

THATCHAM & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION – (2002 revision)

1. NAME

The Society shall be called the "Thatcham & District Philatelic Society"

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be the promotion of philately in all its facets.

3. MEETINGS

The Society shall hold monthly meetings, the date, time and place to be determined by the committee.

4. PRESIDENT.

The President shall be elected by the members attending the AGM on the recommendation of the general committee of the society. The President will be able to attend any committee meetings but will not have any voting rights. The President is an honorary and ex-officio position, appointed for life or until such time as they may offer their resignation.

The President shall undertake such duties as requested by the committee.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The Society is open to all persons of the age 18 and over having an interest in philately. Persons under the age of 18 shall be eligible to join as junior members.

Applicants for membership must complete the appropriate form, as determined by the committee, which the Secretary shall submit to the committee for ratification.

6. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS.

The committee will recommend from time to time as the occasion arises that suitably qualified members will be elected as Honorary Life Members. These members, who will have full voting rights, can be elected at an A.G.M. to serve on the committee or be elected an officer of the society. These members may be co-opted to serve on any committee or sub-committee of the society.

These members will enjoy the full benefits of the Society.

The number of Honorary Life Members will be limited to a maximum of 5 at any one time.

7. TERMINATION

The committee shall, in their absolute discretion, have the power to terminate the membership of any member, subject to a unanimous decision of the whole committee, and such decision shall be notified by post to the member concerned at their last known address. If the member in question is a committee member they will not be able to cast a vote in this matter.

Anyone whose membership has been terminated under this rule is no longer entitled to make use of the Society and its facilities, and no part of any subscription paid will be refunded.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription shall be determined at the AGM of the Society after considering the recommendation of the committee.

Subscriptions shall become due on 1st January each year. For new members joining after the AGM, their first year's subscription will be valid until 31st December of the following year.

Members whose subscriptions have not been paid by 1st March shall be deemed as having terminated their membership if, after a final reminder, this has not been paid by 30th April.

Any person who successfully participates in a Society Auction and who is not a member of the Society at the time of the Auction shall be required to become an Associate Member for the period of that Auction at an appropriate Associate Membership fee of 10% of the current membership subscription.

9. MANAGEMENT

The Society shall be managed by a committee consisting of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Auction Secretary and up to 4 other members, all of whom must be full members of the Society.

The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur and to co-opt members to the committee as necessary for the benefit of the Society.

The committee shall determine the frequency of their meetings with a minimum of 3 per year. A quorum shall be 4 committee members of whom not less than 2 shall be officers of the Society.

The Chairman of the meeting shall have a second, or casting, vote at all committee and general meetings when a vote taken results in an equal number of votes being cast both for and against the motion.

The Secretary shall convene all meetings of the Society and shall keep regular minutes of all proceedings. He shall also keep an up-to-date list of members including their telephone numbers and addresses.

The committee shall be responsible for the proper custody of the property of the Society, keep an inventory and act as Trustees for such property.

The committee may, at their discretion, arrange for such services to be given to members as they may consider desirable and shall have the power to make rules and regulations for the operation of these services.

10. FINANCE

The Treasurer, under the authority of the committee, shall discharge all the accounts and, at the AGM each year, submit an audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st July..

The Society's funds shall be held in such a manner as recommended by the Treasurer and approved by the committee.

All cheques issued on the Society accounts shall be signed by any two of the Treasurer, Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary.

The accounts shall be audited by an independent person appointed by the committee.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

An ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be held in September each year to receive a statement of accounts for the previous financial year, elect officers and committee for the ensuing year and to transact any other business as may be deemed necessary. 21 days notice, in writing, of such meeting shall be given to all members, such notice to specify the agenda.

The committee shall be elected by majority vote at the AGM following prior nomination or nomination at the meeting if necessary. All nominations must be with the approval of the nominee. All officers and committee members shall retire each year but will be eligible for re-election.

10 members present shall constitute a quorum for the AGM at which only fully paid-up members shall be entitled to vote. All decisions will be made by a majority vote.

Honorary Life Members may be elected at the AGM on recommendation by the committee.

An EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING may be called at the request of the committee or following receipt by the Secretary of a written request signed by at least 10 fully paid-up members. 21 days notice, in writing, of such meeting shall be given to all members, including an agenda for that meeting.

12. AFFILIATIONS

The Society shall be affiliated to such Federations and Philatelic organisations as approved by the committee.

13. CONSTITUTION

Each member shall be provided with a copy of the Society's Constitution by which he/she shall be bound.

In the event of a question arising as to the interpretation of the Constitution, the decision of the committee shall be final.

Members may advise the Secretary of any proposed changes, in writing, at least 28 days before the notice of the meeting is distributed. Each proposal must have a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be full members of the Society.

Alterations to the Constitution may only be made at the AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. The proposed alterations shall be clearly set out in the notice convening such meeting, for which 21 days notice must be given.

14. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Society becoming non-viable for any reason, the Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting, giving members 21 days notice, in writing, of such meeting. The notice shall outline the reasons for the proposed dissolution. The meeting shall decide how to divest such assets, including finance, that the Society may have and conduct any other associated business.