

SOUTHAMPTON & DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

RULES

The Society

1. The Society shall be known as “The Southampton & District Philatelic Society” whose objectives shall be:
 - a. General study and advancement of philately in all its aspects.
 - b. Provision of an environment for collectors to meet and discuss their various interests, to exchange stamps and improve knowledge.
 - c. Provision of speakers and displays locally.
 - d. Provision of a stamp packet and regular auctions of philatelic material.
 - e. Provision of a philatelic library for the use of the members.
 - f. Organisation of visits to national and international philatelic events.

Membership

2. The society shall consist of Honorary Life Members and Full Members. Full Members shall pay an annual subscription as determined at a General Meeting from time to time.
3. Candidates seeking membership must complete an application form and obtain signatures of two Full Members of the Society as proposer and seconder. The candidate becomes a member of the Society after election by members at an Ordinary or General Meeting and after payment of the required subscription. If a prospective member does not have the necessary sponsors, the application form is to be completed as far as possible and sent or handed to the Membership Secretary.
4. The Society complies with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.
5. All members shall be bound by the ‘Rules of The Society’.
6. The Membership Secretary is to be notified by members in writing (which includes by email) of resignation and changes of address.
7. The Society reserves the right to refuse or terminate membership, without explanation.

Meetings

8. **Ordinary Meetings:** Evening meetings will normally take place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with the exception of August and December, when they may be held on the first Tuesday only. Afternoon meetings will normally take place on the second Thursday of each month.
9. Members may introduce visitors at any Ordinary Meeting but not the same visitor more than three times in any one year.
10. **Annual General Meetings:** An Annual General Meeting is to be held as one of the meetings in March or April, when an Annual Report and an audited Statement of Income and Expenditure together with a Balance Sheet for the previous year shall be presented.
11. **Special General Meetings:** A Special General Meeting shall be called if the Secretary receives a written request setting out details of the resolutions or proposals to be discussed, signed by five or more members.
12. No new rules, nor alterations to, nor deletion of existing rules, shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting at which not less than ten members shall form a *quorum*. Twenty-one days' notice of such meetings shall be given in writing to all members.

Subscriptions

13. All subscriptions become payable on 1st January annually. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid at the end of March shall be deemed to have resigned and his/her name will be deleted from the Society's membership. The first subscription of members joining shall cover membership to 31st December of that year. Subscriptions can be paid by Standing Order and forms are available from the Membership Secretary.

Officers

14. Officers of the Society shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting as follows:
 - a. The President and Vice President (acting as President Elect) shall be elected for a term of five years. Both may seek re-election for a further term of three years and may serve in their respective capacities for no more than eight years, consecutive or otherwise.
 - b. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected for a term of five years. Both may seek re-election for a further term of three years and may serve in their respective capacities for no more than eight years, consecutive or otherwise.
 - c. The following Officers of the Society shall be elected annually: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Programme Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Bugle Street Meetings Secretary, Packet Manager, Auction Manager, Postmark Editor, Public Relations Officer, Librarian, Archivist, Curator of Society Collection, Chandler's Ford Convenor, Zoom Meeting Convenor and Facebook Manager.

15. The affairs and business of the Society shall be conducted by the Committee consisting of the following Officers: President (or Vice President), Chairman (or Vice Chairman), Secretary, Treasurer (or Assistant Treasurer), Chandler's Ford Convenor, Postmark Editor, Public Relations Officer and Librarian. Other Officers may attend committee meetings if they wish. A quorum of the Committee shall be five persons. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt and shall be fully entitled to act as they consider fit in all matters not otherwise provided for in the Rules. All appointments are honorary. One member of the Committee is to be nominated to represent the Society at Hampshire Federation meetings.
16. At all meetings of the Society or of the Committee, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
17. An honorary Auditor shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Finance

18. Bank accounts shall be maintained in the name of the Society as follows:

- a. General Account and Investment Account - controlled by the Treasurer.
- b. Packet Account - controlled by the Packet Manager.

The sole signature of the person controlling the account or in each case one other nominated Officer of the Society, shall be sufficient authorisation for transactions within the respective accounts on behalf of the Society.

19. All changes in the Society's signatories shall be notified to the bank by the Secretary in writing. If for any reason an Officer cannot continue to carry out his duties, the Committee shall have the immediate power to appoint a replacement. Until such time as the new Officer shall assume control, any bank account shall be operated by any two of the following Officers: President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.
20. Neither the Society nor its Officers accept any financial responsibility whatsoever for the safety of stamps or other philatelic items brought by members or visitors to meetings, displayed in competitions or submitted for inclusion in the Society's auctions or Stamp Packet.

Stamp Packet

21. The Stamp Packet is to be conducted for the benefit of Full and Honorary Life Members of the Society, all of whom shall be entitled to receive the packet. The Packet Manager may terminate the participation of a member without explanation.
22. The Packet Manager shall supervise and control the Stamp Packet in accordance with prescribed rules. A copy of these rules shall be included in each Stamp Packet.
23. A member who wishes to discontinue receipt of the Stamp Packet, either temporarily or

permanently, is to notify the Packet Manager in sufficient time for an alternative distribution arrangement to be made.

