

WELSH MINES SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION.

(DRAFT)

1. **NAME.** The Society shall be called:- The **Welsh Mines Society.**
2. **OBJECT.** The purpose of the Society shall be the to bring together those with interests in the history, exploration, and preservation of the metal, coal and slate mines of Wales and the Welsh Borderlands.
3. **ACTIVITIES.** The objects of the Society shall be met by arranging activities such as meetings (including ideally two field meetings per year), by the regular publication of a Newsletter, by occasional Special Publications if seen fit, other appropriate activities that advance the objects of the Society and by affiliations with like-minded organisations such as NAMHO.
4. **MEMBERSHIP.**
 - (a) Membership of the Society is at the discretion of the Committee on the presentation of a completed application form and payment of the appropriate membership fee.
 - (b) Persons under the age of 18 are only eligible as Members with the written consent of their parent or guardian.
 - (c) Membership of the society requires the member's details to be held on an electronic database, which is used solely for the purposes of membership and insurance administration and will not be shared with any third party.
 - (d) Attendance of the Welsh Mines Society fieldtrips can only be undertaken if the member is suitably insured using an insurance scheme specifically approved by the Welsh Mines Society Committee.
 - (e) Persons under the age of 18 are only allowed underground if they are suitably insured and under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian.
 - (f) The Society's Newsletter is available free to members
 - (g) The Society's Newsletter is available to non-members for an annual subscription rate set by the committee
5. **SUBSCRIPTION.**
 - (a) Annual subscriptions are payable in January of each year
 - (b) Subscription for the next year shall be decided by the membership at the A.G.M
 - (c) Any person who is more than 12 months in arrears of payment of subscription shall be removed from the membership at the discretion of the Secretary/Treasurer.
 - (d) The insurance premium will be set by the committee at the appropriate time and will be payable on request.
6. **COMMITTEE.**
 - (a) The Society shall be managed by a Committee of: - **CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY/TREASURER, EDITOR.**
 - (b) Committee Members shall be elected at the A.G.M. from amongst the members of the Society.
 - (c) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt extra members, if they feel necessary, for temporary or permanent duties.
 - (d) All the Committee members shall retire at the A.G.M. and are eligible for re-election.
7. **GENERAL MEETINGS.**

"General Meetings" is used to describe all meetings to which all members are invited – for example Extra-Ordinary, Field Trip Meetings, Annual General and Occasional Meetings, as detailed in the Society's Newsletter.

 - (a) The A.G.M. of the Society shall be in September to: -
 1. Receive the Committee Members' reports.
 2. Elect the committee
 3. Consider any amendments to the Constitution or Rules.
 4. Discuss and decide on any matters affecting the Society.
 - (b) Nominations for Committee member must be done with the consent of the nominee.
 - (c) Extra-Ordinary General Meetings shall be convened at the request of the Committee or at least 10 members

Notice of such a meeting must be circulated to members, in writing at least 21 days before the meeting.

An E.G.M. shall only discuss the points within the notice provided.

- (d) The Constitution can only be amended at a General Meeting.
Notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution must be circulated to the members at least 21 days before the General Meeting at which it proposed to consider them.
Decisions on constitutional changes may only be carried by a two-thirds majority.
- (e) Any proposal signed by 3 or more members and received by the Secretary at least 21 days before a meeting must be included in the agenda.
Proposals, other than those affecting the Constitution, can also be made directly at a General Meeting
Decisions on non-constitutional proposals require a simple majority.
- (f) Non-receipt of the required notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.

8. **FINANCE.**

- (a) Approval by a majority of the committee is required for any expenditure of funds for purposes other than those required in the normal running costs of the Society.
- (b) The Treasurer shall record all income, from any source, and all expenditure that the Society may incur, and that these records shall be available for review at any time as directed by the Committee.

9. **DISCIPLINE.**

The Committee may withdraw membership from any member whose actions are deemed contrary to the interests of the Society.

Notes : (Appertaining to 'draft')

Compiled from RFDCC Constitution, by Mole, with suggestions incorporated from Graham Levins.

At the AGM in Sept, I agreed to look into the basic minimum legal requirements for a 'Club Constitution', after a proposal by Simon Hughes, that we needed one.

This proposal by Simon came part way through my (reluctant) nomination as the Chairman of the Welsh Mines Society. John Bennett suggested that because I was prepared to look into it, I was the ideal person as Chairman.

The vote was, I believe, unanimous. Please note that I was the ONLY objector!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I placed the matter into the hands of an almost practicing Solicitor, my niece, so there is no charge.

Surprisingly, there is NO legal requirement for a Club / Society to have a Constitution /Rules!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

However, certain National & Regional organizations require a copy of a Club's / Society's Constitution before they will issue their services, i.e. Insurance, Access, Membership.

I am fully aware that there may be mistakes, errors of interpretation, & the like.

THIS IS ONLY A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT, TO BE PUT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WMS IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME.

PLEASE SEND ANY COMMENTS, GOOD OR BAD, OR AMMENDMENTS, TO MOLE.

This is the version suggested by David Roe, WMS Secretary / Treasurer, with contributions by David James.

Mole, 22.4.05