

THE CONSTITUTION
Of the
WORKSOP AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
(October 2006 Revision)

1 TITLE AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 The Society shall be named the Worksop Amateur Radio Society and hereinafter referred to as the "Society" or "WARS".
- 1.2 The headquarters and general office of the Society shall be situated at West Street, Worksop in the County of Nottinghamshire or such other places as a General Meeting of the Society shall decide.
- 1.3 The objects of the Society shall be to afford to its members:
 - a) The means to participate in Amateur Radio and Social Activities.
 - b) Facilities for training in radio operation, construction, electrical theory and other matters pertaining to Amateur Radio.
 - c) An environment suitable for the development of the spirit of goodwill associated with Amateur Radio and Radio Amateurs.

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

- 2.1 There shall be five classes of membership:

a) Ordinary Membership.

This shall be open to any Radio Amateur, Short Wave Listener, hereinafter referred to as "SWL", or other person with a bona fide interest in radio communications. This is a corporate grade of membership affording full voting rights at formal general meetings of the Society. Ordinary members must be over sixteen years of age.

b) Junior Membership.

This is a grade of membership open to persons under the age of 16 years and over 8 years old at the time of application of membership or renewal of membership. It is a non-corporate grade of membership.

c) Associate Membership.

This is a grade of membership open to those persons whose interest in the Society is primarily social rather than technical. This is a non-corporate grade of membership except with regard to social matters. That is to say associate members may only vote in elections of members of the Social Sub-committee as defined in section 4.6 and may not stand for office or membership of the General Management Committee as defined in section 4.1. They may, however, stand for election to the Social Sub-committee as defined in section 4.6.

d) Honorary Life Membership.

This is a non-corporate grade of membership, which may be offered to a Person by the Society at a formal general meeting in recognition of services to the Society.

e) Full Life Membership.

Any corporate member, being over the age of 60 years and having been a corporate member for a period of not less than six consecutive years may apply for full life membership. This is a corporate grade of membership conferring all the rights and privileges associated with ordinary membership. Successful applicants, having paid an initial subscription shall not be expected to pay further annual subscriptions for the rest of their lives.

2.2 Subscriptions to the Society shall be paid annually and shall become due on the first day of January. The level(s) of subscriptions shall be set by a formal general meeting of the members except for Honorary Life Membership for which there shall be no subscription.

2.3 Membership of the Society must be initiated by application, in writing, to the General Management Committee. *All applications will then go before the Committee for approval at the next Committee meeting following the application. The Committee has the right to refuse any application for membership without reason or redress. The applicant must be introduced and seconded by two fully paid up members. (Clause amended by 2006 AGM)*

2.4 Cessation of membership will result from one of the following actions:

a) Non-Payment of Annual Subscriptions. The name of any member who has failed to pay his or her annual subscriptions by the first day of April shall be removed from the list of members. The General Management Committee shall have the power to accept members' annual subscriptions in installments in cases of hardship.

Any person whose membership has ceased through this cause may not again be accepted for nomination to membership until the arrears of membership subscriptions have been paid in full until the time of cessation of membership, that is one full annual subscription.

b) Expulsion. The General Management Committee shall have the power to suspend or terminate the membership of a person found guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Society.

c) Resignation. Any person may terminate their membership of the Society by notifying the Secretary in writing.

d) Associate membership shall terminate on 31 December each year and associate members, if they wish to continue membership, must apply to the GMC for renewal of membership (as opposed to initial application for this grade of membership) it shall require simple confirmation by the GMC that membership shall be continued into the next year.

No refund of annual membership subscriptions, either in part or full, will be payable to any person whose membership ceases due to the reasons described in sections 2.4.b. or 2.4.c. above.

3 OFFICERS.

3.1 The Society shall have the following officers:

- a) A President.
- b) Up to a maximum of three Vice Presidents.
- c) Two Trustees.
- d) A Chairperson.
- e) A Secretary.
- f) A Treasurer.

3.2 The Trustees shall be appointed only at a formal general meeting, by a resolution of a majority of members present and entitled to vote thereat. *The Trustees shall now be elected Annually by ballot at the AGM and shall remain in office until their successors have been appointed. (Clause amended by 2006 AGM)*

3.3 The President, Vice Presidents (as necessary) Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer of the Society shall be elected annually by ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and shall remain in office until their successors have been appointed.

3.4 Any of the officers shall be removable at any time provided that two thirds of members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose shall vote in favour of such removal.

3.5 In the event of a vacancy arising amongst the officers or committee members (other than Trustees) by death, resignation or any other cause, the GMC shall have power to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy until the next election.

3.6 Any Officer shall vacate his or her office if suspended or ceasing membership from any cause.

3.7 The Officers of the Society, and the Society Secretary shall receive such honorarium, if any, as the GMC or a Formal General Meeting may from time to time determine.

4 SOCIETY MANAGEMENT

4.1 The Society shall be governed by a General Management Committee, hereinafter referred to as the GMC, consisting of the Officers and a committee of members elected at an annual ballot of corporate members.

