



## **South Somerset Astronomical Society Constitution.**

### **1. Name**

The Society shall be known as South Somerset Astronomical Society (SSAS)

### **2. Aims**

- a. To promote the friendship and co-operation among members;
- b. To instruct its members and the wider public in astronomy;
- c. To further the interests of its members in all aspects of astronomy;
- d. To encourage its members in the pursuit of astronomy.

### **3. Realisation of Aims**

These aims are to be realised by:

- a. The provision of lectures by suitable speakers;
- b. The accumulation of the SSAS's expertise and facilities;
- c. The provision of a library;
- d. Encouraging the production of a regular e-newsletter and website;
- e. Organising field meetings and other astronomy-related events.

### **4. Officers**

- a. The general conduct and arrangement of business of the SSAS shall be in the hands of elected members of the SSAS (hereafter referred to as the Committee), composed of a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer (these three shall be the Officers), and not more than four (4) other members.
- b. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- c. All members of the Committee shall retire at each successive Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- d. The Committee shall meet as necessary but not less than twice per year.
- e. Four (4) members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, of which two (2) must be Officers.

### **5. Membership**

Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the Committee, to all interested persons. The acceptance of the SSAS's rules (the Constitution) by members shall be implicit in their membership.

- a. Visitors are welcome to attend the SSAS meetings and will normally be charged an entrance fee.
- b. All members and visitors shall be required to sign the attendance book at each meeting.
- c. Members will be required to register a contact address and telephone number with the secretary.
- d. The Committee shall have the power to expel any member whose conduct is prejudicial to the aims and interests of the SSAS, without refund of subscription.
- e. Member's details will **NOT** be sold or circulated to any third parties.

### **6. Subscriptions**

Each member shall pay an annual membership subscription.

- a. The amount of the annual subscription shall be decided by an open vote amongst the members at the AGM. The Treasurer shall make a recommendation to the AGM.
- b. The subscription shall be due at the SSAS September meeting. Subscriptions are not refundable except in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Committee. Subscriptions not paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December will be assumed to mean resignation from the SSAS.
- c. Any new members joining the SSAS after the due date shall pay a pro-rata subscription rate.

## 7. Finance

- a. Any account shall be kept in the name of "South Somerset Astronomical Society".
- b. All money received by "South Somerset Astronomical Society" shall be promptly deposited in the "South Somerset Astronomical Society" account, with the exception of a cash float, which will not normally exceed fifty pounds (£50).
- c. Withdrawals and cheque payments shall require 2 signatories from the Committee.
- d. The Treasurer will reimburse any person for reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of SSAS on production of the relevant receipts.
- e. Gifts and property given to SSAS shall remain the property SSAS.
- f. Expenditure of effort on behalf of SSAS shall normally be unpaid.

## 8. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- a. The AGM shall normally be held during September each year.
- b. Members will be informed of the business to be conducted at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting.
- c. The quorum for the AGM shall be at least one third of the members.

## 9. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- a. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) may be called by the Committee, or, upon a written petition to the Secretary, by at least one third of the paid-up members of the SSAS. The EGM will then take place within thirty (30) days.
- b. The quorum for the EGM shall be as for the AGM.
- c. Members will be informed of the EGM date and the business to be conducted at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting

## 10. Amendments to the Constitution

- a. The constitution may be amended only at an AGM or at an EGM called for that purpose.
- b. Any member may submit proposed amendments to the Constitution of the SSAS for consideration.
- c. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least twenty eight (28) days prior to the AGM or EGM.

## 11. Dissolution

- a. The decision to wind up the SSAS, or amalgamate with another organisation, may be taken only at an EGM called for that purpose.
- b. If the SSAS is wound up, the future the SSAS shall, after the sale of all assets and the payment of all outstanding debts, be disposed of according to the majority decision of the winding-up EGM.

This constitution was adopted at an AGM held at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson	
Treasurer	
Secretary	
Member	
Member	
Member	
Member	