

**Rules of
THE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 22 September 1951; as amended at AGM 13 September 1952, revised and adopted at the AGM 12 March 1977, amended to achieve Charitable Status by the AGM 17 March 1984, amended by the Special General Meeting 13 October 1991 and further amended by the AGMs of 13 June 1992, 11 July 1998, 13 October 2001, 13 October 2007, 9 October 2010, 10 October 2015 and 12 September 2020

Registered Charity No. 289326

- 1. NAME.** The Society shall be called The Military Historical Society.
- 2. OBJECTS.** The objects of the Society shall be the advancement of the education of the public by the promotion of the study of the history of the uniformed forces of the Crown, of uniforms and weapons, and all aspects of military history, and the dissemination of knowledge relating to such matters. In furtherance of the above objects the Society may:
 - a. Hold formal educational talks and meetings.
 - b. Promote the collection of objects of military interest.
 - c. Do such other lawful things as shall further the objects of the Society.
- 3. MEMBERSHIP.** Membership of the Society shall be open to any person who has in the current year paid a subscription under Rule 10, provided that the General Committee may refuse to admit as a member or may terminate the membership of any person in their absolute discretion.
- 4. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.** A member who has performed notable service to the Society may be elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society by a simple majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting. Such members shall not be required to pay the Society's annual subscription but shall otherwise rank as ordinary members.
- 5. HONORARY APPOINTMENTS.** An appropriate person, whether or not a member, may be elected at an Annual General Meeting to be President of the Society for a period of five years. The Society may also elect up to three members to be Vice-Presidents for periods of five years, such appointments to be made at an Annual General Meeting. The President and Vice-Presidents may be re-elected for further periods of five years at the expiry of each period of office.
- 6. GENERAL COMMITTEE.**
 - a. There shall be a General Committee whose members are the de facto officers of the Society, with power to co-opt and do any acts which the Society may lawfully do to further the objects of the Society.
 - b. The General Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a General Secretary, a Treasurer, an Editor and not more than eight other members elected at a General Meeting of the Society or co-opted pending the next such meeting. The Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and Editor shall each hold office for a period of five years, other members of the Committee for a period of three years. Any member of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election at the expiry of each period of office.
 - c. Any member of the Society, not being a member of the General Committee, or any other person judged by the General Committee to be able to assist the General Committee in its deliberations, may be invited to attend any meeting of the said committee but shall not have a vote on any proposition.
 - d. The Chairman shall preside at meetings and in the event of equal numbers of votes being cast for or against any proposition shall have an additional or casting vote. Should the Chairman for any reason be absent from a meeting, those General Committee members who are present shall elect one of their number to preside at that meeting only.
 - e. The General Committee shall meet at least twice yearly. Four members of the General Committee shall form a quorum.
 - f. Committee members, as de facto Trustees of The Military Historical Society Charity, will be responsible as such to the Charity Commission and the Society members for the performance of their duties in accordance with the latest Charity Commission guidelines and Society rules.

g. All decisions at meetings shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Saturday in September each year, unless at least 28 days' notice of a different date has been given. At the Annual General Meeting the General Committee shall present for approval a report and a statement of accounts up to 31 December of the previous year and the meeting shall elect members of the General Committee, as necessary, appoint an Independent Examiner of the Society's accounts for the current year, and transact such other business as is necessary. Notice of any intended motion shall be made to the Secretary by the end of June.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS. A Special General Meeting of the Society, of which not less than 28 days' notice must be given, may be convened by the General Committee and shall be convened after receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 10 members of the Society. Ten members, other than signatories to any such requisition, shall form a quorum.

9. ACCIDENTAL OMISSIONS. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by any person entitled to receive notice, shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS. The subscription of members shall be as fixed from time to time by a General Meeting, or by the General Committee if granted such discretion by a General Meeting.

11. SUBSCRIPTION DATE. Subscriptions shall be due and payable on the second day of January in each year.

12. INTERPRETATION. On any question of interpretation or in relation to any matter arising the General Committee shall have power to determine on and decide the same and on matters on which these Rules are silent the General Committee shall have power to act at its discretion.

13. BRANCHES.

a. Members of the Society may form themselves into a Branch of the Society subject to the consent of the General Committee.

b. Branches shall operate within these Rules but are empowered to adopt their own Branch rules providing these are consistent with those of the Society and conform to the general policy of the Society.

c. All members of a Branch must be members of the Society.

d. A Branch may levy an additional Branch subscription on Branch members and may elect a Branch committee.

e. As a matter of principle each Branch shall be self-financing, however, Branches may apply to the General Committee for a grant towards their running costs.

f. Each Branch shall make an Annual Report to the Secretary of the Society, for incorporation in the report under Rule 7.

14. AMENDMENT TO THE RULES. The Rules may be amended by the majority of the members present and voting at the AGM, providing that no alteration to Rule 2 (objects), Rule 15 (dissolution) or this Rule 14, shall be ratified without prior approval in writing of the Charity Commission or other authority having charitable jurisdiction and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a Charity at law.

15. DISSOLUTION. The Society may be wound up at any time by resolution in General Meeting. In such event the General Committee shall as soon as possible wind up the affairs of the Society. Should there be a surplus of funds after payment of the debts and liabilities of the Society and all costs of winding up, the General Committee shall donate such surplus funds to such organisation or to such charity or charities having similar objects to the Society as the Committee may, with approval of the Charity Commission, determine. Should the funds of the Society be insufficient to meet the debts and liabilities of the Society the deficiency shall be made good by the members of the Society.