4.2 The GMC shall consist of the Officers of the Society with a committee of six corporate members. The committee members shall all be licensed amateurs except for one, who shall be a short wave listener.

4.5 The GMC shall be responsible for the consideration of applications for the Society membership and shall have the power to reject such applications if it considers that this action would be in the best interest of the Society.

4.4 The GMC shall meet at such intervals as is considered necessary, but at intervals of not more than one calendar month, in order to conduct the business of the Society.

4.5 The GMC shall have the power to purchase such items and to do all things as it deems necessary for the carrying out of the objects of the Society.

4.6 The routine administration of the premises of the Society and social and recreational activities shall be the responsibility of the Social Sub-committee, hereinafter referred to as the "SSC".

4.7 The SSC shall consist of the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society as well as four other committee members, one of whom must be a corporate member. The members of the SSC shall be elected by a process of proportional representation at the annual general meet of the Society in a ballot of all corporate and associate members thereat and entitled to vote.

4.8 The SSC shall be responsible to the GMC which shall have the power to overrule any decision of the SSC which it considers not to be in the best interests of the Society or not in keeping with its objectives or Constitution.

4.9 The SSC shall have the power to engage or dismiss a steward or other employee under its jurisdiction.

4.10 The SSC may draw up such bye-laws as is deemed necessary provided that such bye-laws do not contravene the General Rules and Constitution of the Society.

5 EXCISABLE ARTICLES

5.1 The SSC shall be the controllers of all excisable goods and be responsible for the same.

6 MEETINGS

6.1 Formal General Meetings and Official Meetings.

6.1.1 The term Formal General Meeting shall refer to an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society rather than an Official Meeting held from time to time in order to gauge the opinion of the membership on a specific point or to keep the membership informed of current proceedings.

6.1.2 The Society shall hold official meetings quarter yearly. These meetings are to be held in order that the Officers and Committee can keep the membership informed of activities and the progress of the Society.

6.1.3 The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of October each year.

6.1.4 The Secretary shall notify the membership of the Society of the date and venue of the Annual General Meeting at least 14 days prior to the event. This notice shall involve posting an agenda for the said meeting on a suitable notice board at the headquarters of the Society if individual members are not notified at their home addresses.

6.1.5 Resolutions and items for debate at the Annual General Meeting must be received by the Secretary, in writing, at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Late items may be included in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting at the Chairperson's discretion, however the Chairperson's decision on this matter is final. The Chairperson's decision shall depend upon the nature of the late item and whether, in his or her judgment, the membership reasonably needs time for prior consideration of the said item.

6.2 Extraordinary General Meetings.

6.2.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be convened by the GMC whenever it thinks fit or within 21 days of the receipt by the Secretary, in writing, of a request for the convention of an Extra-ordinary General Meeting, including the objects of the said meeting, signed by at

least 10 paid up corporate members, or 25% of the total number of corporate members of the Society, whichever is least. Such meetings must be held within a period of not less than 14 days and not more than 21 days, after the receipt of the requisition of the meeting by the Secretary.

6.2.2 No business other than that named in the requisition shall be brought before the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.

6.3 Procedure and Quorum at General Meetings.

6.3.1 Only paid up members of the Society may attend and take part in General Meetings of the Society.

6.3.2 All paid up members of the Society, irrespective of membership class, may attend and be asked to speak at General Meetings of the Society.

6.3.3 Only paid up corporate members of the Society may vote during General Meetings of the Society except with regard to the election of members of the SSC when both corporate and associate members of the Society are entitled to vote.

6.3.4 A General Meeting of the Society may proceed to business only if 10 members or 25% of the membership whichever is least, is present within 30 minutes of the time fixed for the meeting, otherwise the meeting will stand adjourned until the next available time.

6.4 Procedure and Quorum at Meetings of the GMC and SSC.

6.4.1 A meeting of the GMC or SSC may only proceed to business if a minimum of five members are present within 30 minutes of the proscribed starting time.

6.4.2 No resolution passed at a meeting shall be rescinded at a later meeting unless notice has been given in writing at the previous meeting.

7 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

7.1 Chairperson

The Chair shall be responsible for conducting all meetings of the Society and its committees. He or she shall ensure that meetings are conducted fairly and that the Constitution of the Society is upheld at all times. The Chair shall be entitled to vote on all matters if he or she considers that this is in the best interests of the Society and, in the event of a tied vote, the Chair may have a second, casting vote.

7.2 Secretary

7.2.1 The Secretary of the Society shall keep on the premises of the Society a list of names and addresses of all Society members and a subscription book or books in which shall be recorded the payments of such members.

7.2.2 He or she shall carry out the directions of the GMC or SSC and shall keep such accounts as the GMC or SSC directs.

7.3 Trustees

7.3.1 The Trustees of the Society shall not be eligible to hold other office within the Society, but shall at all times be eligible to attend any meeting held under the jurisdiction of the Society and vote at such meetings.

