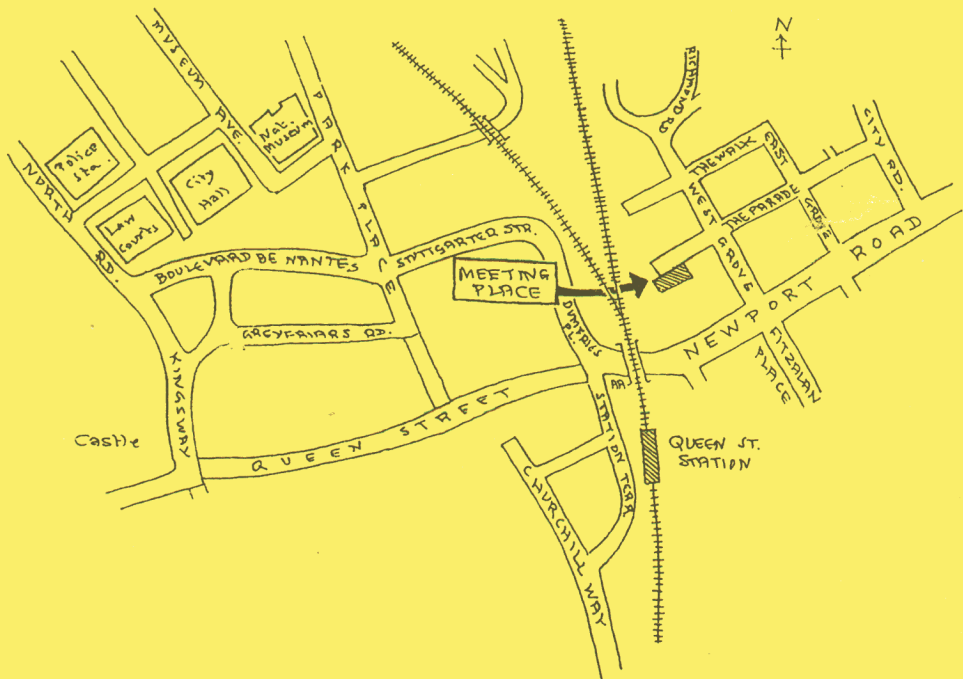


CARDIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

HANDBOOK

1993-94

Introduction	1
Committee 1993-94	2
Programme 1993-94	3-4
Telescopes	4
Library	4
Constitution	5-6
Rules	6-7
Standing Orders	7



INTRODUCTION

Cardiff Astronomical Society was founded in July 1975, and was based originally at the old Penylan Observatory. Unfortunately, due to years of neglect by the City Council, exacerbated by vandalism, the observatory had to be closed down early in 1979, and the Society moved its headquarters to University College. Meetings are held fortnightly on alternate Thursdays between September and July in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wales College of Cardiff. They commence at 7.30 pm, prompt and finish shortly after 9.00 pm. The programme comprises lectures, short talks, quizzes etc., and we try and cater for all interests at whatever level, whether beginner or more advanced. Hopefully we've included something for everyone.

You will note that our venue has changed this year, and its location can be found with reference to the map opposite. It is easy to get to, and close to a major bus route. Ample car parking space is available nearby. If in doubt, contact any Committee Member (phone numbers on p.2). Please make every effort to attend - we like our lecturers to have as large an audience as possible.

The Society owns a number of portable telescopes (see p.4) which are available for members to loan. They can be borrowed at meetings, or by arrangement with the Director of Observations (address overleaf). Details will be announced at meetings or via the *Newsletter*.

A comprehensive library is available for use by members. The Society publishes a regular newsletter that gives information on forthcoming activities, current phenomena in the sky etc. Any member is invited to contribute. In conjunction with the Federation of Astronomical Societies we publish an *Astrocalender* that gives details of planetary phenomena, eclipses, meteor showers etc. for the forthcoming year.

Subscriptions: adults £11.00 per annum, Juniors £2.50 per annum.
Due September 1 1993 for 1993-94 session. Prompt payment appreciated!

