

Website

We've had our new website for just over 12 months, and on the whole it seems to be working well. In this time there have been over 30,000 visitors but I estimate 80% of these are automated search bots with only 20% (6,000 or so) being real people.

Most visitors start with the home page, but around 500 visits went straight to a single page. Many of these seem to be in response to links included by me in our WhatsApp chats.

Features of the website that have been a disappointment include the take up of the image gallery and delegated editing.

- The image gallery is an opportunity for members to showcase their own astrophotography. There has been some takeup of this facility, but it has not found significant traction yet.
- Delegated editing. This allows members to edit parts of the website themselves. This can be in support of the wider website, or for a member to edit their own gallery.

At a cost of approx. £15 for the previous year (hosting fees) the website represents good value for money. There will be a 50% price increase this year.

The website has the potential to do more for the Club members should they require it.

Container and TS20

Nothing to report on the container as such. We're still looking for a donation of shelving. The ventilation valves seem to be effective in reducing spikes in relative humidity.

The TS20 has performed well this year, when skies have allowed it to. Some modifications have been carried out. These modifications are explained in some detail on this webpage: eastridingastronomers.org.uk/era-homepage/members-area/club-equipment/ts20-upgrades-and-modifications/

In summary:

- New azimuth bearing. The fitting of a 18" lazy susan bearing to the base of the scope makes it much easier and smoother to move in azimuth.
- Improvements in altitude bearing. These are underway, measurements and calculations have been completed and the work will be carried out ASAP after the end of the observing session (during May and June 2026).

Space in the container

This is now at a premium so we would struggle to accept any additional donations of large equipment without disposing of equipment to make space for it.

Ladies toilet

The fabrication of a screen for the window of the ladies toilet, fitted for each meeting, helps to reduce white light disruption during observing sessions..