7.3.2 The Trustees shall not be personally responsible for the debts or engagements of the Society. They shall however be responsible for the monies of the Society in their possession and control or if they allow such monies to be spent contrary to law, or Society rules or Constitution or for purposes unconnected to the Society or its objects.

7.3.3 The Trustees shall ensure that the Secretary and Treasurer carry out their duties in a proper manner.

7.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all monies or such as the GMC or SSC shall direct. He or she shall pay the same to credit of an account opened in the name of the Society of such a bank and in such a manner as the GMC and SSC shall direct, and further he shall keep accounts and pay such debts as the Committees directs and shall, when required to do so, render to the GMC or SSC or Trustees or General Meeting an account of the monies received and expended by him or her.

7.5 Public Relations Officer.

The duties of the PRO shall be to liaise with the media in order to bring the Society to prominence. He or she shall publicise the activities and achievements of the Society and shall attempt to raise public awareness of amateur radio in general in a positive manner.

8 VISITORS AND GUESTS

8.1 A member of the Society may introduce a guest or guests to the Society.

8.2 Guests may only attend the Society on FOUR occasions per year, other than for certain exceptions to be decided by the GMC, after which they must apply for membership before again entering the premises or taking part in the activities of the Society.

8.3 Guests and Members introducing them shall sign their names in a book kept for that purpose.

8.4 Members under suspension, former members who have been expelled or former members who have subscriptions to the Club outstanding may not be introduced as visitors or guests.

9 PURCHASE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR

9.1 Non-members shall not be permitted to purchase intoxicating liquor on the premises of the Society.

9.2 Should any visitor pay for intoxicating liquor he or she shall at once be removed from the Society as shall the member introducing him Or her. The member in question shall be asked to attend a meeting of the GMC in order to

explain the precautions he or she took in order to prevent the violation of this rule. If the GMC is not satisfied with the explanation it has the right to suspend or expel the said member.

9.3 No person under the age of eighteen years shall be allowed to consume, or be supplied with intoxicating liquor on the premises of the Society.

10 MISCONDUCT OF MEMBERS

10.1 No gambling, drunkenness or bad language shall be permitted on the premises of the Society. Any member offending against this rule shall be asked to leave the premises by the President or other officer or member of the GMC or SSC. The said member shall not re-enter the premises of the Society until he or she has appeared before the GMC in order to explain his or her behavior.

10.2 Any member that threatens another member, or the society in any way without satisfactory explanation to the GMC will automatically forfeit their membership

11 PRIVATE FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE SOCIETY

11.1 Private functions may be held on the premises of the Society at the strict discretion of the GMC on no more than twelve occasions per year.

11.2 Persons attending such functions shall be able to purchase and consume intoxicants provided the Society notifies in writing the Clerk of the Licensing Justices and the Chief Officer of the Police Authority prior to the function taking place.

12 PERMITTED HOURS OF SUPPLY OF INTOXICANTS

12.1 The permitted hours of supply of intoxicants shall comply with the current licensing act.

13 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

13.1 Recognised special interest groups within the Society shall be allowed at the discretion of the GMC.

13.2 A recognized special interest group shall consist of a number of paid up members of the Society (of any class) who have a special, common interest and who have nominated a person (Chair, Spokesman, etc.) who is authorised to negotiate with the GMC on their behalf. The special interest need not necessarily involve the technical aspects of radio and may be more social, etc., in nature.

13.3 Recognised special interest groups may apply to the GMC for the exclusive use of the headquarters facilities when they are not required for the Society's more general use.

13.4 Applications for use of the headquarters and facilities can only be made for use up to, and including 31st December of the year of application.

13.5 The GMC shall have the power to refuse a special interest group's application for exclusive use of the headquarters or facilities if they feel that this is in the best interest of the Society.

13.6 Members of the Society who are not specifically members of the special interest group cannot expect automatic right of entry to the headquarters, or use of Society facilities if these have been granted to the special interest group by the GMC for the period in question. The member may be asked to leave by a nominated member of the special interest group, and failure to comply with this request shall be considered to be misconduct as defined in section 10 of the Constitution.

13.7 Exclusivity of the headquarters shall be limited to the main areas of the building. The Radio Rooms and Bar, if available to the group, shall be under the direct control of a person, or persons, nominated by the GMC.

14 DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

14.1 The Society may be dissolved at any time by consent of three fourths of the members testified by their signatures to an instrument of dissolution. All assets of the society to be donated to a designated charity.

ADDENDUM.

In addition to changes to the Society Constitution the following motions were accepted at the 1988 AGM of the Society:

1. A head barperson be elected and that he or she co-opt bar staff as necessary.
2. That any member causing malicious damage to the Society's property or premises shall be liable for the cost of making good the damage caused.

The following motions were accepted at an Extra-Ordinary General meeting in August 2004.

1. In the interest of safety and to comply with the Children Act, junior members must be kept under control by their parents/guardians.
2. Junior members are not allowed at /or behind the bar.