

# Modern Railway Society of Ireland

## Constitution of the Society

### Title

1 The name of the Society will be the Modern Railway Society of Ireland (MRSI).

### Objectives

2.1 The Society exists with the aim of fostering interest in the current railway scene and in particular the Irish railway network.

2.2 It will provide a forum for those with an interest in the contemporary railway scene in Ireland to meet, share experiences, study and promote the heritage of Ireland's railways and keep abreast of developments in the modern railway scene.

2.3 To this end it shall:-

- hold meetings on railway topics
- organise visits to places of railway interest
- organise tours by rail and road as appropriate
- support the activities of other likeminded societies which are complementary to those of the MRSI
- other activities and initiatives thought appropriate by the Committee.

### Membership

3.1 Individual membership of the Society is open to all persons over the age of 16.

3.2 Membership of the Society is open to those under the age of 16 years of age if the application for membership is accompanied by the written consent of a parent or guardian. Such members are not eligible to vote at meetings or to stand for election to the committee.

3.3 Every member shall receive a copy of the Constitution and shall be deemed to be bound by it.

3.4 An up-to-date register of member's names and addresses shall be maintained by the Secretary. Any permanent change of address, telephone number or email address shall be notified to the Secretary.

*Amended 19/09/18*

3.5 Applications for membership shall be approved by the Committee, which reserves the right to reject any application for membership without giving a reason. The Committee may also suspend or cancel the membership of any member who it considers has brought the good name of the Society into disrepute by their deeds or actions.

This action by the Committee shall be confirmed or rejected by members at the next AGM. The member concerned shall have the right to attend that meeting and to present their case.

3.6 Each member shall pay an annual subscription on joining the society and subsequently in October of each year. The membership year shall run from October to the following September. A New Member joining after 1 May shall have his/ her subscription extended to cover the full membership year from the following October without further charge.

3.7 Any member whose subscription has not been paid by 1 January each year shall be deemed to have terminated their membership. The committee shall have discretion in the application of this rule.

3.8. The amount of the annual subscription shall be determined by the committee and notified to members prior to the Annual General Meeting. A concessionary rate is available to those under 16, over 65 or unwaged. Status as at 1<sup>st</sup> October will determine the membership category for the year.

3.9 No member of the Society is permitted to use the name of the Society for personal purposes.

## **Society Management**

4.1 The Society shall be managed by a Committee of up to six members. The Committee will consist of three Officers: a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and up to three Ordinary Members. All committee posts are honorary, however reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, such as telephone, e-mail, stationery and travel will be paid.

4.2 The Committee shall have full powers to manage the Society and its decision in all matters connected with the MRSI is final.

4.3 The Committee shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the efficient running of the Society.

4.4 No business shall be conducted at a Committee meeting unless there is a quorum of at least half of those elected.

4.5 The Committee has the power to co-opt members to fill any positions which may become vacant during its term in office. Such appointments shall be ratified at the next AGM.

- 4.6 At its first meeting following the AGM, the Committee shall elect a Vice Chairman, who will deputise for the Chairman as necessary.
- 4.7 The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years, Ordinary Committee Members for a period of one year.
- 4.8 In year one, one Officer will retire, in year two a second Officer will retire and the third Officer will retire in year three. Thereafter retirement will be on a rota basis.
- 4.9 If a Committee Member retires early, their successor shall be appointed for the remainder of the retiree's term of office.
- 4.10 Retiring Officers and Ordinary Committee members shall be eligible to stand for re- election.

## **Finance**

- 5.1 The approval of the Committee is required for all financial expenditure. Financial commitments incurred by any individual can only be entertained if previously sanctioned by the Committee.
- 5.2 The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received or expended by MRSI and a complete financial statement with a report by an independent auditor shall be submitted at each Annual General Meeting. The financial year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> March each year to 28<sup>th</sup> February the following year.
- 5.3 All cheques shall be signed by two Officers of the Committee.
- 5.4 In the event of a decision to disband MRSI, the Committee shall realise the assets of the Society, pay any proven debts and distribute any balance according to the wishes of members, expressed at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **Meetings**

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the MRSI shall be held in April each year with the agenda being circulated two weeks in advance of the meeting. Members wishing to submit a Notice of Motion must forward it in writing to the Secretary before the 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- 6.2 The purpose of the meeting will be to:-
  - receive apologies for absence
  - receive and seek approval for the minutes of the previous year's AGM

- receive the Chairman’s report
  - receive the Accounts and Treasurer’s report, the former subject to approval by the Auditor
  - elect the relevant retiring Officer elect the Ordinary Members elect the Honorary Auditor
  - conduct any other appropriate business.
- 6.3 Nominations for election to the Committee shall be notified in writing to the Secretary up to three days before the AGM with a proposer and seconder. In the event of there not being sufficient nominations received before the AGM, nominations may be taken from the floor at the AGM.
- 6.4 Nominations for election in respect of members not present at the AGM shall not be accepted unless such members have given a prior written undertaking that if elected they would be willing to serve in the post to which they have been nominated.
- 6.5 The Auditor may or may not be a member of the Society but must not be a serving member of the outgoing Committee.
- 6.6 An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the Secretary at any time at the behest of the Committee or if requested to do so by not less than eight members of the Society. Such requests must specify the nature of the business to be discussed.
- 6.7 Amendments to the Constitution of the Society may be proposed by members only at the AGM by prior notice of motion or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
- 6.8 A quorum at any General Meeting shall be the lower of fifteen or half the voting membership.
- 6.9 Failure of any member to receive notice of a General Meeting shall not invalidate the meeting.
- 6.10 The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes to record the proceedings of the Committee and General Meetings of the Society.

## **Data Protection**

- 7.1 The Society maintains a database of member’s details on a computer system. This information shall not be divulged to any other organisation. Members are entitled to see their personal information held on the Society’s computers by prior arrangement.