

Minutes of the 2015 ASDC AGM

23rd September 2015

Hosted by At-Bristol

3.30 - 5.30 pm Chaired by Dr Teresa Anderson, MBE, ASDC Chair

Welcome and Thanks

ASDC Chair Dr Teresa Anderson welcomed all members to the AGM, and thanked At-Bristol for hosting the conference. TA also thanked the ASDC trustees, CEO Dr Penny Fidler and executive team for their work over the past year.

TA noted it was a privilege to be part of the Association

Presentation of the CEO's report by Dr Penny Fidler

Dr Penny Fidler thanked everyone for attending,

PF introduced the ASDC team

PF noted that Chris Godden would provide the finance report, but that ASDC had made a surplus in the 2014/15 financial year.

Dr Penny Fidler, ASDC CEO, reported on the highlights of the year, and ASDC National Projects.

PF noted the following:

National Astronaut Programme – funded by UK Space Agency

- National Astronaut Programme called – Destination Space, reaching 20 science centres across the UK, project managed by James Summers
- 20 centres have been trained and are currently being equipped.
- PF thanked the National Space Centre for hosting the 2 training academies
- The project will reach 250,000 people across the UK
- 20 unique Sokol suit replica costumes have been made for this project

Explore Your Universe – Funded by STFC

- Phase 1 – 156,880 people took part
- 50/50 gender split reached
- Range of kit delivered to 10 Phase 1 delivery partners
- Phase 2 – 10 additional delivery partner selected
- Trip to the CERN and the LHC took place in January 2015 for delegates from the 20 centres.

Food and Drink Programme – The Crunch

- Working with Ardmann, At Bristol, Eden Project, Oxfam
- PF noted that Bristol is the European Green Capital 2015

PF asked the floor for questions regarding the programmes.

Lobbying update

- Talked with David Willits and has been a huge support for an inspiring science capital fund for approximately £20 million.
- The Inspiring Science Capital fund was supported and approved, however due to a clerical misplacement the fund was given to the Universities and the AHRC

- An appeal was raised and the funding body has asked for ASDC to re submit a proposal which is now under consideration.
- There is information on the ASDC website under reports, more details are available
- PF asked the floor for questions
- PF has written articles about science centres for the parliamentary review
- Your Life is still running
- Sir Mark Walport – is launching a second national tour
- PF noted the ‘UK Science and Discovery Centres: Effectively Engaging Under Represented Groups’ report and the great work people had put into the repost, noting that the practice is now being shared
- National education conference held at MOSI in February 2014

TA asked for questions from the floor for PF

Approval of minutes

Chas and Vicky proposed and seconded the approval of the minutes of the 2014 AGM minutes

Minutes from the 2014 AGM were approved as an accurate record (these are on-line)

Financial Report, Audit Process and Approval of Accounts

- Chris Godden (Finance Director) presented the Treasurers report and annual accounts 2014-15, noting that the majority of income is from projects which ASDC bids for competitively. The membership fee brings in only around 30K and this is the entire core funding contribution.
- Surplus of £33,000 than the deficit that was present last year.
- CG stated that the reason for figures was due to the timing of project funding
- Increase in alternative income including annual conferences and membership.
- The primary source of income continues to be project funding
- Hope that with 2015/2016 finances the company reserves should increase
- CG sought acceptance of the accounts
- Terry and Lianne proposed and seconded acceptance of the accounts
- CG sought a proposal for the re-appointment of Corrigan Associates as the auditors for the Independent examination.
- Chas and Terry proposed and seconded the reappointment of the auditors
- TA thanks Chris and his wife for their hard work
- **Accounts approved by members present**

Introduction of the current Trustees

Current ASDC Trustees introduced themselves to the members present

Elections to the ASDC Trustee Board

Each year elections are held for members to stand for the ASDC Trustee Board. The term is 3 years, and each year approximately a third of current trustees retire or stand for re-election. All those standing for election had their manifestos displayed on-line in advance and circulated to members.

