

Nova Vulpeculae 1976

George Alcock's 4th nova was discovered on 1976 Oct 21 at 6.20 GMAT at a reported magnitude of 6.5. Harlan (Lick Observatory) reports that the spectrum is that of a nova at maximum. The Director estimated the magnitude at 6.8 at 9.30 GMAT the same evening.

This brief Circular and accompanying preliminary chart are being issued to enable as many members to observe as possible. The Director will be grateful if members would send him a brief list of their observations shortly before the last Wednesday of the coming month as it is hoped to give progress reports at B.A.A. Meetings.

The nova is nearly in the same line of sight as a loose cluster and there are plenty of suitable comparison stars for which reliable photo-electric magnitudes are available. The following list is, with one exception (star L, from Harvard Annal 54) taken from USNOC XXI. Stars of spectrum K and later have been excluded and the number of comparisons has been kept to a minimum in the hope to reduce scatter in the observations.

A =	5 ^m .60	G =	7 ^m .72
B	6.32	H	8.05
C	6.63	K	8.53
D	6.90	L	8.9
E	7.14	M	9.35
F	7.33		

Deputy Director

The present Director will be retiring early next year owing to business commitments, but he expects to continue work for the VSS, including co-ordination of the Memoir on Long Period Variables. In the meantime, Council has appointed Ian Howarth as Deputy Director, to share the workload until the new Director is appointed. Members who write to the Deputy Director at 67 Lichfield Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO3 6DF are likely to get a reply sooner than if they write to the Director!