

# The PyCon UK Society : Constitution

## 1 Name:

The name of the Society shall be The PyCon UK Society, hereinafter referred to as 'the Society'.

## 2 Object/Aims:

- i. The Society shall aim to promote the use of the Python computer programming language.
- ii. The Society shall further aim to organise and to present Python conferences and events at suitable venues in the UK and EC.
- iii. The Society shall not pursue any aim not set out in the two clauses above unless it be to provide its Members with an amenity for which there is a material demand among the Membership.
- iv. See Appendix 2, Initial Functioning of the Society for information on how the Society has come into being and how it shall function during the first six months.

## 3 Membership

- i. Membership of the Society is open to all persons subject to acceptance by the Executive Committee of the Society and payment of an annual subscription fee as set out by the Committee.
- ii. The initial subscription fee is one pound sterling per annum per member. The subscription fee shall be set annually by the Executive Committee of the Society.
- iii. All Members of the Society shall be required to pay the subscription except for Honorary Members (see below). It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer of the Society to collect the subscriptions. Subscriptions are due on the first day of September each year.
- iv. Honorary Members of the Society may be appointed at the discretion of the Committee of the Society and in recognition of their contribution to the Society and to the Python Community in general.
- v. See Appendix 1, Communications to Members for details of how the Committee shall communicate with Members and Members with each other.

## 4 The Committee

- i. The Society shall have an Executive Committee elected annually by the Membership (herein 'the Committee') to direct ongoing activities and foster the aims of the Society.
- ii. The Committee shall be composed of a minimum of four persons and a maximum of ten persons. The Committee shall be able to co-opt members. Committee members shall stand down at each Annual General Meeting and may offer themselves for re-election.
- iii. The Committee shall elect Officers from its members including:
  - A Chairperson
  - A Vice Chairperson
  - A Secretary
  - A Treasurerand other Officers as the need arises.
- iv. Sub-Committees may be co-opted as the need arises and at the discretion of the Committee. Where the Committee deems it appropriate to the needs of the Society, co-options may be drawn from non-Members of the Society.

See Appendix 2, Initial Functioning of the Society for details of how the Committee shall be composed until the General Meeting is held.

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## 5 Responsibilities of the Officers:

- i. The Chairperson : The Chairperson shall oversee the general running of the Society and shall be answerable to the Committee.
- ii. Vice Chairperson : The Vice Chairperson shall deputise for the Chairperson whenever the latter is unable to fulfill his/her duties and shall carry out the duties described above.
- iii. The Secretary : The Secretary shall take minutes at all meetings of the Society. The Secretary shall be responsible for all the correspondence of the Society and shall keep a record of it.
- iv. Treasurer : The Treasurer shall have responsibility for all the Society's finances including the collection of subscriptions and the maintenance of accounts.
- v. Other Members of the Committee shall be delegated any duties by the Chairperson as are seen fit, including acting as deputies to the Officers of the Society.

## 6 Eligibility, Nomination and Election of Officers:

- i. Eligibility in the case of all Officers is derived from all Members of the Society.
- ii. The Officers of the Society shall be elected by the Committee from its Members.
- iii. Honorary Members shall have the same privileges as Members excepting the privilege of voting in meetings or voting in elections.
- iv. Only fully paid-up Members of the Society can vote at elections and at General Meetings.
- v. Candidates for election to the Committee must be nominated and seconded by fully paid up Members of the Society in writing and the Secretary must receive such nominations at the published address of the Society at least seven days before the AGM. All elections shall be by show of hands.
- vi. No one shall be admitted to Membership of the Society less than twenty-four hours before a General Meeting.

## 7 Meetings of the Society: Annual General Meeting and General Meetings

- i. There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society which shall be held in the months of August September or October each year. The first AGM shall be held during the first PyCon UK conference in September 2007.
- ii. Notice of the AGM shall be issued at least fourteen clear days in advance through the Society's website giving the date and time of the meeting and the fact that elections to the Committee shall take place thereat.
- iii. The matters to be discussed at the AGM shall be posted on the Society's website not less than three days prior to the meeting.
- iv. At the AGM Officers shall read their reports of the Society's activities for the year and the election of a new Committee shall take place.
- v. The Committee shall meet at least four times a year. The quorum for such meetings is three Officers of the Committee. If the Secretary is not present the Officer chairing the meeting shall be responsible for ensuring that minutes are taken and that these are copied to all Officers and co-options of the Committee.
- vi. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Society may be called by the Committee or by a minimum of one third of the Membership (excluding Honorary Members) presenting a signed petition to the Committee. Notices of such meetings shall be posted on the Society's website at least fourteen clear days in advance.

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## **8 Dismissal of a Member:**

- i. Any Member found to be placing the Society in disrepute or disregarding the constitution shall be ordered to appear before the Executive Committee of the Society. The Committee shall have the right to revoke the membership of the member concerned.
- ii. If an Officer of the Society or a Committee Member is absent from a Committee meeting or a Society meeting on three consecutive occasions without providing apologies he/she shall be deemed to have resigned.

## **9 Amendments to this Constitution:**

- i. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.
- ii. Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by the Committee or by twelve Members or more of the Society in writing in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 7vi above.
- iii. This Constitution is binding from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007.
- iv. See Appendix 2, Initial Functioning of the Society for information on how the Society has come into being and how it shall function during the first six months.

Signed by:

Zeth Green

John Pinner

Jim Welch

Alex Willmer

Quentin Wright

Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## **Appendix 1 to the Constitution Communications to Members**

### **Website:**

The Society shall provide and maintain a website at <http://www.pyconuk.org>.

### **Communications:**

General communications to Members shall be through details posted on the Society's website.

Formal communications to individual Members may be made by e-mail or by post, whichever is appropriate.

### **Society Forum:**

The Society's website shall include a forum for Members to post their views and opinions.

Any such views and opinions shall not be binding on the Society or Committee unless formally adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Society's Constitution.

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## **Appendix 2 to the Constitution Initial Functioning of the Society**

### **Introduction**

The Society is being setup, in the first instance, to facilitate the organisation and presentation of the PyCon UK conference and associated activities in September 2007 at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

An initial meeting of individuals interested in Python was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 and a subsequent first planning meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007. At these meetings and during subsequent discussions the recognition that a formal organisation would be required to support such an event led to the formation of The PyCon UK Society. The Constitution to which this document forms an Appendix is a product of this recognition.

This Appendix outlines how the Society shall function initially pending the first Annual General Meeting of the Society in September 2007 at the PyCon UK Conference.

### **Constitution of the Society:**

The Constitution of the Society shall be applicable from Thursday 5th April 2007.

### **Executive Committee:**

The initial Executive Committee has been drawn from those who have already taken an active role in organising the conference. Its members are:

Chair Person :	John Pinner
Vice Chair Person :	Zeth Green
Secretary :	Jim Welch
Treasurer :	Alex Willmer
Sponsorship Officer:	Quentin Wright

### **Membership:**

The founding members of the Society are those who attended the initial meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 and any subsequent meetings and who have paid the annual subscription. Attendees registering for the PyCon UK conference in September 2007 shall pay their subscription to the Society as part of their Conference registration fee and shall then be deemed to be Members of the Society.

### **Address:**

The official address of the Society is:

The PyCon UK Society  
Bridge House  
17a Maybrook Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
West Midlands  
B76 1AL

The official website of the Society is at: <http://www.pyconuk.org>

The official email address of the Society's Secretary is: [secretary@pyconuk.org](mailto:secretary@pyconuk.org)