Thank You to Retiring Trustees - Gift and card (Penny presented)

The following Trustees retired (or retired since the last AGM) and were thanked by the ASDC Chair:

- Peter Trevitt (Treasurer) Trustee since 2004 (not present)
- Stephen Breslin Trustee since 2012
- Vicky Brightman Trustee since 2008 (not present but attending conference)
- Teresa Anderson Trustee since 2010

Vicky is now chair for the British Ecological society

TA induced Chas Bishop from the National Space Centre as the new chair for ASDC board.

CB noted that he had enjoyed the first 3 years on the board and that he recognises the importance of the work that the science centres do.

CB noted the hard work that had gone into the Inspiring Science Capital fund and was eager to see the output CB recognised the hard work that TA had put into the board and thanked her on behalf of the trustees.

Election of Board Members

Each candidate presented their election statement.

All member seeking re-election and election for the board presented to the group:

- Liegh-Anne Stradeski – CEO Eureka!
- Dr Anita Shaw – Acting CEO Techniquet
- Bryan Davies – Chairman and Acting CEO Catalyst Science and Discovery Centre
- Cindy Forde – CEO Cambridge Science Centre
- Chas Bishop – CEO National Space Centre

Terry and Scott proposed and seconded the election of all the new and re-elected trustees.

There are a maximum of 16 Trustees allowable on the ASDC Board. This year, combined with the current trustees, we had space on the board for all those standing for election, thus a vote was not held and instead the ASDC Chair asked members to approve the election of the following people.

Terry and Scott proposed and seconded the election of all the new and re-elected trustees.

Members approved the appointment of the following Trustees:

- Liegh-Anne Stradeski – CEO Eureka!
- Dr Anita Shaw – Acting CEO Techniquet
- Bryan Davies – Chairman and Acting CEO Catalyst Science and Discovery Centre

- Cindy Forde – CEO Cambridge Science Centre
- Chas Bishop – CEO National Space Centre

- New trustees were welcomed onto board by Teresa and Penny

- Penny, on behalf of the network, thanked
 - All the trustees that are retiring
 - Phil Winfield will be taking over as treasurer
 - STFC for sponsoring the AGM, Dinner and the Conference
 - At-Bristol for hosting

Discussion: AOB

Regional Lobbying

- Terry O’Conner noted that ASDC is a national organisation and made up of national trustees and centre members.
- TC noted that it is important that there is a national organisation due to the difficulty of funding. It is important as members to remind our MP’s to overtly lobby for funding for Science.
- There are a lot of people out there, however regional involvement to actively lobby informal education within the next 1-2 weeks as
- The comprehensive spending review is due on the 25th November.
- TA noted that is a very important point that if we don’t speak to our local MP’s nobody else will
- PF asked about attending their surgeries. Other members recommended inviting them into the centres to see the importance of them
- TC advised that you let them know what schools have visited or will visit your centre.
- PF noted that the 7th October was a key date for the Destination Space programme.
- TC noted that no conservative members would be available that week
- TA asked that anyone who is lobbying contact PF so that ASDC is aware of all the regional lobbying taking place and conversations with local MP’s
- CB noted that it was important to build up this intelligence database
- BD noted that the best time of getting your MP is a Friday as the others days they are in London

The formal proceedings of AGM were closed and this was followed by an informal members questions and answers

Additional

New ASDC member

Porthcawl Harbourside - Claire Godfrey - warm welcome

Signing up as new trustees

- New Trustees collected their trustee pack and to asked fill in an AP01 form to appoint them as a

trustee

- ASDC (Chris) will do the paperwork for retiring trustees

Banking paperwork

All current Trustees, Chris has some banking paperwork he needs all trustees to sign
Phil and Chas to become signatories – asked sign papers today / overnight if possible

ASDC are opening a second bank account -

Currently ASDC bank with Cooperative, and need some better /additional services they don't offer, so ASDC will be opening a second bank account

New regulations require all trustees / directors to give their details when an organisation open a new account (because as directors they could become signatories). Chris to talk through what is needed. and give trustees the forms

Evening meal

- starts at 6.30 Drinks reception in the exhibitions on ground floor.
- 7.30 Planetarium show
- 8pm Dinner tonight is upstairs

Tomorrow starts at 9.30 for 10 - trustees please be there at 9.15/9.30 to warmly welcome people

Thank you all for coming.

Session closed