Treasurer's Report from Peter Cooke

Peter briefly presented the accounts and stated the new format was intended to simplify reading the accounts by clearly showing money coming in and going out.

Peter invited questions and comments; the format was generally welcomed but a request was made for a statement of reserves in future.

The proposal to adopt the accounts was made by Brian Griffin (Ilkeston & District AS) and seconded by Nigel Foster (Knowle AS) and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The proposal to appoint Bob Turner as auditor was made by James Biggs (Bedford AS) and seconded by Graham Buttle (Eastborne AS) and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The proposal to maintain the current subscription rates for 2010/11 was made by Bob Hartley (Maidenhead AS) and seconded by Keith Moore (Leicester AS). The rates agreed were Small society £28.50, Medium £45.50, and Large £57.00. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Election of Officers 2009/10

The following nominations were made by Council and no further nominations were forthcoming:

President	Richard Sargent
Vice President	Callum Potter
Secretary & PLI Officer	Shaun O'Dell
Treasurer	Peter J.Cooke
Deputy Treasurer	Gary Gawthrope
Membership Secretary	John Axtell
Meetings Organiser & Publications Distribution.	Steve Williams
Newsletter Editor & Publications	Frank Johns
Website Coordinator	Samuel George

The proposal to elect the above en bloc was made by James Fradgley (Wessex AS) and seconded by Tim Haymes (Maidenhead AS) and was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Richard noted the important role of regional representatives and thanked the following reps:

SAGAS - Keith Brackenborough

Chilterns & Thames Valley - Steve Williams

Midlands - Dave Evetts

Yorkshire - Paul Harper

Any Other Business

Crawley AS asked that their thanks to the FAS for the SAGAS development grant be noted.

There being no other business, Richard thanked everyone for attending and the AGM was closed.