

SOCIETY FOR ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Registered Charity No. 247844



CONSTITUTION

Name 1 The name of the Society shall be 'THE SOCIETY FOR ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH.', Registered Charity No 247844

Objects 2 The objects of the Society shall be the encouragement and development of Army Historical Research and the promotion and maintenance of regimental and military traditions by means of a charitable character, including:

- (a) Research into all aspects of the British Army or its predecessors, and of the Land Forces of the Empire and Commonwealth.
- (b) Publication of a Journal to be called *The Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, containing original articles, extracts from rare and not easily accessible old military works and manuscripts, pictures, drawings, notes, questions and answers.
- (c) Advice and encouragement to those responsible for regimental and other military museums.
- (d) Arrangement of lectures and meetings on matters relating to the Society's objects.

Membership 3

- (a) Membership shall be open to all persons or institutions who are interested in actively furthering the objects of the Society. The membership shall include existing Life Members so long as any survive.
- (b) Persons or institutions desirous of being admitted to membership shall complete the Society's application form which, accompanied by the appropriate subscription, shall be forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

(c) The Council shall have the right to remove any person or institution from the list of members if continued membership has or is likely to bring the Society into disrepute.

Subscriptions 4

(a) Each member shall pay a subscription upon joining the Society and subsequently on 1st January in each year.

(b) Subscription rates and categories and conditions of membership shall be such as are from time to time fixed at the Annual General Meeting.

(c) No publications shall be sent to any member whose subscription is more than six months in arrear, at which time their membership shall be deemed to have lapsed.

Patron, President, Honorary Officers and Trustees 5

The Society shall have the following honorary positions the holders of which shall not be officers of the Society:

a) A PATRON

b) A PRESIDENT who shall be chosen by Council. He or she shall not, at the time of selection or afterwards, be an approved member of Council and need not, until after selection, be a member of the Society. He or she shall be proposed to the membership at the next Annual General Meeting and shall be approved/endorsed at that meeting. He or she shall be eligible for re-selection for further terms of five years consecutively until he/she shall declare his/her wish to retire.

(c) VICE-PRESIDENTS who shall be elected for life at an Annual General Meeting.

And the following functionaries who shall be Officers of the Society:

(d) An HONORARY SECRETARY, HONORARY EDITOR, HONORARY TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY and such other Honorary Officers as may be deemed necessary, who shall be nominated by the Council, and elected to serve for one year at each Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy that may occur during the year shall be filled by Council.

(e) AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OR AUDITORS who shall be appointed at an Annual General Meeting.

Council 6

- (a) The management of the Society shall be vested in a Council consisting of not more than eleven members who shall be approved by the members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting; together with the Officers appointed under Clause 5d as ex-officio members. Five, inclusive of three elected members, shall form a quorum.
- (b) All of the approved members of the Council shall retire at each Annual General Meeting but may be re-selected a maximum of four times, after which they shall be ineligible for re-selection for one year.
- (c) One of the selected members of Council shall be appointed by members of Council to act as their CHAIRMAN. On selection he may serve as such for a maximum period of five years, after which he shall be ineligible for re-selection as a member of Council for two years.
- (d) All of the approved members of Council and all of the officers shall be Trustees of the Society as defined in the rules, regulations or legislation relating to the management of charities. It is necessary therefore that this requirement be fully explained to those offering themselves to serve on Council and unwillingness to adopt these responsibilities as Trustees shall debar anyone from serving as a member of Council.
- (e) The Council shall have power to co-opt for special purposes and to fill any vacancies. Members of Council so co-opted must signify their willingness to act as Trustees of the Society in the same way as approved Members of Council.
- (f) In order to encourage and promote the Society's contacts amongst young people interested in the history of the British Army, Council may co-opt and offer for approval a Student Member of Council primarily to advise on this matter. He or she shall be an Honorary Officer and a Trustee of the Society as outlined in Para 6d above.
- (g) Trustees wishing to resign from Council shall be taken to have done so as from the date of their letter of resignation. Resignation from Council does not absolve the former Trustee from accounting for his or her conduct during the period of his/her trusteeship in the event of investigations by the charity authorities in relation to the Society during the period when the former Trustee was a member of Council.
- (h) In the event of more than eleven Society members offering themselves as Trustees in any one year, the Honorary Secretary shall endeavour to negotiate a reduction in the number offering themselves for Council. In the event of failure to achieve this, all of those offering themselves shall supply a statement of the purpose of their candidature eight weeks before the AGM which shall be circulated to all individual members of the

Society by post with a voting form for return to an independent examiner before the date of the AGM. The elected candidates will then be offered to the AGM for approval.

Committees 7

(a) Council may delegate responsibility to specialist committees, who shall choose their own officers, keep minutes and report to Council regularly through an Officer or an approved member of Council.

(b) All Committee decisions are subject to the approval of Council and a Committee shall not exceed the level of expenditure allocated to it by Council.

Annual General Meeting 8

(a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held during April of each year at such time and Meeting place as Council shall determine. A formal notice shall be published not less than three months before the date of the meeting. This notice shall include details or any proposed alteration to the Constitution or to the subscription rate.

(b) All business for the Annual General Meeting including nominations for Office or for membership of Council and any other business, shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting. Nominations must be in writing and formally seconded.

(c) Agenda for the Annual General Meeting, including a report and certificated as having been audited or examined for the previous calendar year, shall be sent to all members entitled to attend and vote not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

(d) Only Life Members and fully paid up individual members present shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Extraordinary General Meetings 9

The Council shall have power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time, and Council shall call such meetings if so required in writing by no fewer than ten paid up individual members. Fourteen clear days' notice of such meeting shall be given to members.

Amendments 10

Alteration to these rules shall require the assent of two-thirds of those members present and entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the rules must be received by the Honorary Secretary of the Society at least six weeks before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days' notice must be given by the Honorary Secretary to the members and must include notice of the alteration proposed. No alteration shall be made to Clause 2 (OBJECTS), Clause 11 (DISSOLUTION) or this clause without the prior approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners 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 in law. A formal record of amendments to the Constitution shall be kept including the date/s when such amendments are proposed and the date of the Annual General Meeting at which such amendment or such further adjusted amendment is assented to by the Members. Dated copies of the new Constitution shall be provided to the President and all members of Council by the Secretary before the next Council meeting after the Annual General Meeting at which the amendment was incorporated. New Members of Council co-opted before the next Annual General Meeting shall receive a copy of the Constitution at the time of their acceptance onto Council.

Dissolution 11

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those members present and entitled to vote at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which fourteen days' notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be offered for sale to or distributed among the members of the Society, but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Trustees shall determine and if and in so far as affect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.