



# THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. Name

The name of the Society shall be THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY (hereinafter referred to as “The Society”)

### 2. Objects

The objects of the Society shall be:

- (i) to promote and encourage the study of the history of postal communication, both national and international.
- (ii) to publish work relating to postal history.
- (ii) to keep a library of books and other media concerned with postal history.

### 3. Management of the Society

The Society shall be managed by a Council elected in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Constitution. The membership of Council shall consist of:

(i) the Honorary Officers of the Society:

President; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Librarian; Publications Manager; Auction Manager; Journal Editor; Conference Manager; Publicity Manager; Webmaster.

(ii) others elected: two members of the Society.

(iii) either the Immediate Past President, who shall remain on Council for a period of one year OR the President Elect, who shall be elected at the next A.G.M. following the election of the President.

(iv) any member of the Society co-opted under Section 4 (v) (b) of this Constitution.

(v) at meetings of the Council the President shall preside or if absent any other Officer of the Society shall do so.

(vi) a quorum shall consist of five members of Council, at least one of whom shall be an Officer of the Society.

### 4. Election of Council

(i) the President shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting for a period of office not exceeding two years, such period to begin at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which the election took place or at the end of the Annual conference whichever is the later.

(ii) the President Elect to be elected at the Annual General Meeting following the year of election of the current President.

(iii) all other Officers and Members of Council shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for a period of up to four years when they shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of two years. At the end of that further period re-election may take place at subsequent Annual General Meetings. The provisions relating to periods of office in this subsection shall not debar a member of the Society being nominated for election as an officer or member of Council at any Annual General Meeting, subject to the Constitution of the Society.

(iv) Nominations for President, Officers of the Society, and other Council members (duly seconded and with the written consent of the nominee) must be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary not later than eight weeks prior to an A.G.M.

(v) Council may:

(a) fill interim vacancies on Council subject to approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

(b) co-opt members of the Society to Council subject to approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

(c) appoint sub-committees.

(d) recommend to the Society at an Annual General Meeting the removal of a Council member from office if deemed necessary for the beneficial management of the Society.

## **5. Membership**

(i) Written applications for membership supported by two signatures of current members or acceptable referees, together with the current subscription shall be put before Council for consideration. Societies and Institutions with similar interests may be admitted to membership of the Society for the receipt of one copy of each issue of the Society journal.

(ii) the Council shall have absolute discretion to approve or reject an application for membership and where an application is rejected shall not be required to give any reason.

(iii) if at any time the Council shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Society shall require it, the Council shall have absolute discretion to expel any member of the Society without being obliged to give any reason or to give a hearing to the member before such expulsion takes effect.

(iv) Written notice of resignation of Membership, together with any arrears of subscription, must be received by the Honorary Secretary. No reimbursement of any part of that year's subscription will be allowed. However, subscriptions paid in advance for subsequent years will be refunded if requested.

(v) A record of members names, addresses, subscription status, and interests shall be maintained by the Honorary Membership Secretary and held by both the Honorary Membership Secretary and the Honorary Secretary, and such information may be stored electronically for the sole purpose of Society business and will not be used for commercial purposes.

(vi) Honorary Life Membership may be awarded to any member who is deemed by the Council to have made an outstanding contribution over a long period to the well-being of the Society. Any nomination must be submitted to the Secretary for consideration by the Council and must be made in writing and signed by the proposer and by not less than four other members who support the nomination. Such nomination must be approved by three quarters of the members of Council (including those not present at the meeting at which it is considered).

## **6. Subscription**

(i) The annual subscription shall be determined by Council.

(ii) Any proposed change to the subscription to be ratified at the next A.G.M.

(iii) Annual subscription is payable in advance and due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

(iv) Payment of the subscription for the current year constitutes membership of the Society and acceptance of the Constitution of the Society.

(v) If any member shall fail to pay their current subscription on or before 31 March a reminder notice shall be sent to them. If the amount due remains unpaid 30 days after the posting of such notice they shall cease to be a member of the Society. Anyone may at the discretion of Council be reinstated as a member on payment of all arrears.

(vi) Honorary Life Members of the Society shall be exempt from subscription payments but shall be entitled to receive the Society journal.

## **7. Finance**

(i) The financial year of the Society shall be from the 1st of June to the 31st of May.

(ii) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the Society monies and shall submit such accounts, duly audited to Council for approval before being placed before the Annual General Meeting for acceptance.

(iii) The Society auditors shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

(iv) All monies paid to the Society shall be applied to further the objects of the Society. Such monies to be held in Bank and or Building Society accounts in the name of the Society with access in accordance with the mandate agreed by Council from time to time. Accounts shall not be held in the name of one individual member of the Society.

## **8. Annual General Meeting**

(i) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within 6 months of each financial year-end for the following purposes:

(a) to receive the annual statement of accounts.

(b) to appoint the auditors.

(c) to receive the reports of Council members as appropriate.

- (d) to elect the Officers and other members of Council.
- (e) to decide any resolution submitted to the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- (f) to deal with any other business appropriate to an Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) The date and venue of the A.G.M. will be published in the Society Programme sent to members with the Journal and will be posted on the Society's website and other relevant Social Media outlets at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- (iii) All individual members of the Society will be entitled to attend the A.G.M. The agenda will be made available prior to the commencement of the meeting. Copies in advance can be made available to any member from seven days prior to the meeting on request from the Honorary Secretary.
- (iv) Matters for consideration by the A.G.M. must be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The proposer and seconder of any motion shall be specified. Any member may submit an amendment to a motion put forward to a general meeting during the discussion at the meeting itself.
- (v) At all A.G.Ms. of the Society, the President or the Immediate Past President or President Elect or (if also absent), a member selected by Council, shall take the chair. Every member present shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion and in the case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (vi) The quorum at all General meetings shall be 5% of the total membership.
- (vii) In the event of there not being a quorum present for any A.G.M. or any part thereof the A.G.M. shall be adjourned to a time and place determined by the Council when a quorum can be formed.
- (viii) The Constitution may be modified, amended, or repealed by resolution at any A.G.M. or E.G.M. provided that such resolution shall not be passed unless it is carried by at least two thirds of the members present and voting.

### **9. Extraordinary General Meeting**

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by:

- (a) Council, OR
- (b) 20 members or more of the Society.

Notice to be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary stating the purpose of the proposed meeting and the wording of the proposed resolution(s) to be placed before the Extraordinary General Meeting. Such meeting shall be convened by the Council and held within eight weeks of the said notice: in default thereof the members themselves may convene and hold such meeting in accordance with this Constitution within 12 weeks of the said notice.

### **10. Interpretation**

The Council shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution and the decision of the Council upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Society and not provided for by this constitution shall be final and binding upon the members.

### **11. Dissolution**

If the Council by a simple majority decides at any time that it is necessary and desirable to dissolve the Society, it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting to consider a proposed resolution that the Society be dissolved. If such motion is carried by a majority of at least two thirds of members present and voting, the Council shall then make arrangements for the discharge of the liabilities of the Society and for the transfer of all assets of the Society, including the library to such acknowledged United Kingdom Philatelic or Postal History body or bodies as the Council shall deem appropriate. Upon completion of such transfer the Society shall be dissolved.

Marc Oxley  
Hon. Secretary  
14<sup>th</sup> February 2024