24. The Packet Manager shall have the right to refuse booklets not in accordance with the Stamp Packet rules or which for any other reason he considers undesirable. Every care will be taken to protect members from loss but neither the Packet Manager nor the Society shall be in any way responsible for the debts of members nor for any philatelic material lost.
25. Vendors shall be charged a commission on sales through the Stamp Packet at a rate to be determined from time to time by the Committee.

Auctions

26. The organisation of society auctions and preparation of auction lots shall be undertaken for the benefit of the members of the Society, all of whom shall be entitled to bid in The Society's auctions.
27. The organisation and lot preparation will be conducted by the Auction Manager in accordance with prescribed rules, a copy of which will be available to all vendors and to participants at each auction.
28. Vendors shall be charged a commission on sales at auction at a rate to be determined from time to time by the Committee. There will be no buyer's premium.

Library

29. Any Member who wishes to borrow an item from the library should contact the Librarian who will arrange for it to be made available for them at a meeting as agreed between them. The loan period is nominally one month. Extensions to the loan period may be applied for and will normally be given sympathetic approval.
30. Fines may be levied on overdue items. Members shall be held liable for any damage or loss of items whilst in their care and shall make appropriate restitution if so requested.

Competitions

31. The Society may hold annual competitions at the Committee's discretion. Other than where specific qualifications apply, all competitions are open to all members. Entries may be made in any of the following classes:

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| a. Aerophilately | e. Revenues |
| b. Open (includes Social Philately) | f. Thematic |
| c. Postal History | g. Traditional (stamps) |
| d. Postal Stationery | h. Picture Postcards |

Definitions of these classes will conform to those in use by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) for national competitions.

32. Entries within each class can consist of 16 or 32 sheets and should include an introductory page. No entry can be considered in more than one class but judges may, at their discretion, transfer an entry made in one class to another.

33. **General Rules Applicable to All Competitions and Classes**

- a. Exhibit sheets should not exceed 250mm x 300mm (approx. 10" wide by 12" high).
- b. Exhibitors shall only include their bona fide property in an exhibit.
- c. All entries shall be suitably mounted and protected in a transparent display cover.
- d. Each competitor must write his or her name on the back of each sheet as well as the number of the sheet indicating the order to be viewed.
- e. If a photocopy of a philatelic item is used it must be reduced by at least 25% of actual size and labelled as a copy.
- f. The Judges may transfer an entry to another class if they consider it appropriate.
- g. A full copy of the rules, procedures and marking protocol for each class will be available from the Competition Secretary for all entrants.
- h. The winning entries (only) in any of the 16 or 32 sheet competitions cannot re-enter in any class for three years from the date of winning, regardless of how many pages have been changed.
- i. No entry fee will be required. No sheet entered in one competition may qualify for another competition.

The Members' Competition is far less structured than a formal competition evening and more of a fun event and an opportunity to display your material.

- a. Entries can be 12 to 16 sheets.
- b. A formal write-up is encouraged including an introductory page. (The introductory page simply outlines the story of the display - what is being shown and why.)
- c. A very brief spoken introduction as to the intended story of the entry is permitted.
- d. The best entry will be decided based on the votes of all the members present on the evening.
- e. Where welcomed, confidential feedback will be available from more experienced members.
- f. There may be an opportunity for entrants to participate in a future workshop to provide interactive discussion and advice in a small group setting.

34. The Society may also hold a member's Single Sheet Competition. Members present at that meeting will vote to decide the best entry.

Affiliations

35. The Society is affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS).

Dissolution of the Society

36. Should it be considered either necessary or desirable to dissolve the Society, the Committee shall convene a Special General Meeting of the Members for the purpose of passing a resolution to that end.
- a. All Members shall receive not less than 28 days' notice of the Meeting and shall be entitled to a proxy vote if unable to attend. If the meeting is not quorate it shall be adjourned for not less than 35 days and a further notice shall be sent to all Members giving 28 days' notice of the reconvened Meeting. This reconvened Meeting will proceed even if it is not quorate.
 - b. A Special Committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and further Members not exceeding three shall be appointed by the Meeting to wind up the Society in accordance with the following procedure:
 - i. The Postal History and other Archives shall not be disposed of other than in accordance with paragraph c. below.
 - ii. All non-cash assets shall be sold as soon as reasonably possible and the proceeds added to the cash assets. The sum, which represents the total realisation of the Society's assets, shall be held to the order of the Special Committee.
 - iii. If a Society, preferably local to Southampton & District, which has objectives primarily similar to the Society's objectives, is formed within a period of two years from the date of the Special General Meeting or if a Society be reformed, then the Special Committee may pay the sum to such an organisation which have as their primary objective the furtherance of Philately within the UK.
 - c. The Special Committee shall dispose of and distribute the Postal History and other Archives at their discretion with consideration of the intent of the donors and of the historical interest of the items.
 - d. The Special Committee shall call a Final Meeting of the former Members of the Society, not later than two years from the date of cessation, at which the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds raised and the disposal of those funds and the Postal History and other Archives held by the Special Committee.