

## **The Constitution of the Society of Antique Modellers, Chapter 35**

### **Article 1: Name and Address**

- 1.1 The formal name of the Society shall “The Society of Antique Modellers, Chapter 35” herein referred to as “The Society”. The working title of the Society shall be “SAM 35: The Society for Aeromodellers”.
- 1.2 The principal address for conducting business shall be that of the current Honorary Secretary.

### **Article 2: Purpose of the Society**

- 2.1 To promote and encourage the hobby and interests of building and flying Old Timer, Vintage and Classic model aeroplanes, as well as other closely related modelling disciplines such as tethered cars, as a recreational, educational and historic activity.
- 2.2 To issue publications including a regular newsletter, informing members of current activities within the Society and other activities that may be of interest to members.

### **Article 3: Policies**

- 3.1 The Society shall be a non-profit, non-stock society, organised and existing pursuant to the laws of the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 The function of the Society shall be directed exclusively to projects, plans and activities promoting the best interests of the Society and its members.
- 3.3 Neither the name nor the activities of the Society shall be associated with any other organisations or partisan activity not in the best interests of vintage aeromodelling or of the Society and its members.

### **Article 4: Association with other bodies**

- 4.1 The Society shall be affiliated with the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd (SMAE), now trading as the British Model Flying Association (BMFA), as a Special Interest Group.
- 4.2 The Society shall also maintain its informal connection with the originating body in the USA, The Society of Antique Modellers. The Society may also seek association with other SAM Chapters and vintage modelling organisations if its member’s best interests would be served thereby.

### **Article 5: Membership**

- 5.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in vintage modelling and whose aims are compatible with those of the Society.
- 5.2 There shall be two types of membership, namely (1) Member and (2) Honorary Life Member. All prospective members shall submit a completed application form that shall be prescribed by the Officers of the Society and shall include the statement “I have read and agree to uphold the Constitution of SAM 35”. Acceptance of membership shall not guarantee renewal in subsequent years. Additionally, a member who serves on the SAM35 Committee shall be accorded the privilege of free/honorary membership for the term of their tenure. If a member should resign from the committee then he becomes liable for pro-rata for subscriptions calculated at one-twelfth per month for the time remaining to the next membership renewal. The acceptance of this privilege is voluntary in that a committee member may continue to pay subscriptions if so desired.
- 5.3 Members and Life Members in good standing with the Society shall be entitled to all privileges of membership. They shall receive the Society’s newsletter, shall have full voting rights and shall receive any other benefits offered by the Society. The term “in good standing” shall be deemed to apply to any member whose subscription is fully paid and who is not the subject of any action for expulsion.
- 5.4 The amount of the annual membership subscription shall be determined by the Society at its Annual General Meeting. The institution of a joining fee, and the amount of such a fee, shall also be determined at its Annual General Meeting. The due date for renewing member’s subscriptions shall be every 1st January.

- 5.5 All members and Life Members who actively fly model aeroplanes shall, for the purposes of insurance, also be full members of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) or the Scottish Aeromodellers Association (SAA). This sub paragraph shall not apply to members residing overseas.

## **The Constitution of SAM 35**

### **Article 6: Officers**

- 6.1 The Society shall appoint the following Officers:-
- 6.1.1 Chairman
  - 6.1.2 Vice Chairman
  - 6.1.3 Hon. Secretary
  - 6.1.4 Hon. Treasurer
  - 6.1.5 Membership Secretary
  - 6.1.6 Newsletter Editor
  - 6.1.7 Competition and Events Secretaries as required
- 6.2 The Society may also appoint deputies to these Officers and may also create other posts such as Webmaster or PRO.
- 6.3 The Society may at an Annual General Meeting appoint an Honorary President. This post shall normally be offered to a person prominent or outstanding in the aeromodelling world.

### **Article 7: Election of Officers**

- 7.1 The appointment of all Officers specified in Article 6 above shall be by means of election by the membership. The normal term of office shall be three years.
- 7.2 Any member in good standing who has been a member of the Society for a least one year and who has passed his or her eighteenth birthday, but no other person, shall be eligible to hold office in the Society subject to the provisions of paragraph 7.3.
- 7.3 A candidate for election must be proposed and seconded by members in good standing and with his or her consent. Where a serving Officer wishes to stand for a further term, a proposer and seconder shall not be required provided there is no other candidate for the same post.
- 7.4 To minimise disruption, one third of the Society's Officers shall stand down each year after having served their normal term and a general election for their posts shall be held at the Annual General Meeting. Special elections, such as may be occasioned by the early vacation of a post or the creation of a new post, may be held at the Annual General Meeting or at other times. Special elections to the committee such as may be occasioned by the early vacation of a post or the creation of a new post may be held at the Annual General Meeting, or at other times.

### **Article 8: The Committee**

- 8.1 The Society shall be governed by a Committee comprising the Officers specified in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.3 plus other nominated and seconded members who wish to serve on the committee without portfolio.
- 8.2 A deputy Officer shall not be a member of the Committee except when authorised to attend or to act in place of an absent or indisposed incumbent.
- 8.3 A quorum of the Committee shall comprise not fewer than five officers of whom no fewer than four shall be Officers specified in sub-paragraphs 6.1.1 to 6.1.5.

