



Founded January 1987

Bedford Astronomical Society Constitution

1. The Society shall be called The Bedford Astronomical Society.
2. The purpose of the Society is to provide members with the opportunity to enjoy the study of astronomy through meetings, talks, newsletters and practical observing sessions and thereby through our knowledge and facilities to promote and encourage an interest in astronomy to the general public of all ages.
- 3 a. Ordinary membership runs annually from 1st September to 31st August in the following year for which a membership fee is to be paid to the Society. There is a Standard Individual Membership fee, a Concessionary rate for students (those following a full time course of study) a Senior Citizens rate (those in receipt of state pension) and a Family Membership for up to two adult parent(s) and any number of their children up to age 18 at the annual subscription start date.
 - b. The Membership fees for the various categories are confirmed at the AGM held during the April Members Meeting. Members joining at a later time in the year will pay a pro-rata subscription as determined by the Committee from time to time.
 - c. Membership shall lapse if the appropriate subscription is not paid to the Society before the end of October after the September 1st due date.
 - d. The Committee reserves the right to suspend or withdraw membership without refund of subscription.
- 4 a. Each member carries one vote at an AGM or EGM meeting. Associate membership may be granted to other societies, but they will not have voting rights. There shall be no proxy or postal voting.

The Committee shall stand down at the AGM and may be re-elected by majority vote. Members who

 - b. are unavoidably absent at the time of the AGM who wish to be elected to the Committee may be put forward for election or re-election if he or she makes their wishes known to the outgoing Chairman who will put their name forward.
 - c. Any member may stand for a post on the Committee by informing one of the outgoing Committee members who will inform the Chairman before the AGM so that they can be included in the vote.
5. The quorum at an AGM or EGM shall be ten and at Committee meetings the quorum shall be four.
6. The treasurer shall present a record of the accounts of the Society at the AGM. These accounts will be audited by an ordinary member of the Society. The auditor shall be voted into their position by the Committee for up to three years and must then stand down for re-election for a subsequent three year maximum.
7. There should be at least three signatories recognised by the Society's allotted bank (including the treasurer) for the signing of the Society's cheques. Two of these signatories shall be required on each cheque or other legal document.
8. Should the Society for any reason cease to exist, any assets of the Society shall be sold and the proceeds be divided equally between nominated registered charities and/or recognized organizations. The list of the chosen beneficiaries will be put to the vote at a final EGM called to finalize the disbandment of the Society.
9. Amendments to this constitution may be made at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting and such proposed changes will only be approved if two thirds or more of the members present vote in favour.
10. Any proposals that affect the Constitution or running of the Society, or items to be included under the AGM 'Any Other Business' should be received into the Committee by the date of the Committee Meeting prior to the AGM

