

THE HUNGARIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

CONSTITUTION

NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The Society shall be known as the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
 - a. To promote the good name of Hungarian Philately.
 - b. To further the study and collection of Hungarian philatelic material.
 - c. To bring together collectors of such material in mutual fellowship.
3. In furtherance of its stated Objects the Society shall:
 - a. Maintain an active programme of recruitment.
 - b. Facilitate contacts between all members of the Society.
 - c. Publish a journal for issue at such intervals as the Committee shall think fit.
 - d. Commission such works of reference or research as the Committee shall think fit.
 - e. Facilitate acquisition and disposal of members' appropriate philatelic material by circulation of an exchange packet and by conducting regular auctions.

MEMBERSHIP

4. There shall be two classes of members, namely:
 - a. Ordinary Members
 - b. Honorary Life Members

It should be noted that Ordinary Members can opt to renew their membership as either a Standard Member or an Electronic Member. Standard Members receive their Journal in hard copy form whilst Electronic Members (for a reduced fee) receive their Journal via the Members area on the Society's website.
5. Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in the Objects of the Society and willing to pay the Annual Subscription.
6. Ordinary Members shall pay the Annual Subscription:
 - a. Upon admission to the Society: and
 - b. thereafter, on 1st January each year.
7. Any Ordinary Member who fails to pay the Annual Subscription within five calendar months of the date upon which it is due shall be deemed to have resigned.
8. The Annual Subscription shall be such sum as the Annual General Meeting shall prescribe.
9. A Patron and Honorary Life Membership of the Society may be conferred by a unanimous vote of the Committee or by a two thirds majority of the AGM upon any person in recognition of outstanding services rendered by that person to the Society or to the cause of Hungarian philately.

10. **Honorary Life Members shall not be required to pay the Annual Subscription but wherever possible this category of membership will be as per Electronic Membership.**
11. **All members shall use their best endeavours:**
 - a. **To promote the Society to attract new members.**
 - b. **To notify the Society promptly of any change of address, Telephone Number and/or Email address.**
12. **Termination of Membership:**
 - a. **The committee may, by unanimous vote, terminate the membership of any member (including an Honorary Life Member) who has, in the opinion of the Committee, either:**
 - i. **Brought the Society into disrepute; or**
 - ii. **Acted in a manner detrimental to the Objects of the Society.**
 - b. **At least one calendar month prior to the meeting of the committee at which the proposed Termination of membership is to be discussed, the Committee shall give the member concerned notice in writing of the following matters:**
 - i. **That it is proposed to terminate his or her membership.**
 - ii. **The grounds upon which such proposal is based.**
 - iii. **The date upon which he or she may attend before the committee to make representations on his or her own behalf.**
 - c. **The committee shall give written notice to the member concerned of the termination of his or her membership and such termination shall be deemed to have effect from the date of the notice.**
 - d. **Termination of membership is affected in compliance with the provisions of the Article and is final and binding on all members of the Society and may not be challenged in any manner whatsoever.**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13. **The AGM shall be held each year on such date and at such place as the Committee shall decide. The Committee shall give each member at least one month's notice in writing of such date and place.**
14. **The Society shall elect a President and a Vice President each of whom shall hold office for two years.**
15. **The AGM shall be presided over by the President and shall debate the matters set out in writing in the Agenda. The contents of the Agenda shall be limited to the matter proposed either by the Committee or a Motion proposed by two members (called "the Proposer" and "the Seconder"). Procedure at the AGM shall be under the exclusive control of the President or his/her duly appointed deputy.**
16. **Any motion proposed by two members shall be notified in writing to both the President and the General Secretary a minimum of 21 days before the AGM and shall subsequently be circulated to the membership by posting a minimum of 14 days prior to the meeting. No amendments to proposals before the AGM shall be accepted from the floor of the meeting without the support of 75% of those present.**

17. A Committee of Management shall be elected at each AGM comprising the following offices:

- a. President**
- b. Vice President**
- c. General Secretary**
- d. Treasurer**
- e. Membership Secretary**
- f. Exchange Packet Secretary**
- g. Publicity Secretary**
- h. Auction Secretary**
- i. Web Master**

NB. One person may hold more than one office but the roles of (a) President (b) Vice President, (c) General Secretary and (d) Treasurer must be held by different Officers.

