

BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION  
VARIABLE STAR SECTION

CIRCULAR No. 43

1980 JUNE

OFFICERS OF THE V.S.S.

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Secretary (For the time being, material and queries should be  
sent to the Acting Director.)

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BINOCULAR PROGRAMME

Co-ordinator M.D. Taylor, 17 Cross Lane, Wakefield,  
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Tel: Weybridge (0932) 44668

ECLIPSING BINARY PROGRAMME

Co-ordinator J.E. Isles, 9 Horsecroft Road, Boxmoor,  
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.  
Tel: Hemel Hempstead (0442) 65994

Predictions J.C. Smith, 18 St James' Close, Hanslope,  
Bucks. MK19 2 LF

NOVA SEARCH PROGRAMME

Co-ordinator G.M. Hurst, 12 Clare Close, Earls Barton,  
Northampton. NN6 0PP  
Tel: Northampton (0604) 811030

RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public in and for the State of California  
My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESSED my hand and seal of office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

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My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_

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Notary Public in and for the State of California  
My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Director

Ian Howarth has had to resign from the Directorship, owing to his increasing professional commitments. The BAA Council has appointed Doug Saw as Acting Director. (The 'Acting' is at Doug's request - not Council's.)

Other Section Officers

As Doug can obviously not do both the Director's and the Secretary's jobs, he is having to relinquish the latter task. However, we are pleased that one of our active observers, and staunch supporters, Greg Coady, has accepted this post, and will be taking over shortly.

John Isles has now been appointed as Co-ordinator of the Eclipsing Binary Programme. We are delighted to welcome John back to an active role in the Section, and have no doubts that he will be able to revitalise the Eclipsing Programme. John will be speaking about this at the Lincoln Meeting (see below).

Telephone Numbers

Members should note that the Acting Director is now available by telephone. We must apologise for the fact that Alan Forno's telephone number has been in error on the covers of several of the last issues of the Circular. It is given correctly this time. Members are reminded that we would like to have their telephone numbers on file, and a note of these should be sent to Storm Dunlop when Circular SAEs are renewed (or at any other time). Although we do not operate a telephone early warning system within the Section as yet - most active members being covered by the existing regional networks and the TA Early Warning Circulars - anyone who is not already participating in such a scheme might like to inform Storm, who will try to ensure that they receive information on any bright nova, etc.

Correspondence

Owing to the change of Directorship, there may be correspondence which has been overlooked by the previous Director. If there are any Members who have written this year and not yet received a reply, would they please write again to the Acting Director.

The Section Programme

Although the Section's observing programme is now stable, it is not necessarily static. If members have any suggestions regarding inclusion or exclusion of any stars, the Acting Director would be glad to receive them. The scientific or observational reasons should be given. (Stars of 'entertainment' value are not necessarily excluded from our programmes.) This request includes Binocular Group (or other) stars as well, which will be discussed with the appropriate Co-ordinator.

Charts and Sequences

If members have any comments on star sequences, would they please send these to the Acting Director as soon as possible, so that any amendments can be agreed quickly. This includes the new sequences for which the Curator issued charts in November 1979. Doubts have been expressed about some zero points in these new sequences, and it would be most helpful if members could estimate by how much the zero points are in error, and at what magnitude. (That is by a comparison with limiting magnitudes in 'normal' sequences.)

IUAA Variable Star Directory

The International Union of Amateur Astronomers has recently issued a useful booklet 'Amateur Variable Star Directory' (pp 64, price to IUAA members £2.50; non-members £3.50, from the Chairman of the Variable Star Commission - James Kelly, 27 Brompton Court, Castleknock, County Dublin, Ireland). The major part of this booklet is divided into three sections listing a) variable star observing groups worldwide; b) their individual overall coverage of stars, source of charts and observational methods; and c) by individual stars giving types, ranges, periods (mostly from GCVS data) and observing groups which have them on their programmes. As can be imagined, the last item of information is of great value, and should be of great assistance to those seeking individual observations or compiling data on a star's behaviour, and wishing to fill in gaps of coverage. Like most compilations, some of the details given are a little out-of-date, but this is unavoidable. It is very noticeable that details of the AAVSO programme are completely missing. This organisation has apparently refused permission for details to be included in this booklet. This is most unfortunate, but does, most regrettably, bear out the experience of various amateur and professional members, who both individually and through the Association have requested information, only to have such requests ignored by the AAVSO. It is most sincerely to be hoped that this situation will not persist, and that for the good of variable star research, AAVSO data will become available to all genuine enquirers.

To avoid any possible misconceptions, it should be pointed out that the IUAA does not operate any observing programmes of its own. It exists to encourage and facilitate international co-operation between amateur groups and individuals. The BAA is a corporate member. Individual membership is £5.00 per annum, and full details may be obtained from Ciaran Kilbride, 26 Cedarwood Park, Ballymun, Dublin 11, Ireland.

The booklet itself may be strongly recommended to interested members.

- SRD

An Invitation to Overseas Observing Groups

The Variable Star Section is already actively co-operating with certain overseas organisations, some of which use BAA charts for their own programmes, whilst others contribute, or receive, observations. We would like to repeat our invitation (originally made some years ago) that groups should contact us if they have ideas for co-operative projects. In addition any organisation is invited to write to the Acting Director if they wish to comment upon, or to receive, charts and sequences.

