



Manchester Astronomical Society

Rules

Revision - April 2007

The approved revised Rules for the Manchester Astronomical Society sanctioned at the Annual General Meeting held on April 19 2007 within the Godlee complex. These newly approved Rules become operative immediately.

1. NAME

The Manchester Astronomical Society hereafter referred to as The Society.

2. OBJECT

To promote and encourage an educational and popular interest in the science of astronomy.

3. COUNCIL

- (i) The general conduct and arrangement of business of the Society shall be in the hands of the Council composed of a President, the Immediate Past President (where appropriate), one Vice-President (who may deputize for the President), a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Public Relations Officer and not more than four other members.
- (ii) Only ordinary members having at least 1.5 continuous and current years of membership may be nominated for positions within The Society.
- (iii) The Immediate Past President shall have the option of being on the Council with that title; if this option is declined, the post shall remain vacant.
- (iv) The Council shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting; nominations shall be submitted in writing and shall be received before the closing date which shall be fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (v) All Council members, other than the Immediate Past President, shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. The Immediate Past President shall retire on the change of President but shall be eligible for election to any other post.
- (vi) No person may hold more than one Council post.
- (vii) The Council may delegate responsibilities and, in exceptional circumstances, fill any vacancies that occur during the year.
- (viii) The Council shall meet whenever necessary. Four members shall form a *quorum*. Any three members may call a Council meeting to discuss any reasonable topic. Any member can attend any Council meeting as an observer.
- (ix) The Council may appoint sub-committees as appropriate.

4. MEMBERS

- (i) Any person seeking membership of The Society upon being recommended for membership by two other persons who are ordinary or honorary members of The Society, and subject to the approval of the Council, shall be admitted to The Society as an ordinary member upon payment of the due subscription fee.
- (ii) Any organisation seeking membership of The Society, upon being recommended for membership by two other persons who are ordinary or honorary members of The Society, and subject to the approval of the Council, shall be admitted to The Society as an institutional member upon payment of the due subscription fee.
- (iii) Exceptional disregard of the Society's interests by a member may result in the Council ordering expulsion after consideration at a meeting where such a member is entitled to present a case: the Council's decision is final.

5. INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

For the purposes of clause (ii) of Rule 4, the term "organisation" shall be construed as referring to any of the following: a society, an institution, a club or association or any other organised body of persons recognised by the Council.

6. HONORARY MEMBERS

Any person deemed by the Council to have rendered valuable service to astronomy or the Society, may be granted life honorary membership by the Society at any Annual General Meeting.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (i) Each ordinary and each institutional member shall renew their membership by payment of an annual subscription fee which shall be in one of the following three categories:
 - a) Ordinary membership.
 - b) Student membership, being for persons under the age of 18 and for persons undertaking full time education. Student membership shall incur a reduced subscription fee.
 - c) Institutional membership.
- (ii) Each subscription fee shall become due on the first day of October of each year.
- (iii) Subscription fees shall be reviewed by the Council who may submit recommendations to The Society at a General Meeting (normally the Annual General Meeting). Members of The Society present at said General Meeting who are eligible to vote shall vote on whether to adopt any such recommendations.
- (iv) At each Annual General Meeting the Treasurer shall submit proper accounts for the financial year just ended.

8. MEETINGS

- (i) There shall normally be weekly meetings held in the Godlee Observatory under the supervision of a Society Warden.
- (ii) From October to April there shall be monthly General Meetings, the dates and places being selected by Council; in every year one of these General Meetings, normally in April, shall be the Annual General Meeting.
- (iii) Visitors may attend any General Meeting upon writing their names in the Attendance book. Regular visitors will be invited to apply for membership. Up to two representatives of an Institutional member may attend meetings in the Godlee Observatory.
- (iv) Meetings shall be chaired by the President or the Vice President as deputy, or other member of the Council in their absence.

9. VOTING

- (i) Ordinary members and honorary members shall be exclusively entitled to voting rights within The Society and to become Officers or Council members. All members shall be exclusively entitled to the other privileges conferred by membership of The Society subject to the provisions of these Rules.
- (ii) At all meetings of the Society, a decision shall be reached by a simple majority; the Chairperson having only a casting vote. This shall apply with the exception of decisions regarding the disposal of Society assets, and shall be subject to Rule 14.
- (iii) A voting quorum at any meeting shall be twenty-five percent of the membership. This shall apply with the exception of decisions regarding the Bevis Atlas and shall be subject to Rule 14 (iii).

10. PROPERTY

- (i) Any appropriate property (other than publications) may be borrowed by members subject to the following five conditions:
 - a) The borrower shall submit to a representative of the Council a completed application form.
 - b) The borrower shall be wholly responsible for the repair of any damage caused to (or degradation caused by neglect), or the replacement of any loss of, any property of The Society occurring whilst in the borrower's care (seeking insurance where necessary).
 - c) The borrower shall report to the Annual General Meeting the use made and condition of the borrowed property, and shall make such property available for inspection by any representative of the Council.

- d)** Modifications to the borrowed property (e.g. semi-permanent mountings, painting, re-aluminising, etc.) shall only be made with the express permission of the Council.
- e)** The borrower shall acknowledge that failure to comply with any of these conditions shall result in the immediate recall of the property.
- (ii)** All applications to borrow any property of The Society, and the duration of any such loans shall be determined on merit.
- (iii)** The Society shall keep an inventory of all Society property available for loan. At the beginning of the loan period the borrower shall sign to acknowledge that he/she accepts the conditions stipulated in Rule 10 (i) and that he/she accepts full responsibility for the property during the duration of the loan. Upon completion of the loan, a Council representative shall sign to acknowledge the satisfactory return of the property.

11. GODLEE OBSERVATORY LIBRARY

- (i)** Ordinary members and honorary members of The Society may use or borrow the publications possessed by the Society library by arrangement with a Council representative. Institutional members may only so use such publications within the premises of The Society library by arrangement with a Council representative, and shall not be entitled to borrow any possession of the Society library.
- (ii)** Rule 10 (i) b) shall be applicable to the use or loan of any publication possessed by the Society library.

12. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

Any member may submit to the Council any proposed alteration to these Rules for consideration by the Council; any decision to adopt such proposed alteration shall be made by balloting members at a General Meeting (normally the Annual General Meeting); prior notice of such an intention to so ballot will be given at a previous General Meeting.

13. GENERAL

All members shall act in the best interests of the Society and comply with current Health & Safety requirements.

14. DISPOSAL OF SOCIETY ASSETS

- (i)** Any asset of the Society, up to a value of £1000 (to be reviewed as deemed necessary), may be disposed of at the discretion of the Council.
- (ii)** Any asset of the Society, in excess of the value in the above clause, maybe disposed of only after a General Meeting of the Society is held, and at that meeting, a 75% majority is in favour of the proposed disposal.

- (iii) The Officers and Council of The Society shall not have authority to dispose of or sell the Bevis atlas "Atlas Celeste" ca1786. The sale of the Bevis atlas shall not be considered unless the Council decide otherwise. Any proposal to sell the Bevis atlas shall then be put to a vote of all members of the Society having a minimum of two years consecutive membership, at which vote it shall be necessary for at least 85% of those eligible to be balloted to return a vote in favour of its sale. This clause shall not be altered in any respect unless the alteration is proposed by Council and agreed at two successive General Meetings.

15. DISSOLUTION

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remain any assets whatsoever, such assets shall be distributed absolutely as shall be determined by resolution of The Society immediately before any resolution to wind up or dissolve The Society takes effect. This rule shall not be altered in any respect unless the alteration is agreed at two successive Annual General Meetings.



Graham Hodson
President
April 2007