



# THE STEAMBOAT ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN CONSTITUTION



This Constitution was approved by the 2019 AGM of the SBA and a referendum of all members.

## 1. Name

The name of this Association shall be "The Steam Boat Association of Great Britain".

## 2. Address

The address of the Association for correspondence shall be that of the Honorary Secretary currently in office.

## 3. Objects

The aims and objects of the Association are:

- (i) To foster and encourage steam boating and the building, development, preservation and restoration of steam boats and steam machinery, by all possible means.
- (ii) To stimulate public interest in steam boats and steam boating.
- (iii) To promote high standards of workmanship, safety and seamanship.

## 4. Activities

In furtherance of the said objects, but not otherwise, the Association shall, through its Committee, have the following powers:

- (a) To act as a co-ordinating body and to co-operate with steam boat owners, builders, manufacturers, operators, authorities, voluntary organisations, charities, and persons having similar aims to those of the Association.
- (b) To promote research into subjects connected with the objectives of the Association and to publish the results of any such work.
- (c) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions and to publish papers, reports and other literature.
- (d) To bring together owners of steam boats and others interested in the subject for the enjoyment of social occasions, cruises, regattas etc., to facilitate the exchange of ideas and news between them and to help them in the solution of technical problems.
- (e) To make surveys and plans and collect and dispense information likely to further the objects of the Association.
- (f) To give advice and information to Members, other interested parties or the general public.
- (g) To raise funds and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise; any sum so received to be applied solely in meeting the expenses incurred in promoting the aims of the Association.
- (h) To do all other things consistent with the attainment of the objects of the Association.

## 5. Membership

Membership shall be open to all persons supporting the objects of the Association. There shall be the following classes of United Kingdom and Overseas Members: Ordinary, Junior, and Honorary.

Junior Members are Members under 18 years of age or under 21 years of age if in full-time education who are not in a Family of Members.

Honorary Members shall be elected by a General Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee because their contribution to steamboating over many years warrants special recognition by the Association.

Membership shall include husband and wife and children under the age of 18 years or under 21 years of age if in full-time education. Each adult shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting or in postal votes.

The Committee may by a three-quarter majority of Members refuse to accept an application for Membership or expel any Member, and need not give its reason provided that it believes that it is in the best interests of the Association to do so.

## 6. Subscriptions

The annual subscription rates for Membership shall be determined from time to time at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the Association.

All subscriptions shall become due on the 1st January of each year and Members joining after that date shall pay the full subscription, except that Members joining after the 30th September shall be deemed to have paid for the following year.

Members failing to renew their subscriptions by 31st March shall at the discretion of the Committee cease to be Members until such time as their overdue subscriptions are paid up, or they rejoin.

## 7. Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held within the first three months of each year to receive the reports of the Chairman and Treasurer, to adopt the Accounts, to elect Officers and Committee Members and to transact any other business.

Nominations for Office shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before a General Meeting.

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee or at the written request of 40 Members. Members calling such a Meeting must give the Secretary 42 days notice and an Agenda.

Notice of the date, time, place and Agenda of a General Meeting shall be notified to the Membership at least 21 days beforehand.

Sixty Members or 5% of the UK Membership, whichever is the higher figure, shall constitute a quorum at a General Meeting.

Only Members whose subscriptions are fully paid up shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings.

The Chairman, or in his absence, the senior elected Officer present (and if none a Member elected by the Meeting) shall preside over the Meeting.

Decision shall be by a simple majority, except that a change in the rate of subscription shall require a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting. In the case of equality of vote the Presiding Officer shall have a second or casting vote.

The Presiding Officer shall at his discretion have power to accept for discussion resolutions (other than those changing the Constitution or subscriptions) of which due notice has not been given and to accept bona fide amendments.

#### **8. Committee**

The Committee shall consist of Permanent Officers, Elected Officers and up to nine (or otherwise as determined by a General Meeting) Elected Committee Members.

The Permanent Officers are the President and one or more Vice-Presidents who shall be elected by a General Meeting and shall hold office for life or until the holder wishes to resign his office or ceases to be a Member of the Association.

The Elected Officers and Committee Members shall be proposed by two Members of the Association and elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Elected Officers shall be:

- (i) Chairman
- (ii) Honorary Secretary
- (iii) Honorary Treasurer
- (iv) Membership Secretary

The Chairman shall not be eligible for re-election after three years continuous service until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.

Committee Members shall not be eligible for re-election or co-option after five years continuous service until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.

The Committee may fill any casual vacancies by co-option but Co-opted Members shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting.

The Permanent Officers, Elected Officers and Elected and Co-opted Members shall be entitled to vote at Committee Meetings.

The Committee may appoint Officers additional to the above to carry out specific functions (e.g. Librarian, Magazine Editor). These Officers may be invited to attend occasional Committee Meetings in a non-voting capacity.

A Quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be one third of its voting Membership exclusive of the Permanent Officers.

#### **9. Sub-committees**

The Committee may establish such sub-committees as shall from time to time be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. Sub-committees shall report to and be responsible to the Committee.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt other Members to sub-committees or to appoint one or more of their own Members to such sub-committees.

#### **10. Finances**

All monies received shall be expended in furtherance of the objects of the Association and the Committee shall, out of the funds of the Association, pay all proper expenses of the administration and management incurred in the furtherance of the purposes of the Association.

The Honorary Treasurer shall open bank accounts, current and deposit, by means of which the finances of the Association shall be handled. The Honorary Treasurer may make such other investments as may be approved from time to time by the Committee.

Cheques shall be signed by the Chairman, and/or Treasurer, and/or Secretary or by such other signatories as the Committee may authorise, according to limits and instructions laid down by the Committee.

#### **11. Reporting Accountant**

The Treasurer shall prepare an annual financial statement in a format to the satisfaction of the Committee detailing the Association's financial situation for the preceding year. An SBA member, who shall not be a member of the Committee and who shall have been approved by the members present at the preceding AGM, will review the Treasurer's financial statement. Any anomalies or mistakes reported by the reviewer shall be corrected by the Treasurer and the financial statement shall then be presented to the Committee for final approval before being presented to the membership at the AGM for their formal approval.

#### **12. Trading**

Except with the specific approval of Members at a General Meeting the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities other than the sale to Members and others of Association insignia, clothing, publications and other articles approved by the Committee.

#### **13. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Members present at an A.G.M. or Special General Meeting of the Association, provided that the decision is confirmed by a simple majority of all Members who vote in a subsequent referendum.

#### **14. Winding up**

The Association may be discontinued by a two-thirds majority of Members present at an A.G.M. or Special General Meeting provided that the decision is confirmed by a simple majority of all Members who vote in a subsequent referendum.

In the event of winding up of the Association, such funds as are remaining after the discharge of all liabilities shall be devoted to a body, society, or other institution having similar objects to those of the Association or to a charitable organisation as shall be decided at the meeting at which the Association's affairs are wound up.

#### **15. Notices**

Where this Constitution requires communications to or from Members in writing, notices, and other formal communications, these may be made on paper or electronically, whichever is practicable and expedient. Any notice required by this Constitution shall be deemed to be duly given if EITHER it is left or sent by pre-paid post addressed to the postal address of that Member last notified to the Membership Secretary OR it is sent electronically to the address for electronic communication of that Member last notified to the Membership Secretary. Nothing in this Constitution shall require any Member to notify the Association of an address for electronic communication.