

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be "The Irish Radio Transmitters Society"

2. Objects

Its objects shall be to promote the study of Radio Communications and its practice between amateurs and experimenters, to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on this subject among its members, to obtain the maximum liberty of action consistent with safeguarding the interests of all concerned, and to participate in other organisations having similar objectives.

3. Membership

Any person who is interested in the objects of the Society shall be eligible for election.

4. Executive

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee. The Committee may delegate any of its powers to sub-committees.

Rules

Membership

1.1 Members of the Society shall consist of four categories, namely:

- (a) Holders of amateur or experimenters licences
- (b) Non-holders of amateur or experimenter licences
- (c) Associate members
- (d) Honorary members

1.2 Members in categories (a), (b) and (d) shall be known as Ordinary Members.

1.3 Persons aged 18 years or less and not holding an amateur or experimenters licence may be admitted as Associate Members. Proof of age may be required, and election will be in accordance with Rule 2.1. On attaining the age of 19 years the appropriate subscription rate will apply at the next renewal date.

1.4 Associate Members shall have no voting rights and shall not be eligible to hold office in the Society.

1.5 Associate Members shall have no interest in any property of the Society.

Election of Members

2.1 Candidates for membership must be nominated by two persons of standing and deliver to the Honorary Secretary a form of application as prescribed by the Committee.

2.2 The form of application for membership shall contain an undertaking to abide by the Rules of the Society,

and the regulations as laid down by the Licensing Authority and amended from time to time.

2.3 The Committee shall have absolute power to reject any nomination without assigning any reason for such rejection.

2.4 Candidates whose nominations are approved by the Committee shall, on payment of their first annual subscription, become Ordinary or Associate Members of the Society.

2.5 A waiver by the Committee of payment of subscription under Rule 5.5 will have the effect, under Rule 2.4, as if payment had been made.

Affiliation of Clubs or Societies

3.1 The Society may grant affiliation to any club or society interested in the objects of the Society as defined in the Constitution.

3.2 Application for affiliation must be made on a form of application as prescribed by the Committee.

3.3 The Committee shall have absolute power to reject any application for affiliation without assigning any reason for such rejection.

3.4 The application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, and must be signed by five paid-up Ordinary Members of the Society of whom at least three must be holders of Amateur or Experimenters licences.

3.5 Affiliated clubs or societies shall promote the objects and support the policy of the Society.

3.6 If the Committee consider that any affiliated club or society is in serious breach of Rule 3.4, it shall have the power, after due enquiry, to terminate the affiliation of such club or society.

3.7 During the course of any enquiry held under Rule 3.5, the affiliated club or society in question shall have an opportunity of being heard.

3.8 A club or society whose affiliation is terminated shall have the right to appeal to, and be heard at, the next Annual General Meeting of the Society which shall have the power to confirm the action of the Committee or restore the affiliation of such club or society.

3.9 A club or society whose affiliation is terminated shall have no right to, or claim for, a refund of its affiliation fee or any part thereof.

Subscriptions

4.1 Subscriptions shall be as determined by the Committee from time to time, but subject to any maximum determined by the members in General Meeting.

4.2 Subscriptions shall be payable annually in advance.

4.3 The renewal date for new or re-elected members shall be the first of the month following their election or re-election to membership.

4.4 The renewal date for members elected before 1st January 1985, and not subsequently re-elected to membership, shall be 1st January.

Subscriptions in Arrears

5.1 If any Ordinary or Associate member shall permit his/her subscription to remain unpaid and in arrears for a period exceeding two months, the Committee may remove his/her name from the register of members.

5.2 If the arrears are paid in full before the former member's next renewal date, the Committee shall reinstate his/her name on the register of members.

5.3 If any Ordinary or Associate member shall permit his/her subscription to remain unpaid and in arrears for a period exceeding one year, the Committee shall reinstate the former member's name on the register of members if and when either of the following conditions applies:

- (a) The former member pays all arrears in full.
- (b) The former member reapplies and is re-elected to membership under Rule 2.1.

5.4 A member whose subscription has been in arrears shall not be entitled to any property, goods or services provided to paid-up members for the period in which he/she was in arrears.

5.5 The Committee may waive, on a year to year basis, payment of the subscription of a member.

5.6 The provisions of all rules under the heading Subscriptions in Arrears shall apply also to affiliated clubs and societies in like manner.

Continuous Membership

6.1 Continuous Membership is calculated from the date of first election to membership, or from the date of the most recent re-election to membership if membership has lapsed at any time.

6.2 The Committee may grant concessions or privileges to members based on their length of Continuous Membership.

Financial Years

7.1 The Society's financial year shall begin on the first day of January in each year, and end on the thirty-first day of December in that year.