Light-curves of Main Programme Stars

All observations for 1979 have been plotted and the full set of light-curves will be sent to all members. It has not been possible to adopt the method of printing originally envisaged, but the curves are now being photocopied and will be distributed shortly. The 'Observer Totals' and 'Stellar Totals' will be incorporated, but in the meantime the following stars would benefit from additional coverage:

W And RW And DZ And UU Aql UW Aql RW Aur U Boo S Cas T Cas  
 UV Cas Omicron Cet T CrB V CrB W CrB S Cyg V Cyg Chi Cyg  
 HR Del T Dra RU Her AH Her R Hya SU Lac X Leo U Mon RS Oph  
 S Per UV Per GK Per WZ Sge R Ser T Tau RV Tau SU Tau SW UMa  
 CH UMa. Please step up observations of these stars.

Section Meeting at Lincoln

We regret the delay in issuing full information about this Meeting - which is definitely going ahead - but this has been caused by various problems, including the complications caused by the change of Directorship. Confirmation of certain speakers is still awaited but the following items will definitely be included:

- Dr P. Andrews (RGO) - R Coronae Borealis Stars: a Review
- M.F. Bode (University of Keele) - Infrared Variability of Novae and Pulsating Stars, and their relationship to visual observations
- J.E. Isles - The Eclipsing Binary Programme
- G. Hurst - The Nova Search Programme
- M. Taylor - The Binocular Programme
- S. Dunlop - The Computing Project
- S. Albrighton - Flare Stars BD +31<sup>o</sup> 1048 and 66 Oph
- A. Hollis - Some thoughts on Equipment and Observatories
- " - Photovisual Photometry

We hope to include another professional contribution (at least) on Dwarf Novae, and expect Tristram Brelstaff to read his paper on 'The Variability of NN Cephei' which has just been accepted for publication in the BAA Journal. Although there will also be general discussion sessions, anyone with a more specific topic, is welcome to a few minutes (or longer) for a formal (or informal) presentation. Members are specifically invited to bring any material which they might like to exhibit as display space is available, and also slides relating to variable stars, or other astronomical subjects, which they feel will be of interest. Please contact Storm Dunlop with details.

A more general interest lecture has been arranged for the Saturday evening, which will be attended by a number of local BAA members and other astronomers - apart from the dedicated variable star workers! This will be:

Colin Ronan - The Origin of the Telescope

For astrophotographers, Mike Maunder (under the alias of 'Speedibrews') will be present to supply both films and his special chemical concoctions, which are so suited to both nova patrol work and general stellar photography.

Other arrangements are in hand, and will be circulated to members attending. Lincoln Astronomical Society hope (but cannot promise) that their nearby observatory will be open. For those who consider such matters important, a bar will be open on the College premises, at a time (or times) yet to be arranged!

Reservations for accommodation can still be accepted, the cost being £13.00 inclusive of meals. For members (or non-members) who do not require accommodation, there is a charge of £2.00, being a contribution towards the cost of the Meeting. Closing date for reservations (by which time balance is also due from those who have paid a deposit) is June 18. Please make cheques payable to the BAA, not to Section Officers.

## Lincoln Meeting - cont.

A detailed timetable has yet to be settled, but at present it is the intention that the formal session will begin at about 14.00 on July 5 and continue to around 16.00 to 17.00 on July 6. This should allow time for members to travel both from, and to, their homes with reasonable ease. Details of routes to the College will be sent to all participants and information on trains, etc. is available from the co-organisers. A 'presence' will be maintained at the College from about 10.30 in the morning, so that members who wish to do so may arrive before lunch, for an informal gathering.

Please Note: lunch on Saturday, July 5 is not included in the charge given. If sufficient numbers express a wish for this lunch to be available, one will be provided at a cost of £1.70 including VAT. Please notify us as soon as possible if lunch is wanted.

The full address of the College is:

The Lincolnshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture  
Riseholm  
Lincoln  
LN2 2LG

Further details from the co-organisers:

Storm Dunlop (address on front cover) and

Richard Pennell 12 Victor Drive, North Hykeham, Lincoln  
Tel: Lincoln (0522) 680183

Remember Saturday July 5 and Sunday July 6 - try to come!

'Computer Forms' Again we must apologise for the delay in distributing these - they are being finally redrawn at the moment. The format has been decided and for those who wish to lay out their observational logs in an appropriate fashion (it does not differ greatly from the present arrangement), details are available from Storm Dunlop.

Changes of Address

D. Stott now 143 Alresford Road, Winchester, Hants. S023 8JZ  
R. Harrold now 162 Mount Pleasant Road, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 6JN  
K. Rajagopalan now Central Ground Water Board, 3-5-908, Himayatnagar,  
Hyderabad 500 029 India

New Members

J. Dew South View, Forest Road, Wokingham, Berks.  
Dr E.J. Seward University of Zambia, PO Box 2379, Lusaka, Zambia  
E. Stomeo 16 v. Parenzo, 30126 Venezia Lido, Italy