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PROGRAMME 1993-94

1993

- September 2nd *Transient lunar phenomena*
P. Grego, J.A.S. Lunar Section Director, Birmingham
- September 16th *Astronomer by descent: John Herschel 1792-1871*
Dr A. Chapman, University of Oxford
- September 30th *The mystery of gamma-ray bursts*
Dr R. Hillier, University of Bristol
- October 14th *Amateur radio and its application in amateur astronomy*
M.E.J. Chick, C.A.S.
- October 28th *Wide-field astrophotography*
I. Grey, Worcester A.S.
- November 11th *Meteorites and the early Solar System*
Dr R.M.Owens, C.A.S.
- November 25th *History of the Royal Greenwich Observatory*
C. Sheldon, Worcester A.S.
- December 9th *Christmas Quiz*
N.L. Jenkins, C.A.S.

1994

- January 6th *Hit or Myth?*
P. Smith, Bristol A.S.
- January 20th *Observing and drawing at the telescope*
J. Meacham, Bristol A.S.
- February 3rd *The Local Group*
Dr S. Phillips, U.W.C. Cardiff
- February 17th *Stellar formation*
M. Griffiths, Bridgend A.S.
- March 3rd *Astronomy and the National Curriculum*
S. Parkinson, Bristol A.S.
- March 17th *So simple a thing as the Sun*
Dr J. Parkinson, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Surrey

March 31st	<i>Saturn and its moons</i> J. Workman, Haringey A.S.
April 14th	<i>DEBATE: Is the missing mass really missing?</i> Dr M.G. Edmunds and Dr J. Davies, U.W.C. Cardiff
April 28th	<i>The Messier Marathon</i> P. Money, Horncastle, Lincs
May 12th	<i>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</i>
May 26th	<i>The second Bill Sutherland Memorial lecture</i> P. Bennett, C.A.S.
June 9th	<i>Planets beyond Pluto</i> S.J. Lubbock, Bridgend A.S.
June 23rd	<i>Radio astronomy techniques</i> R.H. Lang, C.A.S.
July 7th	<i>Three short talks</i> C.A.S. members

Please note. We try not to alter the programme, but occasionally changes have to be made, sometimes at short notice. We will do our best to inform you in advance, via the newsletter, or at meetings.

TELESCOPES

1. Three-inch refracting telescope
2. Six-inch Newtonian reflecting telescope
3. Six-inch rich-field telescope.

In addition to those listed, it is proposed to purchase for the Society a larger instrument, which will primarily be for use at observing sessions.

LIBRARY

As many of you will know, it was not possible to make the library available in the old meeting room, but we hope to make it more accessible at our new venue. A new, updated list of books will be published in a forthcoming newsletter, and it is proposed to purchase new titles to fill in gaps in the coverage. In the meantime, if you would like to borrow any books, please contact the Librarian, Alexander Lamprey, at meetings, who will be happy to make them available.

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The Society shall be named the Cardiff Astronomical Society.

2. AIMS

The Society shall be an organisation to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy; to further the knowledge of its members and to promote and conduct research and observations.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in astronomy.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription rates for membership shall be as follows, Junior under 16 years of age on date of joining £2.50 per annum; Adults £11.00 per annum. Subscriptions shall become due on September 1st each year. A member whose subscription remains over three months in arrears will be suspended until it is paid.

5. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Society shall commence on September 1st.

6. MEETINGS

a) An annual General Meeting shall be held in the Spring of each year. Such meetings will be devoted primarily to the reports of Officers and the election of Officers for the next session.

b) Ordinary meetings shall take place once per fortnight at the Society's Headquarters unless the Committee should decide otherwise.