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Expulsion of a Member

8.1 If the Committee considers that any member has been guilty of conduct injurious to the interests or good name of the Society, it shall have power, after due enquiry, to expel such a member.

8.2 During the course of any enquiry held under Rule 8.1, the member in question shall have an opportunity of being heard.

8.3 A person who has been expelled shall have the right to appeal to, and be heard at, the next General Meeting of the Society, which shall have power to confirm the action of the Committee, or restore membership to such person.

8.4 A person who has been expelled shall have no right to, or claim for, a refund of his/her subscription payment or any part thereof.

8.5 A vacancy occurring in any office as the result of an expulsion shall be filled by the Committee by the election of a person from amongst their number to that office. The resultant vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by co-option under Rule 10.1.

Committee

9.1 The Committee of the Society shall consist of

- (a) The President, and
- (b) The Vice-President, and
- (c) Eleven paid-up Ordinary Members of the Society, who have held that category of membership for not less than three years, and of whom not more than two may be non-holders of amateur or experimenters licences, and
- (d) Members co-opted under Rule 10.1 or Rule 10.2, and
- (e) The affiliated club or society Representatives elected under Rule 16.1, and
- (f) The Regional Representatives elected under Rule 17.1, and
- (g) The Immediate Past-President, who shall be a member of the Committee for one year immediately following his/her term as President, if willing to serve.

9.2 Seven members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

9.3 Each Committee member, present at a Committee Meeting, shall be entitled to vote.

9.4 Decisions of the Committee shall be by simple majority of those present and voting.

9.5 In the event of an equality of votes on any question at a Committee Meeting, the presiding Chairman shall exercise a second or casting vote.

9.6 The Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Society, and shall present a report to the Annual General Meeting.

Co-option to Committee

10.1 If a vacancy should occur on the Committee, from among those referred to under Rule 9.1(c), the Committee shall have power to co-opt a member for the remainder of the year.

10.2 In addition, the Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than three additional members for the remainder of the year.

Terms of Office

11.1 The President, Vice-President and members of the Committee shall be elected annually as provided in Rules 23 and 24, and shall hold a term of office until the next Annual General Meeting or until their successors have been elected.

11.2 No person may hold the office of President for more than three consecutive terms.

11.3 No person may hold the office of Vice-President for more than three consecutive terms.

11.4 No person who is a member of the Committee under Rule 9.1(c) may serve more than three consecutive terms.

11.5 Notwithstanding Rule 11.2, a retiring President may continue to be a member of the Committee, as provided in Rule 9.1(g) irrespective of the period of his/her term of office as President.

Meetings of the Committee

12.1 Committee meetings, of which there shall be at least six during the year, shall be held on such dates, and at such times and places as may be arranged by the Committee.

12.2 The business at Committee meetings shall be as set out in the notice convening such meetings.

Absence from Meetings

13.1 A member of the Committee absent from more than three consecutive Committee meetings shall, unless excused by virtue of having tendered an apology, be deemed to have vacated office, and the Committee shall have power to fill the vacancy under Rule 10.1.

Sub-committees

14.1 The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees to carry out any duties which in the opinion of the Committee could best be dealt with by a sub-committee.

14.2 Non-members of the Committee may be appointed to serve on sub-

committees.

14.3 Sub-committees shall have such power as is delegated to them by the Committee of the Society.

Officers

15.1 As soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting, the President shall have a Committee meeting convened, at which the Committee shall, from amongst their own number, elect the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

15.2 The Committee may also at this meeting, or as soon as practicable thereafter, appoint a QSL Manager and Honorary Editors to perform such duties as the Committee may allot to them. While the persons appointed to such posts must be paid-up Ordinary members of the Society, they need not necessarily be chosen from the members of the Committee.

Representatives of Affiliated Clubs and Societies

16.1 The members in each affiliated club or society may elect a representative annually to serve on the Committee according to Rule 9.1(e), subject to including among their members at least fifteen paid-up members of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society of whom at least ten must hold amateur or experimenter licences.

16.2 The name of this representative, who must be a paid-up Ordinary member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is to be advised to the Honorary Secretary for accreditation not later than two weeks after the AGM of the appropriate year.

16.3 The term of office of this representative shall be the same as that of the Committee elected under Rule 24.1.

16.4 Representatives of affiliated clubs or societies shall be exempt from the provision, under Rule 13.1, of having to send apologies for non-attendance at Committee meetings.

16.5 Affiliated clubs or societies which have not appointed, or which are not entitled to appoint, a representative under Rule 16.1 may send an observer to any Committee meeting by prior notification to the Honorary Secretary. Such observer must be a paid-up member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, and he/she shall not have the right to vote at the meeting.

Regions

17.1 The area administered by the Society shall be divided into Regions,

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the number and boundaries of which are to be determined by the Committee from time to time.

