

Articles of Association of East Riding Astronomers

Rev. May 2025¹

1. NAME

The name of the group shall be East Riding Astronomers (a.k.a. ERA).

2. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of ERA shall be:

- a) To promote and encourage practical astronomy and public interest in astronomy especially in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- b) To hold regular meetings which consist of observing sessions or talks on astronomy. The last meeting of the season will be the AGM.
- c) Ad hoc observing sessions may be held at various locations.
- d) To publish the ERA's programme of meetings and activities.
- e) Work with other (regional and national) astronomy groups as appropriate.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of ERA will be open to any individuals showing genuine interest in astronomy and support for our objectives.

3.2 Membership shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee of ERA.

3.3 A member shall cease to be a member of the ERA if:

- 3.3.1 Written notice is given to the Secretary of ERA of his or her resignation as a member.
- 3.3.2 In the event of failure to pay the annual subscription.
- 3.3.3 The Committee agree to withdraw membership for any reason.

3.4 Anyone opting for visitor payment only is not an ordinary member of ERA.

3.5 Persons under the age of 16 may attend ERA meetings provided they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult.

3.6 Membership shall run for 1 year from 1st January to 31st December.

3.6.1 Anyone joining through the year will pay decreasing increments through the year 'til the end of the financial year.

3.6.2 These increments shall be in tenths of the joining fee (considering we physically meet ten times a year), taking into account the normal gap through June and July.

¹ Last amended at 2025 AGM.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

4.1 Membership and other fees shall be decided annually at the AGM.

4.2 Membership fees shall be payable upon joining, and thereafter annually.

4.3 Anyone not wishing to be a full member may pay a visitor's fee at each meeting.

5. OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

5.1 The Committee shall consist of at least two of the honorary Officers of the Society and at least four ordinary members present at a scheduled ERA meeting.

5.2 The honorary officers of ERA shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer who must all be members of the Society. The honorary officers and other officers shall be elected at the AGM.

5.3 Honorary officers remain in office until their successors are elected at the next AGM. Any vacancy occurring by resignation or otherwise may be filled by the Committee. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election

5.4 Decisions at ERA meetings will be made by simple majority voting, in the event of a tie the Chair shall cast an additional vote.

5.4.1 Decisions that are considered special (agreed by more than 1/3 of the members present) shall be considered at the next ERA meeting provided more than 14 days notice has been provided to the entire ordinary membership. Special decisions must be approved by an absolute majority of the total current membership

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of ERA shall be held each year during the last meeting of the season, to transact the following business:

6.1 To accept the Minutes of the previous year's AGM.

6.2 To hear the Officers' summaries of the activities of the Society during the year.

6.3 To receive and to consider the accounts of ERA for the year and the Treasurer's report as to the financial position ERA.

6.4 To elect the honorary Officers.

6.5 To decide on any resolution, notice of which has been given to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM.

6.6 Only fully paid-up members of ERA are entitled to vote at the AGM.

7. PROCEDURE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1 The quorum for the Annual General Meetings shall be at least two honorary officers members and more than 1/3 of the current ordinary members.

7.2 The Chair (Vice-Chair or their designated representative) shall take the chair. Each member will have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes, the meeting chair shall have a casting or additional vote.

7.3 The Secretary (or in his or her absence, a member) shall take minutes at Annual General Meetings.

8. ALTERATION OF THE RULES

The rules may be altered by resolution at an Annual General Meeting, or as a special decision (see 5.4.1) provided that the resolution is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the total current paid up members.

9. FINANCE

9.1 All monies payable to ERA shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in the bank or building society account in the name of the Society. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by approval of two of the honorary officers (the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, the Secretary). Any monies not required for immediate use may be invested on behalf of ERA.

9.2 The income and property of ERA shall be applied only in furtherance of the objectives of ERA and no part thereof shall be paid in the way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members, save as set out hereafter.

9.3 The Treasurer shall have the power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any officer or member of ERA or any other person or persons for services rendered to ERA.

9.4 The financial transactions of ERA shall be recorded and reported in an appropriate manner, by the Treasurer.

10. PROPERTY

10.1 ERA may purchase and own items of equipment for the benefit of the entire membership.

10.2 All such items will be recorded/listed and cared for by a designated member of ERA – the equipment officer, who will make regular reports on the location and condition of such equipment.

10.3 All such items will be made available to members to use under reasonable conditions which may include a small user fee.

10.4 The equipment officer (and any borrowers of equipment) will bring such portable items of equipment and those specifically requested, to each monthly meeting.

11. DISSOLUTION

11.1 A resolution to dissolve the Society shall only be proposed at a Meeting called specifically to dissolve ERA, and shall be carried by a majority of at least three quarters of the total paid up members.

11.2 The dissolution shall take effect from 1 month of the date of the resolution and the members of ERA shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of ERA.

11.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of ERA shall be divided amongst the other astronomical societies and clubs in the region as agreed.

Note: This version of the Constitution, was amended on the 5th May 2025. Changes reflect the need to be able to hold an AGM and other meetings in the absence of 1 or more honorary ²officers.

² = unpaid office holder.