

# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IRSWICH

DECEMBER  
1988



"A Very Merry Christmas to all our Members"

## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1989 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14th JANUARY

#### 1 1989 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1989 Annual General Meeting will be held in the School Library on Saturday 14th January 1989. The meeting will start at 20.00. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

## NIGHT SKY

(all times G.M.T.)

**SUN** Rises approximately between 07.50 to 08.10  
Sets approximately between 16.00 to 15.50

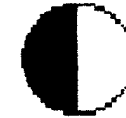
#### MOON



1st



9th



16th



23rd



31st

**MERCURY** Mercury is at superior conjunction on the 1st. It will be very difficult to see later in the month in the evening sky as it will be setting only about 1 hour after the sun.

**VENUS** Venus is still visible as a bright morning sky object. In mid month it will be rising about 2 hours before the sun Mag. -3.9.

**MARS** Mars will remain visible all evening, setting at about 01.30 in mid month. Mag. -0.5

**JUPITER** Jupiter will be visible most of the night, setting at about 05.30 in mid month. Mag. -2.8

**SATURN** Saturn will be in conjunction with the sun on the 26th and will not be observable this month.

**URANUS** Will be in conjunction on the 22nd. Not visible this month.

**NEPTUNE** Will be in conjunction on the 31st. Not visible this month.

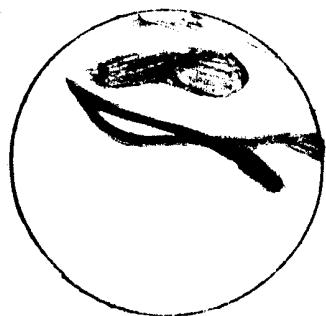
R. Gooding

## Some Observations of Mars During October

David Payne

The number of useful observing nights during October has been dismally few, a situation that we of course fully expect when astronomical phenomena of special interest are to be observed. However there were one or two nights at the beginning and towards the end of the month when I did manage to see Mars for sufficiently long periods to make some drawings.

The first observation was on Saturday 1st October (a promising start to the month I thought). It was a rather hazy evening with some rapid turbulence that limited useful magnifications to less than 200x with my ten inch reflector. As the drawing below indicates the most prominent feature was an elongated marking just south of the equator. This feature at first appeared filled in but in moments of improved seeing it could be seen that a brighter, redish coloured central region existed inside fairly thin dark 'edges'. Further south towards the small bright polar cap a second dusky marking could be seen but was much lower contrast than the more northerly feature.

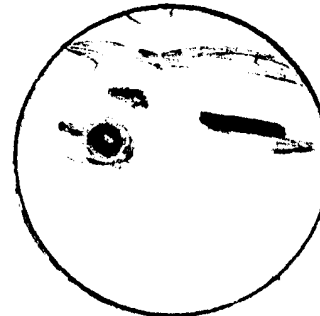


1st October 1988  
23:30 UT  
10" Newtonian  
Reflector  
150-200x magnification  
Seeing hazy with rapid  
turbulence

N

The next 'clear' evening that coincided with an opportunity to observe was 5th October a Wednesday evening enabling use of the Orwell 10" Refractor! It was actually a rather cloudy night with thin

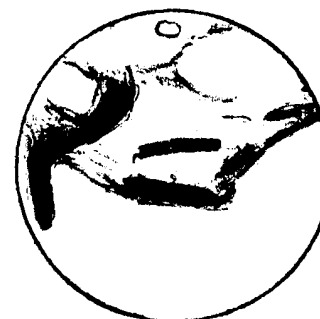
cloud regularly drifting across the disk of Mars. The features were less distinct than the previous Saturday and because of the earlier observing time (19:30 UT) and the slower rotation speed of Mars, the aspect of the surface of Mars as seen from Earth was approximately 90° further east from the observation on the 1st October. The drawing is shown below.



5th October 1988  
19:30 UT  
Orwell 10" Refractor  
150x Magnification  
Seeing hazy with some  
cloud and turbulence.

N

It was not until the 23rd October that clear skies and opportunity allowed further observations to be made. Again there was thin cloud and hazy seeing that reduced contrast but the atmosphere was much steadier than earlier in the month. Much more detail could be seen and on the western limb Syrtis Major was visible. The aspect was approximately 180° from that of the 5th October.



23rd October 1988  
23:30 UT  
10" Refractor  
150-200x Magnification  
Seeing hazy with drifting  
cloud but little  
turbulence.

N

The best evening was the 27th October. It was a clear bright night with fairly steady seeing although a small amplitude rapid turbulence was present that stopped fine detail being seen. This was an early evening observation with Syrtis Major visible towards the eastern limb.