17.2 The members in each Region may elect a representative annually to serve on the Committee according to Rule 9.1(f).

17.3 The name of this representative, who must be a paid-up Ordinary member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is to be advised to the Honorary Secretary for accreditation not later than two weeks after the AGM of the appropriate year.

17.4 The term of office of the regional representative shall be the same as that of the Committee elected under Rule 24.1.

17.5 Regional representatives shall be exempt from the provision, under Rule 13.1, of having to send apologies for non-attendance at Committee meetings.

17.6 Regions which have not appointed a Representative under Rule 17.2 may send an observer to any Committee meeting by prior notification to the Honorary Secretary. Such observer must be a paid-up member of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, and he/she shall not have the right to vote at the meeting.

President

18.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society.

18.2 In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall undertake his/her duties.

18.3 In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President, a Chairman shall be elected from the Ordinary members present at the meeting.

18.4 The President shall formally address the Society during his/her term of office.

Honorary Secretary

19.1 The Honorary Secretary shall, subject to the directions of the Committee, manage the general business of the Society.

19.2 He /she shall have charge of all the property of the Society except the funds and except such other property as may from time to time be given into the charge of another member or members by direction of the Committee.

19.3 He/she shall be responsible for the proper recording and preservation of the decisions taken at all meetings of the Society and of the Committee.

19.4 He/she shall issue all notices of meetings of the Society and the Committee.

Honorary Treasurer

20.1 The Honorary Treasurer shall have charge of all Society funds.

20.2 He/she shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs, receipts and disbursements of the Society.

20.3 He/she shall present to the Committee regular financial statements and submit to the Annual General Meeting an audited Statement of Accounts as required under Rule 26.2.

20.4 He/she shall keep, or arrange to have kept, an up-to-date register of all members.

Bank Accounts

21.1 The funds of the Society shall be deposited in accounts in approved banks or other financial institutions.

21.2 All payments must have the sanction of the Committee.

21.3 Cheques drawn on the Society's bank account shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and any one of the following: the President, the Honorary Secretary, or another member of the Committee who has been nominated for this purpose and duly authorised by resolution of the Committee.

Retirement or Resignation

22.1 Upon retirement from any office or appointment or on resignation from the Society, the person concerned shall hand over to his/her successor, or to the President, all funds, books of account, trophies or other Society property in his/her possession or under his/her care.

Nominations for Office

23.1 The Committee shall, at least twenty-eight days prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid-up members a list showing the nominees of the Committee for the offices of President and Vice-President, and also nominees for each of the eleven Committee positions specified in Rule 9.1(c), who are eligible and willing to serve for the ensuing year.

23.2 The names of the other members eligible and willing to serve as President, as Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up Ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up Ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven Committee positions.

23.3 Nominations under Rule 23.2, accompanied by the written consent of the nominees, shall be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, and must reach

him/her within fourteen days of the list being issued under Rule 23.1.

Election

24.1 If, following the time stipulated for receipt of nominations under Rule 23.3, more than one valid nomination has been received for the office of President or for Vice-President, or if the number of valid nominations for membership of the Committee exceeds the number specified under Rule 9.1(c), voting papers containing the names of all persons duly nominated for such offices or membership of the Committee shall be prepared by the Honorary Secretary and sent to all paid-up Ordinary members. To be eligible for inclusion in the election, each voting paper must be completed and returned to the Honorary Secretary by the date mentioned therein.

24.2 Should no additional valid nominations have been received by the Honorary Secretary by the expiry date as mentioned above, the persons named on the list originally sent out by the Committee shall be deemed to have been elected and it will not be necessary to prepare or issue voting papers.

Auditors

25.1 Two members of the Society shall be elected as Honorary Auditors by a simple majority of votes of paid-up Ordinary members at an Annual General Meeting.

25.2 The term of office for Honorary Auditors shall be three years.

25.3 The Honorary Auditors shall audit the accounts for the current year and, if found in order, shall certify them for submission to the next Annual General Meeting.

25.4 In the event of either or both the Honorary Auditors being unable to act for any reason, the Committee shall appoint a paid-up Ordinary member or members, not being members of the Committee, to perform the duty.

25.5 No officer of the Society or member of the Committee shall be eligible to act as auditor for any year or part of a year during which he/she held office or was a member of the Committee.

25.6 The Committee may appoint a professional auditor to audit the accounts for any year, in which case the Honorary Auditors will not be required in that year.

Annual General Meeting

26.1 The Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held during the months of March or April in each year at

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such time and place as may be appointed by the Committee.

26.2 At such meeting an audited statement of the accounts of the Society for the year ended on 31st December prior to the meeting shall be laid before the members with the report of the Committee for that year.