18. At the conclusion of the AGM held two years after that at which the President and Vice President were for the time being elected:

- a. The President & Vice President shall retire from office.**
- b. A new President & Vice President shall be elected. The existing President & Vice President are eligible to stand for these posts.**

19. Unless otherwise provided in the Constitution, all decisions and resolutions of the AGM shall be taken or passed by a simple majority.

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

20. The full members of the Committee shall be the holders for the time being of the offices specified in Article 17. A quorum of the Committee shall be four full members.

- a. If any of those offices falls vacant through the resignation or death of its holder or otherwise, the Committee shall appoint a replacement to hold office until the next AGM.**
- b. Members co-opted or appointed in accordance with paragraphs 21a or 21b of this Article shall be entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Committee but shall not be full members of the Committee.**

21. The full members of the Committee shall have the power:

- a. To co-opt additional members onto the Committee.**
- b. To appoint from the members an Editor of the Society's Journal and assistants to the Editor.**
- c. To regulate the Committee's procedure, including the taking and approval of Minutes.**

22. The Committee shall be responsible for:

- a. Conducting the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Society.**
- b. Preparing the Agenda for the AGM.**
- c. Ensuring that the business required by this Constitution to be conducted at the AGM is so conducted.**
- d. Convening an Extraordinary General Meeting within one calendar month of the receipt by the General Secretary of a written demand to that effect signed by not less than 20 members.**
- e. Conducting competitions for the Society's Trophies and organising such other exhibitions, functions, and events as it thinks fit.**

23. The Committee shall have the power to take any action in furtherance of the objects of the Society or beneficial to the conduct of its affairs. Decisions or Resolutions of the Committee:
 - a. Shall unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, be taken or passed by a simple majority.
 - b. May be reversed by a two thirds majority of the AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting.
 - c. Unless authority is expressly conferred by this Constitution, shall be reported to the next AGM.

FINANCE

24. The financial affairs of the Society shall be conducted by the Treasurer under supervision of the Committee.
25. All Bank Accounts, PayPal Accounts, Cheques and monies shall be under the direct control of the Treasurer although authority may be granted by the Treasurer to the Exchange Packet Secretary, Membership Secretary and Auction Secretary to handle monies on the Treasurer's behalf.
26. All members of the Committee (including co-opted and appointed members) shall be entitled to a travelling allowance at a rate to be determined by the Committee.
27. Auditor
 - a. The Committee shall each year appoint one person to act as an Auditor to the Society.
 - b. The auditor shall be paid such remuneration (if any) as the Committee thinks fit.
 - c. The Treasurer shall prepare the Society's accounts for the year and submit them to be audited by the auditor.
 - d. The audited accounts shall be presented to the Committee for approval by the AGM.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

28. Any changes to this Constitution must be passed by a two thirds majority at an AGM.

NB. The following Rules do not form part of the Constitution but are included here so that the Constitution and Rules are in one document rather than requiring separate documents for distribution.

RULES

A. EXCHANGE PACKET

The Exchange Packet Secretary shall circulate packets of Hungarian and allied philatelic material to members who have completed the appropriate application form. Commission will be charged on all sales and (unless specifically declined by the vendor) a percentage of the total value will be charged as a contribution to insurance costs. Members should note that the value is insured only when in circulation, or in the immediate possession of members – theft from an unattended vehicle etc. is not covered.

The Exchange Packet will be circulated by first class post (unless specified otherwise) and members must telephone and get a response from the next person on the list to ensure they are available to receive it. A Certificate of Posting must be obtained at the time and sent by separate mail to the Exchange Packet Secretary along with a completed Remittance Slip and payment for any purchase.

Overseas members shall be entitled to submit properly mounted and described material for circulation but cannot receive the packet because of tax and insurance limitations. Full packet rules are available from the Exchange Packet Secretary.

B. AUCTIONS

The Society may, at the Committee's discretion, hold postal and /or room auctions from time to time. Standard philatelic rules will apply and a copy of these can be obtained from the Auction Secretary.