

1 CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE SHROPSHIRE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

..... (*David Woodward*) Chairman

..... (*Ron Iremonger*) Membership Secretary

..... (*Nigel Thomas*) Treasurer

□ 16 December, 2007

1. TITLE

The Society shall be named the Shropshire Astronomical Society.

2. OBJECTS

The Objects of the Society are to:

- a) stimulate a general awareness of and interest in the science of Astronomy.
- a) further the knowledge and skills of its members and instruct persons interested in Astronomy.
- a) conduct observations and report them to members and co-ordinating bodies.
- a) to represent the interests of amateur Astronomical activity in Shropshire.

3. MEANS

These Objects are to be realised by:

- a) the holding of formal and informal meetings in private and public spaces.
- a) disseminating information to, co-ordinating the activities of and communicating the results between members.
- a) giving advice and help in the construction, purchase, maintenance, and use of Astronomical instruments.
- a) giving talks, arranging lectures and instigating practical teaching, especially to young people.

- a) organising occasional visits to places of Astronomical interest.
- a) taking a collective view on matters of concern and threat to Astronomy.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) Membership shall be open to all those interested in Astronomy and who abide by this Constitution and Rules.
- a) Membership cards bearing the holder's name shall be dated and issued on payment of the subscription due.
- a) Subscriptions shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee, subject to the approval of the majority of the membership, at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- a) Subscriptions shall fall due each year on 1 January.
- a) Prospective members may attend informal house meetings free, as guests, on two occasions, after which the full subscription shall become due.
- a) Each meeting in a public place will be free to members. Non-members will be charged a fee to assist with costs as decided by the Committee for each occasion.
- a) Any member who has not paid the subscription by the end of January shall be sent a letter and payment slip reminding him/her that should he/she wish to continue to be a member then full payment must reach the Treasurer by the end of February after which time any such membership will be deemed to have lapsed and his/her name will be removed from the membership list.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and OFFICERS

- a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in December each year for which at least 4 weeks notice must be given. Such a meeting shall be devoted primarily to the reports of the Officers and the election or re-election of Officers for the following year.
- a) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held at any time after the giving out of at least two weeks' notice.
- a) Officers named in Clause 6a) who wish to continue in Office may re-offer themselves before or at each A.G.M. and, if unopposed, must be proposed, seconded and supported by a majority vote in order to continue in Office. This shall take effect immediately the A.G.M is closed.
- a) In the event of more than one name being proposed and seconded, election shall be by simple majority. This shall take effect immediately the A.G.M is closed.
- a) No person shall be proposed for election without her/his consent. This shall be given in writing to the Chairman or Secretary before the A.G.M. if he/she is unable to be present.

6. COMMITTEE

- a) The Committee shall consist of three Officers, namely Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and seven further members with responsibilities to be defined and agreed in Committee. Other members may be co-opted at its discretion to assist in carrying out the business of the Society. In the event of a Committee vacancy not being filled, nothing shall prevent an elected Committee member occupying two posts.
- a) The Committee shall be the administrative body of the Society and be responsible for its activities (but not the statements or actions of individuals) and is authorised to conduct them as it sees fit, subject to this Constitution.

- a) A quorum of the Committee shall consist of three members, including either the Chairman or a Secretary.

7. PRESIDENT

The president of the Society is in an ex-officio honorary position and may attend any meeting of members.

8. RESIGNATIONS

- a) Any member who has resigned or lapsed shall not receive any refund of subscription.
- b) Goods and equipment recorded by the Curator as being on loan shall be returned to the owner immediately on receipt of resignation, if so requested.
- c) Any Committee member wishing to resign shall give at least one month's notice to the Chairman or Membership Secretary.

9. GOODS AND EQUIPMENT

Any goods or equipment belonging to or loaned to the Society shall be entrusted to the care of the Curator appointed by the Committee who shall have charge over storing, maintaining and loaning out of such equipment.

10. ASSETS

In the event of the Society being wound up at an A.G.M. or E.G.M., all equipment belonging to the Society may be sold or otherwise disposed of, and any monies remaining after settlement of all bills and accounts may be divided equally between all members who have paid their subscriptions for the year in which the winding up took place.

11. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- a) Nothing in this Constitution shall prevent members belonging to other societies.
- b) Affiliation and federation to other organisations shall be determined by majority vote at the A.G.M.

12. PUBLIC LIABILITY

The Committee shall ensure that a third party liability insurance applying to any event organised by the Society to which the public are invited will be maintained at all times.