

Hampshire Ornithological Society Rules

1. Name and Status

The name of the Society is the Hampshire Ornithological Society. The Society is a charitable organisation operating in the County of Hampshire, inclusive of the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, as a voluntary association.

2. Objects of the Society

The objects of the Society are, within the County of Hampshire:

- i) To advance the education of the public in all aspects of ornithology.
- ii) To promote research into ornithology and to publish the useful results of such study.
- iii) To support and encourage the preservation and conservation of wild birds and places of ornithological interest.

3. Organisational Structure

a) Officers and administration

- i) The Executive Officers of the Society shall all be honorary and be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. They shall be the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- ii) The Society shall be administered by a Management Committee, the members of which are the trustees of the charity.
- iii) The Management Committee may propose an Honorary President of the Society for election at the Annual General Meeting. Such Honorary President shall hold office for five years and be eligible for re-election. The President shall be invited to take the chair at each Annual General Meeting during their term of office.

b) Management Committee

- i) The Management Committee shall consist of the Society's Executive Officers, the Chairs and Secretaries of sub-committees and the following officers: Conservation Liaison Officer, County Recorder, Editors of the Bird Report and Newsletter, Events Manager and Membership Officer. In addition, there shall be up to five ordinary members. All committee members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting in every year.
- ii) The Chair of the Society shall serve for a period of up to five years. At the discretion of the Management Committee, this period can be extended annually, up to a maximum of ten years in total. Ordinary members of the Management Committee shall not serve for more than three consecutive years and after serving for this period shall not be eligible for re-election as an ordinary member for a period of one year.
- iii) The Management Committee shall have power to fill any casual vacancy that may occur and shall also have power to co-opt not more than five additional members. Additional members of the Management Committee appointed under this clause shall cease membership automatically at the next Annual General Meeting but may be re-elected at that meeting.
- iv) All nominations for officers and members of the Management Committee must be in writing and must reach the Secretary not later than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting and nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominees.
- v) The Management Committee shall have power on behalf of the Society to enter into Gift Aid agreements with members and to make claims for the repayment of tax under such agreements.
- vi) The Management Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to depute to them any of its powers except the power to appoint sub-committees. All sub-committees shall report their proceedings to the Management Committee at Management Committee meetings and shall conduct their business in accordance with the directions of the Management Committee.

c) Powers of the Management Committee

In furtherance of the foregoing charitable objects the Management Committee shall have the following powers:

i) To promote interest in the objects of the Society and for this purpose to arrange lectures and meetings and to organise tours, walks, excursions and the like.

ii) For the above purposes to raise and maintain funds, and in connection therewith to fix subscriptions and to receive donations, legacies and other gifts and to make and publish appeals and requests for financial assistance and to enter into and accept covenants to pay an amount for a fixed number of years.

iii) To invest the monies of the Society not immediately required for its purposes in or upon such investments, securities and properties as may be thought fit provided that:-

- in the event the society shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts, the Society shall only deal with or invest the same in such manner as allowed by law, having regard to such trusts.
- in the event the Society shall take or hold any property which may be subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales the Society shall not sell, mortgage, charge or lease the same without such authority or consent as may be required by law.

iv) All deeds and documents which require being executed and signed by the Society in the names of Trustees, shall be executed and signed by the Chair and Honorary Secretary in pursuance of an approved resolution of the Management Committee.

4. Membership

a) Membership categories

The Society shall consist of the following membership categories:

i) Honorary Life Members - all members and others as the Society may wish to honour may be proposed by the Management Committee as Honorary Life Members without payment of any further subscriptions and such proposals shall be voted on at the next Annual General Meeting.

ii) Ordinary Members - shall be entitled to receive one copy of all publications of the Society and notices of all meetings and other matters pertaining to the Society including the rules of the Society.

iii) Joint Members - can be any two or more members of the Society living at the same address who shall receive one copy of the publications and notices of the Society but in other respects shall enjoy all privileges extended to Ordinary Members of the Society.

iv) Young Members - can be members under the age of 18 or full time registered students aged 18 or over and under 25 who shall enjoy all privileges of the Society.

v) Family Members - can be two or more members at the same address with a least one of whom is under the age of 21 who shall receive one copy of the publications and notices of the Society, but in other respects shall enjoy all the privileges of the Society.

vi) Corporate Members - shall be interested bodies who shall be entitled to one vote, to send one member to meetings and to receive one copy of the publications and notices of the Society.

vii) All Honorary Life Members and members whose subscriptions for any year have been received shall be entitled to the Society's publications for that year.

All Members may vote on the affairs of the Society at the AGM and may hold office in the Society subject to their appointment being approved by the Trustees of the Society.

b) Misconduct

i) If any member shall be guilty of conduct, which in the opinion of the Management Committee, is contrary to the interests of the Society or injurious to its reputation, that person shall be liable to expulsion from the Society. This will be by resolution of a meeting of the Management Committee. This may be one of the regular meetings of the Management Committee or one especially arranged, if a matter of urgency. The member will be given at least fourteen days' notice of the meeting and will be presented in writing with the allegations and of the intended passing of the resolution. The member shall have the opportunity of attending the meeting, accompanied by one other person, if he/she wants and, before passing of any resolution, have an opportunity of giving orally or in writing any defence he/she may think fit.

5. Subscriptions

- i) Annual subscriptions shall be fixed from time to time by the Management Committee. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st January in each year. The subscriptions for any new member joining after 30th September shall cover the succeeding calendar year, save that members so joining shall not be entitled to receive the Bird Report published in the year they join.
- ii) The Society's Fiscal Year shall be from the 1st January to the 31st December.
- iii) Members whose subscriptions are unpaid by the 1st March shall be reminded that they are overdue. Those whose subscriptions remain unpaid by the 1st June shall cease to be entitled to the privileges of membership.

6. Meetings

- i) An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held once in every calendar year at which the Chairs of the Management Committee shall submit a report (calling in other Officers or Members of the Management Committee as required), including the Treasurer's financial report and the independently examined accounts. Notices shall be sent out not less than six weeks before an Annual General Meeting. There shall not be more than fifteen months between one Annual General Meeting and the next.
- ii) Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened within 28 days at the discretion of the Management Committee or by written request to the Secretary from 30 members of the Society. At least 14 days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the business proposed.
- iii) The Management Committee shall meet at least three times a year. Emergency committee meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair and one other officer of the Management Committee or shall be held within 28 days on the written request of not less than five members of the Management Committee or on a petition signed by not less than 30 members of the Society.
- iv) At Management Committee meetings seven shall form a quorum, including a minimum of two of the Executive Officers. Five shall constitute a quorum of a sub-committee. At General Meetings 20 shall form a quorum.
- iv) At Committee Meetings and at General Meetings the Chair shall preside (or in his absence a deputy Chair who shall be elected for this purpose). The Chair of all committee meetings or general meetings shall have a vote, and an additional vote in the event of an equality of votes.

7. Alteration of Rules

Alteration to these Rules shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual or an Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Rules must be received by the Secretary of the Society at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. No alteration to Rule 2. Objects, 3.c) Powers of the Management Committee, Rule 8. Dissolution or Rule 7 (this rule), shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a charity in law.

8. Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days' notice shall have been given (to the members). Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Society as the Society may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

- Notes: 1) Updated Rules approved at HOS AGM on March 27th, 2010.
2) Changed rule 3bii, approved at HOS AGM on March 31st, 2012.
3) Changed rule 3bvii, approved at HOS AGM on April 2nd, 2016
4) Changed rule 4bii, approved at "virtual" HOS AGM on July 19th, 2020
5) Changes to Rules 3aiii, 3bi, 3bvii, 4a, 4aiv, 4av, 6i, 6iii and 6iv, approved at HOS AGM on 28th March 2026