

SANKEY CANAL RESTORATION SOCIETY

Founded 1985

General Rules

1. The Society shall be called the "Sankey Canal Restoration Society".

The aims of the Society shall be those set forth in Appendix I to these rules.

The powers of the Society shall be those set forth in Appendix II to these rules.

2. Membership of the Society shall consist of Individual Members and Institutional Members, all of whom shall be entitled to the privileges of membership as defined in Rule 30. Every Member shall be entitled to one vote at all General Meetings of the Society.

The vote of each Institutional Member shall be exercised by its Secretary present at the meeting, or by some other of its Officers approved by the Society, and duly authorised by the Institution so to act.

3. All applications for Membership shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary.
4. The rate or rates of Annual and Life Membership Subscriptions shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting and, except as provided in Rule 5, will be payable not later than 31st March.

A Subscription paid after 30th September in any year by a new member joining after that date will expire on 31st December of the year following the year of joining.

In any other case Subscriptions will expire on 31st December following the date of payment.

5. A Member wishing to resign from membership must give notice in writing.
6. A Member whose Subscription has not been paid before the end of the current subscription year will automatically cease to be a Member.

TRUSTEES

7. The Society may appoint a Custodian Trustee or a Trust Corporation of not less than three persons (not being Members of the Committee) to hold any real or personal property held by or in the name of the Society.

MANAGEMENT.

8. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee shall be by ballot.
9. At the first Annual General Meeting the Society shall elect from the body of all the Individual Members, a committee which shall consist of the following :

- a) A Chairman, an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer.

If for any of these Offices no suitable candidate can be found from the body of the Individual Members, appointments shall be made from other sources outside the Society.

- b) Nine other Members who shall hold office for the following terms :
 - Three Members for one year.
 - Three Members for two years.
 - Three Members for three years.

Ballot papers must make proper provision for Members to be so elected.

10. At each subsequent Annual General Meeting the following shall be elected :

- a) As provided in Rule 9(a) a Chairman, an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon Treasurer, shall be ex-officio Members of the Committee.

- b) Three Committee Members to replace the three whose terms of office has expired. (1999)

Any vacancy arising before the next Annual General Meeting may be filled by a Member appointed by the Committee to hold office for the period remaining before the next election of Committee Members.

11. The management of the Society shall be in the control of the Chairman and Members of the Committee, of whom five, including one Officer may form a quorum.
12. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt persons, whether members of the Society or not to serve on that Committee for a fixed term, to be determined by the Committee at the time of the co-option ; provided that the number of co-options shall not exceed three persons at any one time. Co-opted members shall/shall not have full voting rights at Committee Meetings.
13. The Committee may appoint such Sub-Committees from among its members as it thinks fit, and all necessary funds for the use of such Sub-Committees shall be voted by the Committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of such Committees shall be reported fully and promptly to the Committee.

The Chairman of the Society will be an ex-officio Member of all Sub-Committees.

14. At all Committee Meetings, except as provided in Rules 26 and 28, and at all other Meetings of the Society, decisions shall be reached and resolutions carried by a simple majority of those Members present and voting, each Member having one vote. When an equal number of votes are cast for and against a resolution, the Chairman shall exercise a second or casting vote.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

15. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held no later than the 31st March in each year. Not less than Twenty one days notice convening the meeting shall be sent to all Members. The notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the Agenda, a copy of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, the Annual Financial Statement, any necessary nomination forms and any motion submitted under Rule 17.
16. The Annual General Meeting shall decide on any motion submitted to it, but no motion may be moved at the Meeting except motions relating to the adoption of the Annual Financial Statement of Accounts, or the election of Officers and Members of the Committee, unless notice in writing, signed by the Member who proposes to move it and stating its terms, has been received by the Hon. Secretary at least twenty one days before the date appointed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting : provided that the Chairman of the meeting shall, at his discretion, and with the consent of the majority of the Members present have power to admit any resolution of which adequate notice has been given, if such a motion would not involve any alterations to Appendix I of these Rules, or to the Constitution of the Society.
17. A Member proposing a nomination for an Officer of the Society, or the membership of the Committee, shall give notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary, consent of the nominee having first been obtained, together with the name of the seconder.
18. Special General Meetings shall be held as considered necessary by the Committee or if a request is made to the Hon. Secretary by not less than twenty of the Members stating in writing the object of the meeting, whereupon the Hon. Secretary shall call a meeting of the Society within 28 days. Ten day's notice shall be given to all Members specifying the object of the Meeting.
19. Any resolution passed at a Special General Meeting shall be confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

20. The investment of the funds of the Society shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee. No money shall be paid out of the Society's funds without their approval.
22. At each Annual General Meeting there will be appointed an Hon, Auditor. The Hon. Auditor shall not be eligible to be appointed as a trustee to hold a property of the Society.
- 23 The Hon. Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Society, and shall keep full and proper accounts of all receipts and payments, and shall render a full and clear Account for audit and approval whenever required by the Committee and in any case not less than once in each financial year.

The Hon. Treasurer may be authorised by the Committee to hold an imprest account of an amount specified by the Committee for small day-to-day disbursements, including postage and stationery. The Committee shall set a limit to the amount of such transaction.

An Annual Statement duly audited shall be submitted to Members at the Annual General Meeting.

