



The Stephenson Locomotive Society

GENERAL RULES

(Incorporating all revisions approved at the Society AGM up to and including 27 April 2013)

1. The Society shall be known as 'The Stephenson Locomotive Society'. It shall be a non-profit making body.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to cover, so far as practicable, every phase of railway activity, by such means as –
 - (a) meetings for lectures, discussions, debates, pictorial or other displays, exhibitions;
 - (b) visits to places of railway interest, tours, walks;
 - (c) maintenance of a Library for the use of all members;
 - (d) publication of a *Journal*;
 - (e) promotion of co-operation, affiliation and, in desirable cases, amalgamation with other bodies having similar objects
3. The Society in the British Isles shall be divided into Areas, each at its discretion establishing Centres within its area. Members resident overseas shall be considered to be attached to the London & Southern Area.
4. The Society shall be governed by a Council of the members, which will consist of the Chairman, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and up to two representatives elected by each Area Annual General Meeting. In addition Council may appoint a maximum of six officers who shall be full members of the Council.
 - (a) A quorum at any Council meeting shall consist of not less than half the elected members and include at least one of the Chairman, General Secretary & General Treasurer.
 - (b) Other than the Chairman who shall have a casting vote, no member of the Council shall have more than one vote.
 - (c) The Chairman, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and elected Area representatives shall hold their offices for three years; in all cases Council membership shall commence on 1st June.
 - (d) All elected members of Council shall be eligible for re-election.
 - (e) Nominations for the post of Chairman, or General Secretary or General Treasurer as may be appropriate shall be made to the General Secretary by a

date, which is to be announced in the *Journal* not later than 1st February, and any consequent elections shall be by ballot of all members of the Society.

- (f) The Council shall have the power to co-opt members to fill interim vacancies thereon.
 - (g) The Council shall meet at such intervals it considers necessary.
 - (h) A deputy for an Area representative may attend Council meeting, providing that such deputy is a member of that Area Committee.
5. The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in April or May at such a location, within the United Kingdom, as the Council shall decide when the result of the election of the Chairman or the General Secretary or the General Treasurer, as the case may be, will be announced. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given in the *Journal*, not later than 1st April.
- The Council may, whenever they think fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened on such requisition in writing by not less than five per cent of the total membership as at the previous 31st December.
6. The Council shall appoint as Honorary Officers of the Society, a President as Titular Head and not more than eight Vice-Presidents, making its choice from suitable persons within or without the Society as seen fit. Should the President wish to stand down a successor shall be appointed and the former President may hold the Honorary title of Past President as the Council sees fit.
7. Each Area shall be managed by an Area Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary, the elected Area representatives and as many other members as are deemed necessary.
- (a) A quorum at any Area Committee meeting shall be half the members, both elected and ex-officio.
 - (b) Election shall take place at the Area Annual General Meeting, to be held not later than 31st March, and appointments shall be for three years, with retirement dates spread so far as possible over the years.
 - (c) Centre Secretaries not specifically elected shall be ex officio members of the Area Committee.
 - (d) Members shall be eligible for re-election and each Area Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to fill interim vacancies.
8. Each Centre shall be administered by a Centre Secretary, from within the Centre, or a Centre Committee which shall include the Centre Secretary. The Centre Secretary or Committee will be responsible for the Centre and through the Centre Secretary to the Area Committee and to Council.
9. The General Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received and expended by the Society and prepare an income and expenditure account and balance sheet made up to

31st December, which shall be examined by a suitably qualified accountant who may be a member and issued to all members for adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

10. All applicants for membership of the Society shall be at least fourteen years of age, but power shall be reserved to the Council, upon the recommendation of an Area Committee, to waive the age limit if considered desirable. Applications for membership shall be ratified by the appropriate Area Committee where necessary and shall be made on the appropriate form.
11. Reasonable travelling expenses may be claimed by members attending Council Meetings, and, at the discretion of Council, for attending other meetings on Society business, or formally representing the Society at public events. When necessary between Council Meetings, agreement may be given by the General Treasurer together with either the Chairman or the General Secretary.
12. Each member, other than a life member, shall be required to pay an annual subscription to the Society, of an amount to be fixed from time to time by the Council. The subscription is due by 1st January in each year. All members in arrears shall receive a written reminder within three months of the due date and shall have their membership terminated should they not have paid within one month of the issue of that reminder.

Council shall define other classes of membership (eg Junior, Family, Associate and Corporate members) with appropriate subscriptions and conditions of membership.
13. Change of address of a member shall be notified immediately to the Membership Secretary.
14. It shall not be permissible for any member to use the name of the Society either to gain private advantage or to the detriment of the Society in general.
15. A leader shall be appointed for every organised visit of the Society's members and shall have complete authority for the conduct of the visit. Any member, or visitor introduced by a member, who takes part in a visit organised by the Society, either alone or in conjunction with any other body, shall indemnify the society, together with its officers, the leader of the visit and owners or occupiers of premises visited against any claim for injury or loss sustained by him caused by his negligence during the course of the visit.
16. The Council, by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members, shall have power to frame additional rules governing the organisation of the Society and to amend or rescind any existing rules which changes shall be effective until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall be either confirmed or rescinded.
17. The Council may decide upon any matter not provided for in these rules.
18. Every member of the Society shall be provided with a copy of these rules.
19. Any proposal for the alteration of the Rules or structure of the Society shall be the subject of a vote by members and shall be included in the agenda of a General Meeting. Each member of the Society shall in such case, be entitled to submit to the General Secretary (in writing to arrive at least seven days before the meeting) a vote for or against the

proposition and these votes shall be included in any relevant voting taken during the meeting.

20. Unless a relic is held in duplicate or is outside the Society's current or prospective interests, its disposal shall require prior notice to all members and the agreement of a simple majority of members voting at a General Meeting of the Society or in writing; the administrative provisions of Rule 19 are to apply. Relics for this purpose include nameplates, number plates, makers' plates, models and works of art.