Birmingham Astronomical Society

Chair's Report for 2025/6 - John Young

It is with pride and honour that I present my annual report. In an uncertain world, I grasp the certainty of friendship, connection, and continuity. In our 76th year, we hold true to the Society's aims and ambitions laid down at the first meeting.

As your Secretary John Downing and Treasurer Ben Stanley will separately report in more detail, we maintain strength in numbers and are sound financially. I am humbled by the strength of your trustees and committee who support me. I thank not only John Downing, Ben Stanley, but also Professor Emeritus John Penny, Barrie Paterson, Michael Toon, Yvonne Thick and Peter Thick.

Not only does this team maintain the smooth running of the society, maintaining our infrastructure that enables our functionality, but are in the vanguard of our Outreach program, which has seen us support events at Warley Woods, New Hall Mill, Think Tank, Aston Hall and Winterbourne House and Garden, also planned is an event hosted at 1000 Trades at Lightwoods Park. But we are not alone; we have the support of the membership in all our endeavours.

Our Wednesday Club nights are well supported with many regular faces. We embrace as a group the chances for observational opportunities. The hunger for knowledge on astronomy is refreshing. We thank those that step forward with equipment and knowledge.

The social atmosphere and mutual support is great. Thanks to those that provide drinks, those that bring snacks and others that bring hot food. It's wrong to name individuals, as it's the group that contributes in its own way. I thank you all.

I have one concern, highlighted by recent events. Two of your officers have had personal health issues, as many others probably have also suffered in silence. My concern is the future, we are an organisation with a higher-than-average age profile. We need to redress this balance. If you feel you have something to contribute, let us know. We need to secure a future together.

On to more pleasant duties. As chair each year I award our two trophies. The Tom Collier Prize and The Audrey Farnel Citation. It's always a difficult choice and always has the potential to be misinterpreted. It's not that others have failed, but that these individuals have grabbed my attention by their selfless actions, elevating them marginally above others I have considered.

The Audrey Farnel Citation I award to Maria Dixon.
The Tom Collier Prize I award to Michael Toon.

John Young - Chair

Birmingham Astronomical Society

Membership Secretary's Report 2025/6 - John Downing

Membership as of 11th October is very healthy and stands at 110, which is up by 11 compared to 99 this time last year.

The annual membership fee remains at £15, which is excellent value when compared to similar societies.

The automated system (MemberMojo) for renewing membership online continues to work well, saving a considerable amount of time and paperwork.

John Downing - Membership Secretary

Birmingham Astronomical Society

Financial Report 2025/6 – Ben Stanley

Our COIF investment fund continues to deliver good returns, with over £2.2k in income. This is supplemented by the £15 membership fee and keeps club funds in a strong position. Some clothing sales this year pushed income up, although these were matched by higher expenditure on the clothing.

The purchase of a new solar scope and smart mount/tripod was our largest expenditure this year. The new Luma-X has already seen some great action during the partial eclipse and at the many solar events we have run over the summer.

Income

Account	*2024*	*2025*	**2026**
Memberships	*£ 877.77*	*£ 1,585.94*	£1,394.81
COIF	*£ 2,079.68*	*£ 2,650.17*	£2,230.44
Trips	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 0.00
Sales *books and clothing*	*£ 0.00*	*£ 294.00*	£1,301.36
Other Income *raffle, sales of equip, etc*	*£ 7.24*	*£ 30.90*	£ 13.00
Interest	*£ 335.18*	*£ 336.51*	£ 246.96
TOTAL	***£ 3,299.87***	***£ 4,897.52***	**£5,186.57**

Expenditure

Account	*2024*	*2025*	**2026**
Stationary	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 0.00
Marketing	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 0.00
Equipment	*£ 1,023.26*	*£ 4,680.98*	£2,679.74
Prizes	*£ 94.39*	*£ 700.66*	£ 69.98
Subscriptions	*£ 669.66*	*£ 765.31*	£ 701.03
Lectures	*£ 170.00*	*£ 230.00*	£ 140.00
Fixtures & Fittings	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 0.00
Clothing	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£1,037.70
Trips	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 0.00
Other	*£ 0.00*	*£ 0.00*	£ 400.00
Bank Charges	*£ 60.00*	*£ 60.00*	£ 60.00
TOTAL	***£ 2,017.31***	***£ 6,436.95***	**£5,088.45**

Balances at	**31st Aug 2024**	**31st Aug 2025**	**31st Aug 2026**
Cash in Hand	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Current Account	£ 1,744.99	£ 880	£ 738.07
Savings Account	£ 14,454.50	£ 13,780.06	£ 14,020.11
Sub-Total	*£ 16,199.49*	*£ 14,660.06*	*£ 14,758.18*
COIF Investment Fund	£ 77,233.91	£ 71,879.77	£ 73,497.30
Total	**£ 93,433.40**	**£ 86,539.83**	**£ 88,255.48**