

Blackpool & District Astronomical Society

Constitution and Rules

1 Title

- a) The Society shall be known as the Blackpool & District Astronomical Society, hereafter called "the Society".

2 Objectives

- a) To encourage a popular interest in astronomy and allied subjects.
- b) To help and educate beginners, irrespective of their age, to acquire a knowledge of astronomy and allied subjects.
- c) To encourage observation and practical work within the ability and means of the members.

3 Membership

- a) Membership of the Society shall be open any person, of any age, who expresses a desire to join.
- b) There shall be three categories of Membership – Junior, Ordinary and Honorary.

A Junior Member means an Ordinary Member who, on the 1st November, in the session in question, shall be under the age of 16 years.

Honorary Members shall be such persons as shall be proposed by the Committee and approved by a General Meeting of the Society. They shall not be entitled to vote at meetings and shall not be liable to pay any subscription.

- c) All members shall be provided with a copy of the Constitution and Rules of the Society.
- d) All paid up members are entitled to vote.

4 Conditions of Membership

- a) Members must agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Society.
- b) The Committee of the Society may at their discretion refuse an application for membership, or suspend or cancel the membership of any person. That person or another member may appeal in writing against the decision within 28 days. Such an appeal shall be heard at a Committee Meeting.

5 Subscriptions

- a) Subscription for Membership of the Society shall be at a rate determined by the Committee, and approved at each Annual General Meeting.
- b) Subscriptions shall become payable at the end of the Annual General Meeting.
- c) Prospective Members shall not be charged for the first meeting they attend. When a person decides to join the Society, the subscription shall be an appropriate proportion of the annual subscription.

6 The Committee

- a) The management of the Society shall be directed by a Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Officer, Curator of Instruments and Ways and Means Officer.

Officers

- b) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings at which he is present, unless circumstances require that he delegates the task. The Chairman shall be responsible for the keeping of the register of attendance.
- c) The Vice-Chairman shall preside at all meetings not attended by the Chairman. In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, any officer or elected committee member may preside.
- d) The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Society subject to the instructions of the Committee, including organising a programme of speakers.
- e) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monetary transactions of the Society subject to the instructions of the Committee and shall produce a statement of accounts at each Annual General Meeting.
- f) The Publicity Officer shall be responsible for publicising Meetings, Star Parties, Observing Sessions, and for regularly updating and maintaining the Society's Website and Yahoo Group.
- g) The Ways and Means Officer shall be responsible for proposing and carrying out fundraising activities for the benefit of the Society.
- h) The Curator of Instruments shall be responsible for all material assets of the Society.

Other Officials

- i) The Committee may appoint other officials for the proper conduct of the Society's activities, and delegate to them such of their powers as they shall see fit from time to time. Officials shall be members of the Society but need not necessarily be from among the members of the Committee.

7 Finance

- a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the objectives of the Society and for no other purposes provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Society or the repayment to officers, officials or members of expenditure properly incurred for the benefit of the Society.
- b) The AGM shall consider and approve a statement of accounts prepared by the Treasurer.

8 Meetings

- a) The Society shall ordinarily meet at such frequency as decided by the Committee.

- b) An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called upon a written request signed by not less than two thirds of the Society, or otherwise at the discretion of the Committee. The notice of such a meeting shall include the Agenda, and the business transacted at the meeting shall be limited to that shown on the Agenda.
- c) The Annual General Meeting shall directly precede the November Ordinary Meeting.
- d) Nominations for Committee posts will be called for at the September Meeting.
- e) Proposed and seconded nominations must be received no later than the October Ordinary Meeting.
- f) Committee posts shall be elected by a ballot of the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- g) Members intending to vote on any matter must be present at the AGM.
- h) The Quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be 50% of the membership plus one.

9 Society Property

- a) All equipment, accessories, software, books or other items purchased by or donated to the Society shall become the property of the society and will become the responsibility of the Curator of Instruments.
- b) At the discretion of the Curator of Instruments, property may be held by, or loaned or hired out to, other members. A hire fee, payable to the Treasurer, may be levied for certain items, as decided by the Committee.
- c) Any such property as described in b) above shall remain the property of the Society and must be returned, in good condition, at the end of the hire period, or sooner, if requested by the Curator of Instruments.
- d) Any member borrowing or hiring Society property shall be responsible for the safekeeping of such property. Any loss or damage must be reported immediately to the Curator of Instruments and the member may be liable to make restitution to the Society for such loss or damage.
- e) Property no longer required by the Society will be offered for sale in the first instance to Society members, then to the general public.

10 Dissolution of the Society

- a) If upon the Society being terminated or dissolved, there remains after satisfactory settlement of its debts and liabilities, any money or property, the same shall be paid or transferred to a charity with the same or similar objectives to the Society, failing that to some other charitable purpose.

Document History		
Version	Date	Details
1.0	05 November 2008	As ratified at AGM