

COOL STARS, STELLAR SYSTEMS AND THE SUN

15th Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars,
Stellar Systems and the Sun

St. Andrews, Scotland 21 – 25 July 2008



EDITOR
Eric Stempels

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Eric Stempels

*School of Physics and Astronomy
University of St. Andrews
St. Andrews, Scotland*

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Preface

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The 15th Cambridge Workshop on Cool Stars, Stellar Systems and the Sun was held in St Andrews, Scotland from 21-25th July 2008, with generous support from the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance, the Royal Astronomical Society, NASA Astrobiology Institute and the European Space Agency. It was heavily over-subscribed with approximately 350 participants registering and a waiting list that topped 140 before registration was closed some months before the conference. While the large numbers were a challenge for the logistics, they made for a vibrant and wide-ranging meeting whose science programme reflected the increasing breadth of interest of the Cool Stars community.

The science programme was designed around fundamental physical processes and addressed the questions: a) Where do stars and planets come from? b) Where does the angular momentum go? c) What is the nature of magnetic field generation and transport? d) What happens when atmospheres get very cool? and e) What happens when atmospheres get very hot? The growth of the planetary and low-mass star communities was most evident however in the 9 splinter sessions that complemented the plenary sessions. These proved extremely popular and indeed were so well attended that in some cases dinner had to be delayed to allow the discussions to continue. They demonstrated clearly that angular momentum, like dust, is everywhere - a fact nowhere more apparent than during the conference ceilidh where pairs of dancers were regularly in danger of becoming unbound systems.

The next venue for Cool Stars 16 was announced to great applause at the conference dinner at Stirling Castle. In 2010 the Cool Stars meeting returns to the other side of the pond, to the University of Washington in Seattle. It promises to be a great meeting.

No conference of the size of CS15 can take place without the hard work of a large team. The Scientific Organising Committee designed the science programme - my thanks go to: Isabelle Baraffe, Cathy Clarke, Andrea Dupree, Yvonne Elsworth, Fabio Favata, Peter Hauschild, Susanne Höfner, Hugh Jones, Sandy Leggett, Duncan Mackay, Ben Oppenheimer, Didier Queloz, Luisa Rebull, Nuno Santos, Salvatore Sciortino, Jürgen Schmitt, Kazunari Shibata, John Stauffer, Steve Tobias, Jeff Valenti and Rens Waters. The Local Organising Committee were responsible for the smooth running of the programme - thanks to Ian Bonnell, Martin Dominik, Nick Dunstone, Becky Enoch, Jane Greaves, Scott Gregory, Leslie Hebb, Katharine Johnston, Ettore Pedretti, Dieter Poelman, Christopher Poulton, Thomas Robitaille, Aleks Scholz, Chris Sheehan, Alexis Smith, Rowan Smith, Eric Stempels, Ian Taylor, Nathalie Thureau, Carsten Weidner and Kenny Wood. The LOC also benefited enormously from the hard work of our student

helpers Nicky Agius, William Lucas, Clare MacMurdo, Chris Parker, Ciara Quinn, Emily Ramsden, and James Sinclair.

The SOC also owe their thanks to Jane Greaves and Nathalie Thureau who between them designed and made the "SOC socks" that proved to be such a popular way of identifying SOC members at the meeting. Finally, my particular thanks go to my SOC and LOC co-chairs, Christiane Helling and Andrew Cameron whose hard work and good humour made CS15 such a success.

Moira Jardine
Chair, Cool Stars 15