

CASTLE POINT ASTRONOMY CLUB

CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME**

The name of the Club shall be "Castle Point Astronomy Club".

2. **OBJECTIVES**

To promote and advance public education and interest in the science of astronomy and to provide facilities for the encouragement and pursuit of observational astronomy.

3. **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Club is at the discretion of the General Committee. There are seven classes of membership with varying levels of benefits and entitlements as follows:-

a) **FULL MEMBER**

Allows attendance by one person at all weekly meetings, the right to vote at annual general meetings, loan of club instruments and books, notification of and participation in, any special events such as visits to dark observing sites, together with automatic inclusion in "phone rounds" or mailing lists in connection with changes to the programme, special events, outings, notification of altered arrangements etc. and free copies of the Club's publications, as and when published. There is an additional charge, the amount of which will be agreed at each annual general meeting, over and above the annual subscription when meetings include an outside guest speaker.

b) **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

Benefits are as for full membership but allows attendance by any number of the persons named on the application form. There is no fixed definition of what constitutes a family group. The eligibility of any group of individuals for FAMILY MEMBERSHIP will be considered by the General Committee on the merits of each such application and the decision of the General Committee will be final. Each member of a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP over the age of eight years shall be eligible to vote, provided his or her name appears on the application form.

c) **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**

Benefits are as for full membership but allows attendance by one person under the age of 18 or a student in full time education. Alternatively allows attendance by one person under the age of 16 together with one accompanying adult. There is no additional charge for outside speakers for either the junior member or their accompanying adult. Junior members over 8 years of age but under the age of 14 years shall be eligible to vote only if accompanied by a responsible adult named on the application form. The accompanying adult is not eligible to vote other than on behalf of the junior member.

d) **SENIOR MEMBERSHIP**

Benefits are as for full membership but in respect of retired members over the age of 60.

e) **SENIOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

Benefits are as for family membership but in respect of retired members over the age of 60.

f) **HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP**

Members who have been invited by the General Committee to enjoy free membership for past services to the Club.

g) **VISITING MEMBERSHIP**

Anyone wishing to attend Club meetings on an occasional or irregular basis.

Allows the visitor to take part in the club activities for the evening of attendance only. Visiting members will be provided with a copy of the club's programme of activities and speakers but they will not be included in "phone rounds" or mailing lists in connection with changes to the programme, special events, outings, notification of altered arrangements etc. Loan of club instruments and books is not available to visiting members. Visiting members are not eligible to vote at annual general meetings.

Disqualification of a Member – a member whose actions bring the Club into disrepute can be removed from the membership of the Club. This decision will be made by the General Committee. The plaintiff can (if they so wish) ask one of the Club members to represent them at the Committee Meeting when the decision is to be made.

4. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions are payable on the 1st day of September. Subscriptions are not refundable except in special circumstances at the discretion of the General Committee. Subscriptions not paid by the 30th November will be assumed to mean resignation.

Subscription rates for the membership classes will be agreed at the A.G.M.

5. **OFFICERS**

The Club will have three elected officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers will be elected at the A.G.M. of the Club.

6. **MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB**

The Club will be managed by a General Committee consisting of the three elected officers and such other members as may from time to time be deemed necessary by the elected officers. All General Committee members shall have attained eighteen years of age. The General Committee shall be elected annually at the A.G.M. of the Club.

All nominations for General Committee members shall be in the hands of the Secretary before the start of the A.G.M.

The General Committee will meet as required. Two thirds of the members of the General Committee must be present to form a quorum, which must include at least one of the elected officers. The General Committee shall be empowered to fill any vacancy in its membership arising during the year, for the remainder of that year, from full members of the Club. The General Committee shall also be empowered to appoint sub-committees for any purpose and to co-opt additional members to serve upon such sub-committees.

Each member of the Club, or in the case of Family Members the first named on the application form, shall have one vote in the ballot for each post at the A.G.M. A simple majority shall decide those elected. If there is a tie for any post the issue shall be decided by further votes. Postal votes are not eligible. Proxy votes are only acceptable on behalf of Junior Members under the age of 14 years. The General Committee elected shall take office from the date of the A.G.M. to the date of the following A.G.M.

7. **DISQUALIFICATION OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER**

If a General Committee member does not attend three consecutive committee meetings without good reason the member may be called upon to resign. Authority to fill the vacancy will rest with the General Committee until the next A.G.M.

8. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The A.G.M. of the Club will be held in October, at a time and place agreed by the General Committee. All members shall have at least fourteen days notice of the venue, date and time of the meeting. Such notice is deemed to have been given by the posting of a notice in the Club's Events Programme.

The Annual General Meeting or an Extra-ordinary General Meeting are the only meetings of the Club that can endorse changes to the Constitution and Club Rules. Proposed changes must be notified to the membership at least fourteen days prior to the A.G.M. or E.G.M. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given by the posting of proposed changes to all members.

9. **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

The General Committee shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss any matter and shall be bound to do so on receiving a request signed by not less than 25% of the membership. Such a request must be sent to the Secretary stating the reason for the meeting. The meeting shall take place within twenty-eight days of receipt of the request and not less than seven clear days notice of the meeting shall be given to members.

10. **FINANCE**

All monies shall be banked in the name of the Club. Withdrawals shall be made by cheque bearing the signature of the Treasurer and either the chairman or Secretary. All recommendations and requests for expenditure shall be approved by the General Committee. The General Committee may also approve the holding of up to £50.00 in cash by the Treasurer or in order to meet day to day expenses such as, but not limited to, postage and payments to speakers.

At the A.G.M. the Treasurer shall present a Balance Sheet of the income and expenditure of the Club.

11. **RULES**

No alteration of the Constitution of the Club can be made except at the A.G.M. or the E.G.M. and passed by 60% majority of the members present. Each member of the Club shall be presented with a copy of these Rules.

12. **BYE-LAWS**

The General Committee shall be empowered to make such by-laws to the Constitution as they consider necessary for the management of the Club. Such by-laws to be submitted at the A.G.M. or at an E.G.M. for ratification.

13. **WINDING UP OF THE CLUB**

Should the Club be wound up for any reason the assets of the Club will be placed in the hands of the General Committee. Any assets shall then be wholly donated to charitable aims similar to those of the Club at the sole discretion of the General Committee.

DATED:

Signed: STEVE CAMPLIN Chairman

ANDY TURNER Secretary

ROY CHEESEMAN Treasurer

Dated10th October, 1999.....