

# CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE BIDEFORD STAMP CLUB

## 1. TITLE AND OBJECTIVE

The Club shall be known as the "Bideford Stamp Club", its objectives being:

- (a) the study of postage stamps and related matters;
- (b) the drawing together of collectors;
- (c) holding meetings at which stamps are displayed; and
- (d) the encouragement of young collectors and beginners.

## 2. To meet the above objectives, the Bideford Stamp Club may:

- (a) hire premises and provide equipment;
- (b) expend monies received from any source;
- (c) do all such things as appear to the Committee to be necessary or desirable in pursuance of these objectives;
- (d) obtain and continue membership of "approved" Philatelic Associations and assist in the promotion of those Associations.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

Intending members will be required by the Club to complete an application form and remit the necessary subscription with their application. The Secretary will propose the intending member at an ordinary Club meeting and, if seconded and approved, shall be considered duly elected.

## 4. MEETINGS

Meetings will normally be held monthly and at such times and places as may be arranged by the Committee. Each member shall be permitted to introduce a guest on the understanding that such guest shall not attend more than twice in any one season in that capacity.

## 5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in Bideford and the business shall be to elect Officers, revise rules, receive reports and audited accounts for the previous financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> November until 31<sup>st</sup> October of the preceding year.

## 6. COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

An Executive Committee will consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Programme Secretary. These six members shall govern the Club and all these shall be honorary appointments.

All committee members shall be elected annually and shall hold office for twelve months. They shall be eligible for re-election. Three members of the Committee shall comprise a quorum. The Committee may co-opt any member to serve on the Committee for the remaining part of any particular yearly period.

## 7. POWERS OF COMMITTEE

The management of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, which shall include power to deal with any complaints of any nature or disputes that may arise among members. They may remove an undesirable member from the membership roll of the Club without any reason being made public. They shall be responsible for arranging the programme of meetings for each season and for the conduct of the Club generally.

## 8. FINANCE

The Accounts of the Club shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting. Club monies, other than petty cash, shall be kept in a Bank and/or Building Society account. Cheques drawn on the Bank and/or Building Society account shall be signed by the Treasurer and any one member of the Committee from a panel appointed by the Committee for that purpose.

The Annual General Meeting shall appoint an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year who shall be responsible for examining all the accounts of the Club before the next Annual General Meeting and for certifying an audit.

## 9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) The subscription payable per annum for members and junior members shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. This subscription shall entitle each member to attend meetings, to vote and to use the Library.

- (b) Each member shall be considered a subscriber for the ensuing year unless he/she sends notice in writing to the Secretary of his/her intentions to resign not later than 1<sup>st</sup> January.
- (c) Any member whose subscription falls more than four months in arrears from 1<sup>st</sup> January shall cease automatically to be a member.
- (d) No full or partial refund of subscription shall be payable if membership ceases for any reason.

#### **10. LIBRARY**

(a) The Library shall be kept in a place to be decided by the Committee and will be subject to their regulations and any special conditions as lay down by the Committee. Club members may borrow documents from the Library for a temporary period.

(b) The Committee shall have the power to purchase any book or paper they may deem expedient if funds permit.

#### **11. LIABILITY**

(a) The Club is covered by Public Liability Insurance, which also covers Public Meetings, Exhibitions, Dinners, etc.

(b) All reasonable precautions as to member integrity will be taken when admitting new members. Neither the Club nor any Officer or member of the Club admits any responsibility as to loss or damage resulting from pilfering, changing or breach of fidelity of whatever nature.

(c) Neither the Club nor any Officer or member of the Club accepts any responsibility for loss of property due to enemy action or nuclear explosion or civil disturbance.

#### **12. ADDRESSES**

Members shall inform the Secretary promptly of any change of address.

#### **13. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the Club being dissolved for any reason, the assets and funds of the Club may be transferred to any other Philatelic Club or Association, and/or charity or charities, as the Committee may nominate.

#### **14. RULES**

These rules shall not be altered except at the Annual General Meeting, or at a special meeting to which every ordinary member of the Club shall be summoned. Notification of any proposed alteration in the rules must be sent to the Secretary and circulated to all members at least fourteen days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. The quorum for either of the aforementioned meetings of the Club shall be eight members, or 50% of current Club membership, whichever is smaller.

The Secretary shall convene a Special Meeting if a request in writing is made by at least five members.