N POLE VISIBLE  
OR BRIGHT REGION

27th October 1988  
20:30 UT  
10" Reflector  
280x Magnification  
Seeing clear fairly good  
some small amplitude  
rapid turbulence.

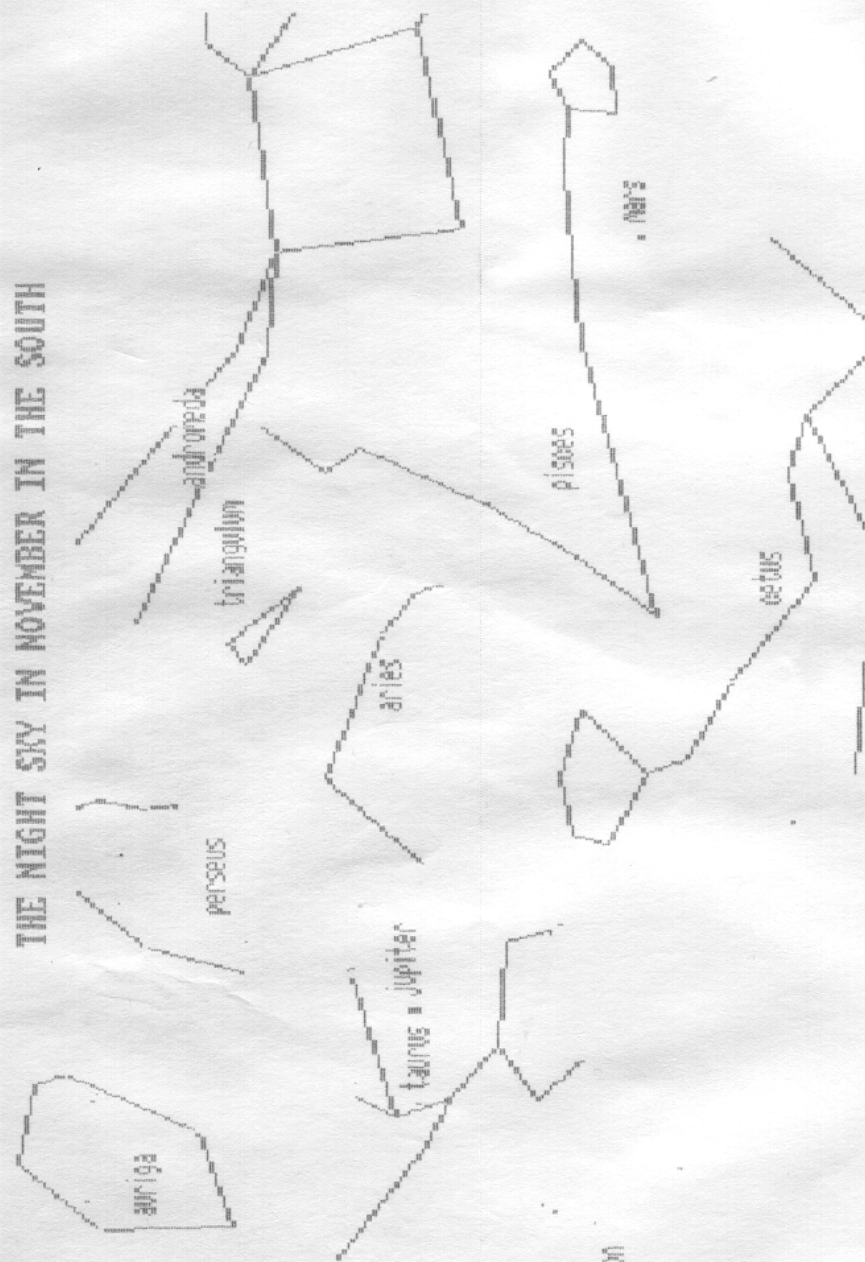
Weather and Observations permitting I will publish some further observations next month. I would also be very pleased to print observations from other members, so if you have any drawings please let me have a copy for inclusion in the article. Better still write your own article describing your results!