26.3 The Honorary Secretary shall send at least twenty-eight days notice of an Annual General Meeting to each paid-up member.

26.4 An attendance of 25 paid-up Ordinary members, or 5% of the then current paid-up members, whichever is the lesser, shall constitute a quorum for the Annual General Meeting.

Special General Meeting

27.1 A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary when required by the Committee to do so, or at any time not more than 8 weeks after receipt by him of a requisition, stating the purpose for which the meeting is required, and signed by at least 30 paid-up Ordinary members.

27.2 No business or matter other than that contained in the Notice convening the meeting, as issued by the Honorary Secretary, shall be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

27.3 The Honorary Secretary shall send at least fourteen days notice of a Special General Meeting to each paid-up member.

27.4 An attendance of 25 paid-up Ordinary members, or 5% of the then current paid-up members, whichever is the lesser, shall constitute a quorum for a Special General Meeting.

Voting

28.1 Each paid-up Ordinary member shall have one vote on any issue at an General Meeting.

28.2 With the sole exception of votes on changes in these Rules, as noted under Rule 34.3, all issues at any General Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of paid-up Ordinary members present and voting.

28.3 In the event of an equality of votes on any question, other than an election, the presiding Chairman shall exercise a second or casting vote.

28.4 In the case of a contested election under Rule 24.1, the names of the candidates on the voting papers shall be in alphabetic sequence, by surname, for each contested office.

28.5 In an election for the office of President or Vice-President, each voting member shall give one vote to one can-

didate for each office. The candidate receiving more votes than any other candidate for such office shall be deemed to be elected.

28.6 In an election for Committee members to be elected under Rule 9.1 (c), each voting member shall give one vote to each of a maximum of eleven candidates. The eleven candidates receiving more votes than any remaining candidates shall be deemed to be elected.

28.7 In the event of a postal vote or secret ballot, three scrutineers shall be appointed from the floor of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting as the case may be.

28.8 No election candidate may be a scrutineer.

28.9 The scrutineers shall open and count the votes, and report the result to the presiding Chairman, who shall announce the result to the meeting.

28.10 The decision of the scrutineers on the validity of any voting paper shall be final, but they shall take into account any advice given to them in this matter by the Committee.

28.11 In the event of a tie in an election, the scrutineers shall draw lots, in the presence of the Meeting, to decide the result.

Bye-Laws

29.1 The Committee shall have power to make such Bye-Laws as it may consider necessary, provided such Bye-Laws do not conflict with the Constitution or Rules of the Society.

29.2 The Honorary Secretary shall maintain a record of Bye-Laws, and shall notify the members of any new Bye-laws or changes to Bye-Laws.

29.3 Bye-Laws, until revoked, shall be binding on members.

29.4 Bye-Laws shall take immediate effect, but shall lapse unless formally approved by the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

Exclusions From Discussions

30.1 Matters of a sectarian, religious or party political nature shall be excluded from all discussions at Society meetings.

Legal Actions

31.1 The Society shall sue in the name of the Honorary Secretary of such other Officer as may be determined by the Committee.

Trustees

32.1 The members in General Meeting shall have power to elect Trustees for the purpose of holding the Society's

interest in property or investments.

32.2 The Trustees, who shall be Ordinary members of the Society, shall deal with the property and investments of the Society as directed by the Committee, and insofar as the assets of the Society may be deficient, the Trustees and the Committee members shall be indemnified against liability and expenses incurred by them, by reason of their position as Trustees or members of the Committee, by the members of the Society.

32.3 Trustees shall hold office for life, subject to these Rules, or until resignation from office or from membership of the Society.

32.4 Trustees may attend Committee meetings but shall not have voting rights.

Honorary Memberships

33.1 Honorary Membership, or the position of Honorary Vice-President of the Society, may be conferred by the Committee on persons who in their opinion have rendered distinguished service to the Society or who have made an acknowledged eminent contribution to Amateur Radio, or to radio research, communication or experimentation, or to a related subject.

33.2 The Committee shall announce the names of such persons at the next Annual General Meeting.

33.3 Honorary members, including Honorary Vice-Presidents, shall have all the rights and duties of paid-up Ordinary Members, except that they shall not be liable to pay an annual subscription.

Alteration of Constitution or Rules

34.1 No alteration or amendment to the Constitution or Rules of the Society shall be made unless proposed in writing by the Committee or by at least thirty paid-up Ordinary members.

34.2 Every such proposed alteration or amendment shall be discussed and voted upon at a Special General Meeting held not more than eight weeks after the proposal thereof.

34.3 No alteration or amendment to the Constitution or Rules shall be deemed to be carried unless supported by the votes of at least two-thirds of the paid-up Ordinary members present and voting at such Special General Meeting.