24. The Hon. Treasurer shall, in the name of the Society, open such current and deposit accounts and with such clearing banks in the United Kingdom for the holding of the monies of the Society as the Committee shall decide.

Cheques shall require the signature of any two of : The Chairman, the Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Treasurer.

25. The Society's Accounts will be scrutinised in accordance with Charity Commission ruling.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

26. The Committee may at any time pass a resolution or any of the Members may prior to the Annual General Meeting submit a motion under Rule 17 or Rule 19 whereby the General Meeting be requested to discuss amendments to the Rules of the Society : provided however that no such amendments may be made to any of the aims and objectives of the Society set forth in Appendix I to these Rules, and that no such amendments would cause the Society to cease to be charitable at law. A majority of 75% of the Members present and voting shall be required for such amendments.
- 26 The Committee must ensure that a Special General Meeting of the Society be convened, in pursuance of Rule 19 to consider the proposed amendments.

WINDING UP

27. The Committee or any twenty of the Members of the Society may serve notice under Rule 19 requiring that an Extraordinary General Meeting be convened for the purpose of winding up the Sankey Canal Restoration Society.
28. The General Meeting may resolve by a vote of at least 75% of the Members present to dissolve the Society. In such event the committee will forthwith take steps to realise all the assets of the Society and to discharge all its liabilities.
29. Any assets which remain in the hands of the Committee shall thereupon be transferred to and shall vest in such other charities having objectives akin to those of the Society as the Committee, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners, shall decide.
30. Subject to payment of any charges which may be necessary for the hire of coaches or for the use of similar facilities in connection with any activities of the Society, a Member of the Society shall be fully entitled to participate in any activity which the Society organises in pursuit of the objectives which are set forth in Appendix I to these Rules.
31. A copy of these Rules must be supplied to Members.

APPENDIX I

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

To further the preservation, conservation and restoration of the Sankey Canal, and to promote and stimulate public interest in, and the fullest appropriate use by the public of, the whole of the Canal and its environs.

APPENDIX II

In furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Society specified in Appendix I of these Rules, the Society shall exercise such of the following powers as from time to time may be deemed necessary.

1. To procure, promote and effect the achievement of any or all the objectives by bringing together such human and material resources and giving such advice and practical assistance as may be considered appropriate.
2. To organise or procure the organisation of seminars, courses, conferences or other meetings for the furtherance of such objectives.
3. To employ or retain the services of such persons as may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives on such terms as may be thought fit.
4. To establish, subsidise and promote, co-operate or federate with or affiliate or become affiliated to, act as trustees or agents for or manage, lend to or deal with Local Authorities and charitable associations, societies and bodies established for comparable or similar charitable purposes and for the purpose of promoting the objectives of the Society, to co-operate with manufacturers, dealers, traders, the press and other non-charitable bodies, but not so as to confer any bounty upon them.
5. To purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire real and personal property and any rights and privileges which shall be necessary or convenient for the promotion of the objectives of the Society and to maintain, construct, alter, pull down and convert such buildings as may be necessary for the work of the Society.
6. To accept gifts which are or may be intended to further the work of the Society.
7. Subject to such consents as may be required by law, to sell, let, mortgage or dispose of, turn to account and otherwise deal with such property and assets of the Society as may be thought expedient to promote the objectives of the Society.
8. To undertake and execute such charitable trusts and commissions as may be lawfully undertaken by the Society within its objectives.
9. To borrow or raise money in such amounts and manner and upon such terms as the Society shall think fit, subject to consents (if any) as may for the time being be imposed by law and subject also as hereinafter provided.
10. To receive loans at interest or otherwise and to lend money and give credit to, or take security for such loans or credit and to guarantee and become or be given security for the performance of contracts by any person or company as may be necessary for the work of the Society.
11. To draw, accept, endorse, issue or execute promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants, and other negotiables, transferable or mercantile instruments, for the purpose of or in connection with the objectives of the Society.
12. To establish, promote or assist societies with charitable objects similar to those of the Society for the acquisition of the property or liabilities of the Society or to carry on any authorised activity of the Society or for any other charitable purpose directly or indirectly calculated to benefit the Society in the furtherance of its objects.
13. To amalgamate, merge or join in with any charity having charitable objects wholly or in part similar to those of this Society for the purpose of better effectuating the charitable purposes.
14. To make donations to assist financially or otherwise and to co-operate with any other charity having objects similar to the Society.
15. To grant pensions and retirement benefits to or for employees or former employees of the Society and to the widows, children and other dependants of the deceased employees who are in necessitous circumstances and to pay or subscribe to funds or schemes for the provision of pensions and retirement benefits for employees and former employees of the Society, their widows, children and dependants.

16. To purchase, acquire and undertake all or any of the property, liability and engagements of charitable associations, societies or bodies with which the Society may co-operate or federate.
17. To pay out of the funds of the Society the costs of forming and registering the Society.
18. To do all such other lawful things as shall further the attainment of the objects of the Society or any of them;

PROVIDED THAT

- (i) In the case the Society shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trust, the Society shall only deal with or invest the same in such a manner as allowed by law, having regard to such trusts.
- (ii) The Society's objects shall not extend to the regulation of relations between workers and employers or organisations or workers and organisations of employers.
- (iii) The Society shall not engage in any activity which has not as an object directly or indirectly the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Society.

Revised version following the amendment agreed at the AGM of March 25th 1999