



# Manchester Astronomical Society Rules

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The approved new Rules for the Manchester Astronomical Society sanctioned at the Annual General Meeting held on April 28 2005 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 members having at least two continuous and current years of membership may be nominated for Society positions.
- (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 must be submitted in writing and received before the closing date which must 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 in any one year.
- (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.
- (xi) The Council may appoint sub committees as appropriate.

#### **4. VOTING**

- (i) Only fully paid up and honorary members shall be entitled to privileges and voting rights of the Society or to become Council members.
- (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. See Rule 13
- (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 see Rule 13 (iii).

#### **5. MEMBERS**

- (i) Any person seeking Society membership shall, on the recommendations of two members, payment of the due subscription and subject to Council approval, be admitted to the Society.
- (ii) 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.

#### **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 member (other than Honorary Members referred to within rule six) shall pay an annual subscription which shall be in one of the following two categories:
  - a) Ordinary Membership.
  - b) Student membership for those under 16 or undertaking full time education pay a reduced subscription.
- (ii) Each subscription shall become due on October the first of each year.
- (iii) Subscriptions shall be reviewed by the Council who may submit recommendations to a General Meeting (normally the Annual General Meeting) which shall vote on whether to adopt these 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. From September 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.
- (ii) Visitors may attend any General Meeting upon writing their names in the Attendance book. Regular visitors will be invited to apply for membership.
- (iii) Meetings shall be chaired by the President or the Vice President as deputy.

## **9. PROPERTY**

- (i) Any appropriate property (other than publications) may be borrowed by members subject to the following five conditions:
  - a) The borrower submitting a completed application form.
  - b) The borrower being totally responsible for any damage or loss (or degradation caused by neglect) whilst in the borrower's care (seeking insurance where necessary).
  - c) A report of its use and condition being made by the borrower to the Annual General Meeting and that such property be available for inspection by any representative of the Council.
  - d) Modifications to the property (e.g. semi permanent mountings, painting, re-aluminising, etc.) may only be made with the express permission of the Council.
  - e) The borrower noting that failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the immediate recall of the property.
- (ii) All applications and length of 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 for the responsibility for the property during the loan; on completion of the loan, a Council representative shall sign for the satisfactory return of the Property.

## **10. GODLEE OBSERVATORY LIBRARY**

- (i) Society members may use or borrow publications of the Society library by arrangement with a Council representative.
- ii) Rule 9 (i) b shall be applicable to any publications use or loan.

## **11. ALTERATION OF THE RULES**

Any member may submit any proposed alteration to these rules to the Council for their consideration; the alteration will be voted on at a General Meeting (normally the Annual General Meeting); prior notice of such an intention will be given at a previous General Meeting.

## **12. GENERAL**

All members shall act in the best interests of the Society.

## **13. 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, may be disposed of only after a General Meeting of the Society is held, and at that meeting, a 75% majority be in favour of the proposed disposal
- (iii) The Officers and Council of the Manchester Astronomical Society do not have the authority to dispose of or sell the copy of the Bevis atlas "Atlas Celeste" ca1786. The sale of the Bevis atlas shall not be considered unless there is a valid reason, defined by the Council, decreeing that its sale is necessary. The 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.

## **14. DISSOLUTION**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains 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.