

THE FLAMSTEED ASTRONOMY SOCIETY (THE SOCIETY)
OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM (THE ASSOCIATION)

Definition and Rules

1. The Society is part of the Association and governed by its Constitution.

OBJECT

2. The Society shall consist of members of the Association who wish to promote a wider interest in astronomy through a variety of activities, education and use of facilities at the Royal Observatory Greenwich (ROG).

MEMBERSHIP

3. The minimum number of members will be thirty. A maximum limit to membership may be decided by the Committee to meet capacity limits in meeting rooms or other constraints.

COMMITTEE

- 4 The day to day management of the society shall be undertaken by a sub-committee (the Committee) of the Association consisting of six members of the Society, elected at an Annual General meeting, plus at least one person nominated by the Council of the Association
 - 4.1 The elected members of the Committee shall serve for one year but be eligible for re-election.
 - 4.2 The Committee shall appoint from the elected members:
 - i) a Chairperson
 - ii) a Vice-Chairperson
 - 4.3 Other roles for Committee Members are listed in the Schedule of Committee Responsibilities attached as an annex to this Constitution and may be varied by a majority vote of a quorate Committee. A quorum will be four of the seven eligible voting members.
 - 4.4 An Administrative Assistant will be appointed to arrange all matters between the Society and the Association/National Maritime Museum (the NMM). These are to include booking of rooms, stewarding, facilities, etc. and the mailing of notices to Members. This is a joint appointment between the Society and the Association, and will require detailed knowledge of the organisational structure of the NMM. Ideally, it would go to an employee or former employee of the Museum. Membership of the Society is not a requirement for this post, but if a suitably qualified

person should be a Member of the Society, this would be preferred. The Administrative Assistant will be expected to attend Committee Meetings in order to explain how best to implement decisions of the Committee.

- 5 The Committee may co-opt additional members to the Committee. Any person so co-opted shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting of the Society but shall be eligible for election to the Committee at that AGM. Co-opted members will not be able to vote on Committee decisions.
- 6 Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Committee.
- 7 The duties of the Committee will include adopting and agreeing a programme of speakers deciding on frequency of Committee meetings, structure of normal meetings, agreement about possible visits to other institutions and making proposals to the Council of the Association to further the interests of the Society within the objects of the Association.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 8 Members of the Society will pay a subscription (additional to the subscription to the Association) to be proposed by the Committee and ratified by the Association. This shall entitle attendance at all meetings, normally with guest speakers, use of appropriate venues at the ROG including the Planetarium, use of the telescopes and other scientific equipment at the ROG subject to the agreement of the Director of the ROG, stewarding and access to the Royal Park. The Committee may, at their discretion, reduce subscriptions to the Society for individuals subject to hardship.
 - 8.1 The yearly subscription is to be paid in advance and there will be no refund for non-attendance at meetings. The Committee at their discretion may remove from membership any individual whose subscription is more than three months in arrears.
 - 8.2 Additional charges may be levied to cover the cost of optional visits to external locations and special events.

ACCOUNTS

- 9 The Association according to its Constitution shall administer all the financial affairs of the Society.
- 10 The Association may levy a Management Charge to be taken from the subscription income. The amount of this will be agreed between the Committee and the Association.
- 11 The Society will budget for a surplus of at least 20% of subscription income each year. The accumulated fund arising

from this surplus will be expected to grow each year, and will be used for two possible purposes:

- * For future developments of the Society.
- * For donation to the Museum for acquisition of items of astronomical significance, by agreement of the Association and the Committee of the Society and the Director of the ROG

GENERAL MEETINGS

- 12 An Annual General Meeting will be called at the beginning of October each year, to hear reports from the Chairman and Secretary, to elect members to the Committee for the following year, and to discuss any resolutions properly proposed. One month's notice will be given of the agenda, either by writing or by e-mail.
- 13 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the written request of at least 20 members giving notice of the purpose of the meeting and any resolutions to be discussed. One months notice will be given of the agenda, either by writing or by e-mail.
- 14 Minutes will be kept of all General Meetings.
- 15 A quorum at all General Meetings shall be 20 members.

ALTERATIONS

- 16 These rules can be altered by the Committee with the consent of the Council of the Association within the terms of the Constitution.

WINDING UP

- 17 The Society may be wound up at any time by the Association after due consultation with the Committee and any surplus funds would be paid to the Association for disposal in accordance with its constitution. No refund of subscriptions will be given.