

BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

1. **TITLE** The Society shall be known as the **Basingstoke & District Railway Society (BDRS)**.
2. **OBJECTIVES** To hold twice-monthly Society meetings for lectures, films, illustrated talks and other matters of interest concerning railways. To organise tours and journeys of railway and associated interest as and when practicable and to organise any other matters for the benefit of Members.
3. **MEMBERS** There shall be three classes of Membership, as follows:
 - a. **Full Members** shall be aged 16 and over and shall pay the full subscription.
 - b. **Junior Members shall be aged 11 to 15 years** and shall pay a subscription equal to half the full subscription which may be rounded up to the nearest 50 pence. Junior Members must be accompanied at all Society events by a responsible full member (preferably a parent or guardian). Junior Members shall have no vote on changing the Society Rules or setting the Annual Subscriptions.
 - c. **Honorary Membership** may be conferred on any Member who has made an exceptional contribution to the Society if sponsored by the Committee and accepted at a general meeting by a simple majority vote of the attending Members. Honorary Members shall be exempt from the annual subscription, but from no other charges.
4. **OFFICERS and COMMITTEE** These shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with a minimum of four other Committee Members who can be added to where necessary, according to the Membership of the Society. Officers and Committee Members shall be appointed by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further Members, in the interest of the Society or to fill a vacancy. Committee Members shall normally fulfil specific duties to assist the running of the Society.
5. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS** The Committee shall meet regularly throughout the year to discuss matters concerning the Society's affairs. A quorum shall consist of five Committee members, at least one of whom shall be an Officer. The Secretary and one other Officer may convene additional special Committee meetings as may be needed subject to giving ten calendar days' notice unless there are exceptional reasons for not so doing. Any Officer or Committee Member who fails to attend three consecutive Committee Meetings shall cease to hold office unless a valid reason has been accepted by the Committee.
6. **GENERAL MEETINGS** The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held at the second Society meeting in January. If required, a Special General Meeting can be called by the Secretary at the written request of at least ten Member signatories specifying the reason for the Meeting. No other matter can be raised at such a Meeting. All General Meetings shall be notified to Members at least ten calendar days before the date of the Meeting.
7. **REWARDS** No Officer or any Member shall receive any remuneration, but reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Society shall be refunded.
8. **SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADMISSION and OTHER CHARGES** Annual subscriptions and Admission charges shall be reviewed at the last Committee meeting of the calendar year and the Committee recommendations taken to the AGM (due in January) for consideration and approval by the Membership. Subscription rates shall apply from 1st January for the whole of the calendar year and shall become due immediately following their approval at the AGM. Trip and event charges (other than Admission charges) shall be determined by the Committee. Approved Admission charges shall apply to all Society meetings subsequent to the AGM. Membership not renewed by the end of March shall be deemed to have lapsed and subsequent participation shall be at Visitor rates. Lapsed members shall not receive the *Newsletter* or any other Society benefit. The membership of anyone joining the Society for the first time on or between 1st October and 31st December inclusive shall run to 31st December of the following year.
9. **VISITORS** These shall be non-Members allowed to attend Society meetings and other functions of the Society but who shall have no voting rights.
10. **PREMISES** The Committee has the power to rent premises for Society meetings and to pay any reasonable rent.
11. **SOCIETY ACCOUNTS** The Society financial year shall end on December 31st and the Treasurer shall produce an independently examined end-of-year financial statement and balance sheet for the annual general meeting. The Treasurer shall also produce a financial statement of the accounts to date for every committee meeting excluding that held in January prior to the annual general meeting.
12. **BANK ACCOUNTS** These will be maintained by the Committee on behalf of the Society. The bank shall be given a mandate authorising the payment of cheques when signed by any two Society Officers, all of whom shall be designated as authorised signatories.
13. **LIABILITIES** The Society Committee and Members accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any injury or damage to any Member, third party or individual or Society property, however caused, whilst Society Meetings (including time prior to or after Meetings) take place. When travelling with the Society on visits to UK or overseas locations, Members (and any guests they have invited) shall be considered to be travelling as individuals, not as Society Members, and shall take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and their property. Specific reference to the exercise of taking of precautions under this rule, shall not exonerate Members (or their guests) from exercising reasonable care at, during or about any other Society activity.
14. **EXPULSION** Any Member whose conduct is considered to be prejudicial to the Society may be expelled on the majority vote of the Committee. Any such Member shall be given a minimum of ten calendar days notice in writing of the Committee's intention. Such Member shall have the right to appeal to the Committee, either orally or in writing. Subsequent expulsion shall result in the forfeiture of any unexpired subscription.
15. **SOCIETY POLICIES** Every Member shall abide by the Society Equipment Policy and the Society Closure Policy, copies of which are available on request from the Secretary.
16. **RULES** Every Member shall have a copy of these Rules. They can be altered only at an Annual or Special General Meeting by a 75% vote in favour by the attending voting Members.