7. COMMITTEE

a) The Committee shall be as follows:-

President
 Vice-President
 Chairman
 Vice-Chairman
 Secretary
 Assistant Secretary
 Treasurer
 Assistant Treasurer
 Editor
 Publicity Officer/Librarian
 Director of Instruments/Observations

Junior Representative
Two ordinary members

- b) All Officers shall be elected for the ensuing year at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) A quorum shall consist of seven members for a Committee Meeting.
- d) The President and Vice President are ex Officio members of the Committee.
- e) The Committee shall meet at least once per quarter.
- f) The Committee shall be the administrative body of the Society and shall be responsible for its activities.
- g) Committee members for election shall be proposed and seconded by a Society member.
- h) No person shall stand for election without his or her prior consent.

8. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Society shall be University of Wales College of Cardiff.

RULES

- 1. The Society shall be called the Cardiff Astronomical Society.
- 2. The objects of the Society shall be to stimulate public interest in the science of astronomy, to further the knowledge of its members, and to promote and conduct research and observations.
- 3. The Society shall consist of ORDINARY, HONORARY and JUNIOR members. ORDINARY and HONORARY members shall have the right of attending and voting at all meetings of the Society of proposing candidates for election to the Committee, of serving if elected on the Committee or in any office of the Society. All members have the right of receiving Newsletters and notices issued during their membership.
- 4. ORDINARY and JUNIOR members shall pay an annual subscription. This shall become due on the first day of September in each year. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears by over three months may be considered for removal from the Society at the discretion of the Committee.
- 5. The management of the Society shall be vested in a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Editor, Publicity Officer/Librarian, Director of Instruments/Observations. The Chairman elected to serve for one year, with the option of standing for a second; the Chairman will stand down following his/her period of office; the Secretary and Treasurer not subject to re-election unless desired by the Membership, Committee or the Incumbent; all other posts to come up for re-election annually, but the Incumbent may be re-elected for as many years as the Membership, Committee or the Incumbent

desires; in addition there shall be two ordinary members who may stand for one year only, after which they must stand down; one year must elapse before they are eligible for re-election; the above members to be elected at appropriate Annual General Meetings; the committee has the right to co-opt members for a specific purpose. The Committee shall fill any vacancies that may arise until the next Annual General Meeting. The President and Vice-President are honorary posts, not subject to elections. They may change from time to time at the discretion of the Committee, or when the Incumbent wishes to be relieved of the post.

6. Before each Annual General Meeting there shall be issued to each ORDINARY and HONORARY members of the Society a circular which shall contain the names of such members as may be nominated by the Committee to serve on the Committee during the following year. Additional nominations may be made by ORDINARY members provided that the candidate is supported by not less than two ORDINARY members, and that such nominations are received by the Secretary not less than one week before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
7. Minutes shall be kept of the Annual and Special General Meetings of the Society.
8. The Committee shall, upon a requisition signed by not less than ten ORDINARY members of the Society, convene a Special General Meeting of the Society. A notice of the date and object of such a Special General Meeting shall be sent to each member of the Society not less than seven days before such a meeting, and no business shall be considered other than for which it was convened.
9. The accounts of the Society shall be made up to the last day of February in each year and audited by two members of the Society not at the time members of the Committee, and shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
10. In the event of dissolution of the Society such property or effects shall be disposed of by gift. Such gift shall be for the benefit of astronomy and not for the benefit of any individual. The disposal shall be determined by the vote of a Special General Meeting.
11. No rule shall be altered except by a majority vote of the ordinary members present at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose.
12. A copy of these rules shall be sent to each ORDINARY member upon election.

STANDING ORDERS

1. The composition of the Committee shall be as laid down in the Rules of the Society.
2. The Committee shall meet not less than four times during the year.
3. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Committee shall be chaired by an Officer elected by the Committee.
4. For each Committee meeting there shall be a quorum which shall not be less than one half of the Committee membership.

5. Minutes of each Committee meeting shall be kept.
6. Special meetings of the Committee shall be called by not less than three Committee members whose names shall appear on the summoning notice, together with the stated reason for the meeting.
7. No minutes shall be read at a special meeting and no business other than that stated on the Agenda shall be transacted.