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1989

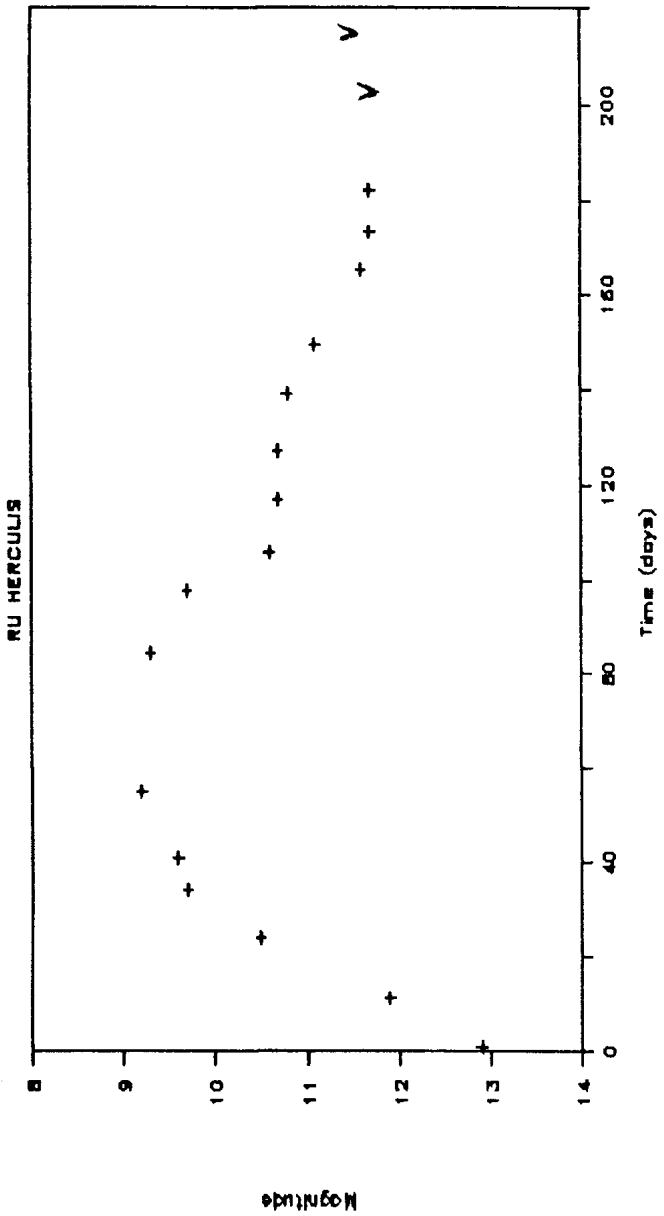
Owing to rising costs it has been decided to increase the subscriptions for 1989. The new rates will be as follows:- Juniors & OAPs £4.50, Single Membership £7.00 and Family Membership £8.00. The cost of journal postage remains at £2.00.

For this money members get a copy of the society journal each month. It also pays for affiliated membership of the British Astronomical Association, Federation of Astronomical Societies, Junior Astronomical Society and the British Meteor Society. Available at the observatory are monthly copies of Sky & Telescope Magazine, The Astronomer Magazine and its circulars, Astronomy Magazine, and Astronomy Now Magazine.

#### THE NIGHT SKY IN NOVEMBER IN THE SOUTH



# VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS



This light curve shows RU Herculis from April to October this year. It shows quite a steep rise to maximum followed by a slower fade. The normal light range is from about magnitude 8.0 to 13.7. The period of this Mira type star is about 485 days.

Mike Nicholls

## PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER

Mondays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
5-12	Mr R Newman	[Redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9DY	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
19	Mr J King	[Redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
	Mr N Taylor	[Redacted], Trimley IP10 OXY	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Tuesdays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
6-13	Mr R Newman	[Redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9DY	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
20-27	Mr J King	[Redacted], Felixstowe IP11 9LQ	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Wednesdays from 8pm		NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION / CLUB NIGHT	
7-14	Mr M Cook	[Redacted], Ipswich IP4 5PZ	Tel. [Redacted]
21-28	Mr D Payne	[Redacted], Wickham Market IP13 OSD	Tel. [Redacted]
Fridays from 8pm		GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION	
9-23	Mr P R Richards	[Redacted], Ipswich IP1 2HW	Tel. [Redacted]
	Mr M Harlow	[Redacted], Trimley IP10 OXB	Tel. [Redacted]
	Mr R A Lobbett	[Redacted], Felixstowe IP11 8UJ	Tel. [Redacted]

On nights other than Wednesday ring directors to confirm dates.

### 1988 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Barnard	[Redacted], Ipswich IP4 5PP	Work: [Redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[Redacted], Ipswich IP1 6AE	Home: [Redacted]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[Redacted], Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2EX	Work: [Redacted]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted]
JOURNAL	E Sims	[Redacted], Ipswich IP1 4HA	Work: [Redacted]
CO-ORD			Home: [Redacted]
LIBRARIAN	P Richards	( Address above )	Work: [Redacted]
EQUIPMENT	R Newman	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted]
CURATOR			Work: [Redacted]
SPECIAL	N Taylor	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted]
EVENTS			Work: [Redacted]