### **Article 9: Resignation**

- 9.1 An Officer shall, wherever possible, give one months notice of resignation. An ordinary member shall be deemed to have resigned if his or her annual renewal subscription is not paid by the first day of March in the renewal year. Re-admission to the Society is not guaranteed.

## **Article 10: Expulsion**

- 10.1 A member may be expelled if he or she displays deliberate or persistent behaviour considered detrimental to the good standing of the Society. Such action may include but not be limited to:
- Dishonesty, theft and fraud from the Society or its members
  - Deception, for example making untrue statements in membership applications or falsifying expenses incurred on behalf of the Society, etc.
  - Vandalism or sabotage of Society equipment and property
  - Fighting, or seriously disruptive behaviour or offensive or abusive language
  - Serious misuse of computer, email and internet systems, including posting to Society websites or emailing pornographic, offensive or obscene emails to members
  - Misuse of Society financial or other confidential club information
  - Acts of bullying, harassment or racial discrimination
  - Model flying under the influence of drinks, illegal drugs or other intoxicants
  - Misconduct which may bring the Society into disrepute
  - Serious breaches of the Society's policies, procedures and safety rules
  - Deliberate or serious damage to the Society's/landowners property or causing loss, damage or injury through serious negligence
  - Any criminal offence carried out at the Society's site or during club meetings/events where such offence impacts or may impact upon the Society
- 10.2 A sub-committee that shall comprise of five independent members appointed by the Committee shall investigate alleged offences. The sub-committee may be empowered to recommend the termination of membership. Plaintiffs and witnesses may be required to give evidence and accused members shall have the right to defend themselves. Following a hearing by the sub-committee, its findings shall be communicated to the Committee that shall then take appropriate action and shall announce the said action to the membership.
- 10.3 Expulsion shall be for a minimum of three years. Re-admission to the Society shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

## **Article 11: The Annual General Meeting**

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at a time and place to be decided by the Committee and notified to the membership in the Society's newsletter at least two months prior to the planned meeting date. Only the following business shall be conducted at the AGM:-
- 11.1.1 To receive and submit for the membership's approval a general report on the Society for the previous year.
  - 11.1.2 To receive and submit for the membership's approval the audited accounts of the Society.
  - 11.1.3 To receive activity reports from the appropriate Officers.
  - 11.1.4 To hold elections for the Officer's posts concerned, to announce the results of election ballots and to approve the election of Officers deemed to have been elected.
  - 11.1.5 To appoint the Society's auditor for the following year.
  - 11.1.6 To discuss any other business on the Agenda and take action where appropriate.
- 11.2 All items for "any other business" should ideally be raised in writing to the secretary at least 1 month before the AGM, but may be raised and discussed at the meeting if time permits at the secretary's discretion.
- 11.3 Only members currently in good standing shall be entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting at elections shall be by a show of hands.

## **Article 12: Extraordinary General Meeting**

- 12.1 The Committee shall be empowered to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) as it considers necessary. The Committee shall call an EGM within two months following receipt of a written request signed by not less than 2% of the membership, or 20 members whichever is the greater. The only business to be discussed at an EGM shall appear on an Agenda that shall be published in the Society's newsletter together with one full months notice of the EGM.

### **Article 13: Amendment of the Constitution**

- 13.1 The Society may from time to time amend this Constitution by a majority vote at an AGM or EGM.
- 13.2 No EGM called for the purpose of amending the Constitution shall take place within a period of sixty days prior to the AGM. The purpose of this rule is to give the Society time to consider whether to confirm any major changes.

### **Article 14: Financial Year and Auditors**

- 14.1 The Society's Financial Year shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> December. A reputable auditor shall be appointed at the AGM and a duly audited balance sheet and accounts for the preceding financial year shall be submitted to each AGM.

### **Article 15: The Society's Funds**

- 15.1 All monies belonging to the Society shall be paid by the Hon. Treasurer or the Hon. Secretary into an account in the name of the Society at a bank named by the Committee. All cheques shall be signed by two of the following Officers; The Hon. Treasurer, The Hon. Secretary or the Chairman. Sums in excess of those required in the immediate future may be placed in an investment account allowing early withdrawal when required.

### **Article 16: Data Protection:**

The Society will take whatever action is needed to comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations. This will include but not be limited to:

- 16.1 Any data that is held electronically will be password protected
- 16.2 Hardcopy data will be securely kept
- 16.3 Members must agree to SAM35 holding their details
- 16.4 The SAM35 website will be similarly GDPR compliant
- 16.5 A compliance officer will be appointed.

### **Article 17: Winding Up**

- 17.1 If at an EGM a special resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and passed, so much of the assets of the Society shall be realised as may be required to discharge all liabilities and any remaining assets shall be disposed of as determined by the EGM. No such special resolution shall be passed unless carried by two thirds of the members present.
- 17.2 If the Society's newsletter has failed and it is not possible to give the membership prior notice of the EGM by this means, then the Committee shall publish an announcement in at least two major modelling magazines giving two months notice of the EGM.