

HALF-DAY ASTRONOMY COURSE

How to Choose and Use Your New Telescope

Saturday, 16th March, 2019

THE SOUTH DOWNS PLANETARIUM, CHICHESTER

Tutor: Dr John Mason

Technical Advisors: To be confirmed

PROGRAMME

1.00-1.30 pm **ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION & TELESCOPE SET-UP**

1.30-1.45 pm **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

The purpose of the half-day course and what we intend to cover.

1.45-2.10 pm **TYPES OF TELESCOPE – HOW THEY WORK**

Refractors, reflectors and compound telescopes. How they collect and focus light. The relative importance of light grasp and magnification.

2.10-2.35 pm **TELESCOPE MOUNTS – SETTING UP AND HOW TO USE THEM**

Types of telescope mounts. How to put your telescope together, where to site it for observing and how to line up the mounting.

2.35-3.00 pm **EYEPIECES, FINDERS & ACCESSORIES**

Importance of eyepieces. Choosing and using eyepieces. Correct use of magnification. Fitting, aligning and using finderscopes.

3.00-3.30 pm **FINDING OBJECTS IN THE SKY – PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS**

We go into the Planetarium dome to learn how to find your way round the night sky, how to locate objects in the telescope viewfinder and the eyepiece, and using a drive to compensate for the Earth's rotation.

3.30-4.20 pm **TEA/COFFEE BREAK** and

WORKSHOP SESSION to focus on key issues requiring solution.

Discussions with our telescope experts to focus on the key issues and problems that people want to solve, then working together to solve as many of these problems as we can in the time available.

4.20-4.30 pm **REVIEW OF COURSE**

Any key issues brought up in the group workshop session. What has been useful from this course, and what are the next steps for all of the delegates.

4.30 pm **CLOSE**