

# BATH ASTRONOMERS' CONSTITUTION

## 1 Name

The Society shall be named the Bath Astronomers.

## 2 Aims

The aims of the Society shall be to promote a local interest in Astronomy through sharing of knowledge in regular meetings, arranging group observing opportunities and advancing the education of the public in space and astronomy.

These aims should be undertaken in partnership with other local bodies to maximise effectiveness and coverage and for mutual benefit. Specifically, the Society intends to work in cooperation with the William Herschel Society on public engagement with stargazing and bringing the works of Alexander, Caroline and William Herschel to life.

## 3 Powers

In furtherance of the aims but not otherwise the Society may:

- a) arrange public lectures on astronomy, public astronomical observing sessions, and educational events;
- b) raise funds and invite and receive contributions, provided that it shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of law;
- c) Collect and disseminate information in all matters affecting the said aims and exchange such information with other bodies having similar aims whether in this Country or overseas;
- d) Cause to be written and printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents as shall further the said aims;
- e) Invest the moneys of the Society not immediately required for the said aims in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may from the time being be imposed or required by law;
- f) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the aims.

## 4 Membership

Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in astronomy and who have paid the annual subscription as set out in clause 5. There shall be four classes of member:

Young People – Under the age of 18 years;

Student – In full-time education;

Adult – Aged 18 years or over;

Couples – Adults residing at the same postal address.

Visitors are welcome to Society regular meetings subject to a fee agreed at a General Meeting of the Society.

The Committee shall have the right to approve or reject applications for membership. Any member who acts in such a way as to contravene this Constitution, damage equipment, misappropriate Society funds or property, disrupt meetings, harass other members, or in any way acts irresponsibly, or brings the Society into disrepute with the public or its members, or acts in the opinion of the Committee, in any way outside of the spirit of the Society's aims, shall have their membership status considered by the Committee. The Committee have the power to terminate the membership of any member if deemed necessary. Such terminations will be by letter and a pro-rata refund of membership fees is to be made in such instances.

## 5 Subscription

The annual membership subscription to the Society shall be such amount as may be agreed at a General Meeting of the Society. Members may join at any time; subscriptions are due on the anniversary of their joining date. Subscriptions may be paid for one or more whole years.

## 6 The Committee

The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee. The Committee shall comprise at least three members of the Society, and not more than eight members at any one time.

The Committee may co-opt other members of the Society to serve on the Committee provided that the number of members does not exceed the limit above. Such co-option shall not extend beyond the next Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall:

- a) be presided over by the Chairman;
- b) meet at least once a quarter;
- c) arrange a programme of meetings throughout the year;
- d) make arrangements for observing;
- e) control Expenditure and Finance;
- f) see that the aims of the Society are carried out;
- g) arrange Publicity;
- h) keep an Inventory of Assets of the Society;

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- i) be responsible to and report to the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business at its meetings and may regulate its business as it sees fit. Decisions shall be taken via the voting of a quorate Committee. In the event of an equal number of votes cast in each direction then the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

The business of the Committee shall be recorded and made available to members in a timely fashion.

No member of the Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Society, receive any remuneration from the Society, or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Committee) in any contract entered into by the Committee. However, members of the Committee may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

## 7 Officers

The Society may appoint any or all of the following Officers: a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, an Events Secretary, a Child Protection Responsible Officer, and Ordinary Officers. A member may hold more than one office, and conversely an officer's duties may be handled by more than one Committee member.

The Officers shall be elected by the Society's members at an Annual General Meeting. Incumbent Officers are eligible for re-election. In the event of an Officer resigning and leaving post prior to an Annual General Meeting, the quorate Committee may vote and appoint a member to deputise the role.

## 8 Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at least once each calendar year (and not more than fifteen months after the previous Annual General Meeting), at a time and place fixed by the Committee. The business of an Annual General Meeting shall include the adoption of the Report and Accounts for the preceding year, and the election of the Committee.

## 9 Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called by the Committee and must be called at the written request of 25% or more of the current membership.

## 10 Notice of General Meetings

All members must be given at least 28 days' notice of a General Meeting of the Society and such notice is to specify the business for which the meeting has been called. Any notice will be given by email and for those without correspondence email, by post to their last recorded address. No business transacted at a General Meeting shall be invalidated by reason only of the inadvertent omission to give notice to any member of the Society.

## 11 Procedure at General Meetings

No business may be transacted at a General Meeting unless notice has been given to members in accordance with the previous paragraph. However, the Chairman of the Meeting shall have discretion to accept amendments to motions put to the Meeting if he considers that they do not amount to a substantive change to the notified business.

Resolutions shall be decided by a majority of members present and voting by a show of hands, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chairman. If there is an equal number of votes cast in each direction then the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The Chairman may, and at the formal request of at least 25% of members must, put any motion to a postal ballot of all members.

## 12 Assets and Finance

All monies raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the aims of the Society and for no other purposes provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the repayment to officers, officials or members of expenditure properly incurred for the benefit of the Society.

The Committee shall have the power to invest or expend the funds of the Society in such manner as they shall consider most beneficial for the achievement of the aims of the Society.

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society with such bank as the Committee shall from time to time decide. The committee shall authorise in writing the officers of the Society to sign cheques on behalf of the Society. All cheques must be signed by not less than two of the authorised signatories and where possible shall normally be signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer. Online banking shall be delegated to a single named primary account user assigned by the Committee to act on its behalf and within the constraints of the Constitution.

## 13 Accounts

Accounts shall be maintained of all income and expenditure of the Society. The accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

## 14 Alteration of the Constitution

Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by more than 50% of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

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## 15 Winding Up

The Society may be dissolved by a majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting.

If dissolved, the Society's assets shall be transferred to a charity having similar aims as agreed by the Committee.

This Constitution was adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Society on \_\_\_\_\_ 2019.

Signed: