

# GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

## Constitution

*(Adopted 1994: amended 9 November 2002, 8 November 2008, and 7 November 2015)*

### 1 Title

The Great North of Scotland Railway Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

### 2 Aims

The Association shall: -

- i) promote the study, acquisition and preservation of information, documents, illustrations and artefacts relating to the Great North of Scotland Railway and successor companies.
- ii) facilitate and co-ordinate research by members into the history of the Railway.
- iii) foster the collation and dissemination of information and material so obtained.
- iv) assist other private, public and professional organisations which have aims and interests similar to those of the Association.

### 3 Membership

- i) membership shall be open to persons of eighteen years and over actively interested in furthering the aims of the Association. Younger members may be admitted, on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the Committee.
- v) membership shall be available in two forms:- ordinary, and honorary. Ordinary membership shall be contingent upon payment of a prescribed subscription.
- vi) membership shall be obtainable on application to the Association in the instance of ordinary membership, but only at the invitation of the Association in respect of honorary membership, including if the Association so resolve, the appointment of an Honorary President.
- vii) the Committee of the Association shall have the sole right to refuse an application for membership, or for renewal of an existing membership.
- viii) membership shall have deemed to have lapsed, if the annual subscription has not been paid within three calendar months of the prescribed date.

### 4 Subscriptions

- i) the annual subscription shall be decided upon at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- ix) subscriptions shall not be sought from honorary members.
- x) subscriptions shall be payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> September of each year.

### 5 Committee

- i) the affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee composed of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and six ordinary members, all of whom shall hold honorary appointments. The Honorary President shall also be a member of the Committee ex officio. The Chairman shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote.
- xi) the Officers shall be elected by Association members from amongst their number, at an AGM of the Association.
- xii) appointments shall be for three years' duration and Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- xiii) the election of Committee members shall be by a ballot of Members present at the Annual General Meeting. Notification of nomination and of the nominees' acceptance must be given in writing to the Secretary or other prescribed Officer of the Association at least two weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nominations timeously received, the AGM shall have power to nominate one or more of their number to the vacant place or places on the Committee.
- xiv) for transacting the Association's business, a quorum shall consist of at least four members of the Committee.
- xv) for the satisfactory transaction of the Association's affairs, the Committee shall be empowered to co-opt no more than two additional members to hold office until the following AGM.
- xvi) the Committee shall be empowered to accept material for preservation by the Association. Such material can only be disposed of if it has been ascertained to be surplus to the requirements of the Association.

- xvii) the Committee shall be empowered to seek and negotiate for the safe lodgement of material preserved by the Association, either temporarily or permanently, with an appropriate private or professional organisation which will guarantee to ensure in perpetuity further preservation and freedom of access to the material for all interested persons. However, permanent transfer of historical items to another organisation must receive the approval of the ordinary membership at an Annual General Meeting.
- xviii) the Committee shall be at liberty to lend material for temporary exhibition.
- xix) an accurate minute of all official transactions shall be kept by the Secretary or other office bearer appointed to prepare minutes; a proper set of accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer.
- xx) Committee members shall be expected to participate fully in the running of the Association.

## **6 Meetings**

- i) the Annual General Meeting shall be held during the last three months of the calendar year. At least three weeks' notice in writing of the date, time, place and provisional agenda shall be given by the Secretary, or other authorised office bearer, to all members.
- xxi) an Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be convened at the instruction of the Committee or in response to a written request to the Secretary, signed by no fewer than twenty ordinary members. The meeting shall be held within twelve weeks of the date of receipt of the instruction or the request and subsequent to at least two weeks' notice in writing of the date, time, place and agenda being given by the Secretary to all members.
- xxii) only ordinary members shall have the right to vote at General Meetings.
- xxiii) Committee Meetings shall be held at least once per year and as often as is deemed necessary.
- xxiv) Ordinary Meetings shall be arranged either independently or in conjunction with other associations and societies such as may suit the expressed desires of the Associations' members. Non-members may be admitted to meetings of the Association at the discretion of the Chairman.
- xxv) the quorum at an Extra-ordinary General or Annual General Meeting shall be five per cent of the membership of the Association.

## **7 Finances**

- i) the income of the Association, howsoever it may be derived, shall be applied only to the promotion of the expressed aims of the Association or according to the procedures stipulated in the constitution.
- xxvi) the Accounts shall be closed on the last day of August each year for submission to the examiner who shall have been appointed by Association Members at the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- xxvii) the Committee may instruct the Treasurer at any time to present the accounts for examination either at a Committee Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting, if this is necessary.
- xxviii) the audited Accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting and a copy of the Accounts shall be sent to each member with the next available *Great North Review*.
- xxix) the Association at an Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to award donations or grants to bodies with similar or parallel aims to itself to a maximum outlay from the Associations' Accounts of £1,000 or 5% of the balance of funds at the end of the preceding financial year, whichever is the lesser, subject to a £500 maximum to any single body, in respect of any financial year.

## **8 Activities and Facilities**

- i) all members shall be entitled to receive, free of charge, one copy of each issue of the Associations' journal or newsletter. The format of the publication shall be decided on by the Committee, but a journal or newsletter shall be produced quarterly each year and shall be the means of conveying news and information to all members.
- xxx) Ordinary and Honorary members shall be entitled to purchase, at the lowest economic price, one copy of any books, information sheets, drawings, photographs or other material which may be available by or through the Association from time to time.
- xxxi) the items referred to in clause (ii) may be made available to non-members at a price to be decided by the Committee.
- xxxii) in accordance with the Association's policy, all members shall be encouraged to participate in the gathering, study and dissemination of historical information and other material for preservation.

## **9 Constitution and Liabilities**

- i) additions and alterations to the Constitution shall be made only in accordance with the wishes of the Ordinary members as expressed in a postal ballot and subsequently recorded at a General Meeting. The pro-

posals for any change must be notified to the Secretary in writing at least six weeks before a General Meeting.

xxxiii) the Association shall not be liable for loss or damage to any article or material.

xxxiv) the Association cannot be held responsible for injury to persons or for loss of or damage to any personal property of members or guests at any meeting or outing of the Association.

## **10 Dissolution**

i) the dissolution of the Association shall be effected only after approval of two-thirds of the ordinary membership as expressed in a postal ballot and recorded at a General Meeting.

xxxv) the Committee shall be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Association according to the terms stipulated hereunder.

xxxvi) should the preservation of the Association's historical material assets not already have been negotiated, then the items should be made over to an appropriate private, public or professional organisation, or as agreed on by a majority vote of those present at the General Meeting when dissolution is authorised.

xxxvii) the financial assets of the Association shall be donated either to a charitable, private, public or professional organisation with aims and interests similar to those of the Association: the choice being made according to a majority vote of those present at the General Meeting when dissolution is authorised.