

Minutes

Main Meeting January 24th 2008 (Season 4) Venue: Cliddesden Primary School

Observing: It was decided to take advantage of the clear early evening weather and to continue observing until 8.00 when the speaker would commence his talk. Mars, the Moon, M42, M1, M31/32 and the Double Cluster were all seen.

Open: The Chairman welcomed all.

Minutes: The draft minutes of the previous meetings have been published on the website.

Apologies: Andria Harbinson

Health and Safety: The Chairman reminded members and visitors of the fire exits.

Main Item: Brendan Shaw gave a talk entitled "Variable Stars - A Beginner's Guide". The speaker suggested that he was as much a beginner as anyone else in this particular field. The talk was a brief synopsis of the range of types of variable star and explanations of their variability. Questions and Discussion followed.

The Chairman thanked the Speaker.

Coffee:

What's Up?: Mark Radice gave a presentation about what there is to see in the night sky in the coming month.

Admin.: The Secretary asked for more volunteers to do the "What's Up?" slot. The Secretary has received the current Insurance documentation from FAS and has confirmed that we are not liable to an increase in our premium until renewal. Alan Lorrain announced that the proposed trip to the Blakett Observatory looked like it will go ahead but he has yet to confirm the maximum number that can be received by them.

Bob Trevan has sourced a supply of foam useful for transporting items of equipment. The favoured date for the Messier Marathon was set for the 7th March. It was pointed out that this was the same weekend as the IOW Star Party but few members were intending to go to that event this year.

A number of members were intending to travel to Astrofest in February, however.

Dates:

Practical Meeting 14th February

Main Meeting 28th Dr NJ Mason of the Open University "Astrobiology -
The Search for the Origins of Life".

News: Further observations were carried out in lieu of this item as Saturn was now visible.

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