

Constitution of the British Vintage Wireless Society

(Revised December 2020)

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be the "British Vintage Wireless Society".
The Society shall also be known by the initials **BVWS**.

2. Objectives

The Society exists to promote:

- (i) the study of the history of electrical and electronic communication and entertainment
- (ii) the rescue and preservation of early equipment, documents and ephemera
- (iii) high standards of conservation and restoration
- (iv) opportunities for members to exchange equipment, ideas, and information
- (v) fair transactions between members
- (vi) the retention of important British artefacts in Britain

3. Membership, entitlements, and subscriptions

- 3.1 The classes of membership shall be:- Ordinary, Family Group, Honorary, Complimentary, and Associate.
 - 3.1.1 Ordinary members are entitled to have Society publications mailed to their last notified addresses, to have counted any valid votes in elections and on proposals, to benefit from other services offered by the Society, and to attend meetings of the Society subject to available accommodation and the payment of relevant fees.
 - 3.1.2 An Ordinary member may head a Family Group membership with one other named adult and children. Adult members of the group have the same entitlements as Ordinary members except that only one set of Society publications will be mailed to the group address.
 - 3.1.3 Honorary and Complimentary members enjoy the entitlements of Ordinary members but are not required to pay renewal subscriptions or fees for entry to venues.
 - 3.1.4 Appropriate organisations or individuals may be admitted to Associate (non-voting) membership with limited entitlements.
- 3.2 Subscription rates will have been announced by the Treasurer in the previous year. Members may elect to pay in advance for three years subscriptions at the rate set for the first year.
- 3.3 The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Subscriptions for renewal of Ordinary or Family Group memberships must be received by January 31st, after which such memberships will lapse. A lapsed member loses all entitlements. Acceptance of late renewal to end lapsed status is at the discretion of the Membership Secretary.
- 3.4 The information supplied on membership application or renewal forms will be entered into a database kept by the Membership Secretary solely for administrative purposes. Society communications will be sent only to the addresses held in the database. It is a member's responsibility to notify any changes. The BVWS is to comply with the requirements of GDPR regarding the use of data storage and handling.

4. Committee

- 4.1 The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of up to twelve members including at least the following officers:- Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, and Membership Secretary.
- 4.2 All Ordinary, Family Group, Honorary, and Complimentary members of the Society are eligible to serve as members or officers of the Committee except:-
 - 4.2.1 Members standing for the first time or after a long absence are not eligible for the offices of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Bulletin Editor unless previous experience of said function is proven or Society membership has been continuous for a minimum of 3 years at time of standing.
 - 4.2.2 Members for whom dealing is a major activity are barred from serving as officers.
- 4.3 Officers and ordinary members of the committee shall be elected to serve for terms of three years. All shall be eligible for re-election. The Chairman shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.
 - 4.3.1 The process for nomination of candidates for election will be published in the Autumn Bulletin to all Ordinary, Family Group, Honorary, and Complimentary members. Nominations proposed and seconded by two different members of the Society who have obtained the consent of the nominee, shall be accepted up to the closing date determined by the Committee shown on the member communication.
 - 4.3.2 Opposed candidates will prepare election addresses of not more than 100 words. Ballot forms will be posted to all Ordinary, Family Group, Honorary, and Complimentary members with the Christmas Bulletin and the membership renewal forms. The ballot will close at midnight on the last day before

Dated December 2020

membership lapses (January 31st). The result of the ballot will be announced at the following AGM (at which the newly elected members will take office) and in the subsequent Bulletin and on the Society website.

- 4.4 The Committee shall meet at least twice yearly, five members including the Chairman or Vice Chairman, and the Secretary or Treasurer constituting a quorum. Except as provided for in section 4.11, motions shall be decided by a simple majority, the Chairman having a casting vote. The minutes of each meeting will be published in a subsequent Bulletin.
- 4.5 The Committee shall have the power to elect to Honorary membership of the Society any person deemed by it to have given outstanding service to the Society, the study of wireless history, or conservation. The citation will be published in the Bulletin. Complimentary membership may be offered to members who have rendered significant service to the Society. A complete list of the names of the Honorary members shall be reported once a year in the Bulletin.
- 4.6 Associate (non-voting) membership of the Society with limited entitlements may be offered by the Committee to appropriate organisations or individuals on an ad hoc basis for the benefit of the Society (such as exchange of publications). Any such arrangements will be reported in the Bulletin.
- 4.7 The Committee shall have the power to terminate membership of the Society for conduct deemed by it to be contrary to the spirit of the Society's objectives or likely to bring the name of the Society into disrepute. Subscriptions will not be refunded.
- 4.8 The Committee shall make byelaws governing the conduct of Society affairs and events, and shall specify and enforce penalties for their contravention. A copy of the applicable byelaws will be posted at all events.
- 4.9 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members of the Society as required to serve on the Committee until the next AGM.
- 4.10 The Committee shall have the power to appoint members of the Society to serve on subcommittees chaired by elected Committee members and set up for specific purposes.
- 4.11 A member shall immediately resign from the Committee if he/she is the subject of a motion of no confidence which is carried at a quorate meeting at which not more than three of the elected members are absent. Co-opted members may not vote and the Chairman will not have a casting vote on such a motion.

5. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 5.1 The AGM shall be held in March at a time and place decided by the Committee. A minimum of thirty days notice will be given. The minutes of the AGM shall appear in the following Bulletin.
- 5.2 The business of the AGM shall be
 - (i) to receive reports on activities in the previous year from members of the Committee
 - (ii) to receive a financial report and an audited statement of accounts from the Treasurer
 - (iii) to receive the results of any elections to the Committee
 - (iv) to discuss any other business.

6. Ballots (other than elections)

Any proposal significantly to amend the constitution, any other matter deemed serious enough by the Committee, or any proposal signed by at least 5% of the membership will be made the subject of a ballot of all members, with the ballot being held in the last instance within sixty days of receipt of the proposal by the Chairman. In all cases proposals will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the votes received.

7. Finance

- 7.1 The society's financial year shall start on January 1st.
- 7.2 Apart from petty cash, money belonging to the Society shall be held in the name of the Society in bank accounts and/or investments approved by the Committee. Authorised signatories for transactions in these accounts are the Treasurer and the Chairman. Additional officers may be approved as signatories by the Committee.
- 7.3 Independently examined accounts will be circulated with the Bulletin following the AGM.

8. Publications

The Society shall publish a Bulletin four times a year (seasonally) and member's advertisements four times a year with the Bulletins. Special publications will be produced from time to time.

9. Winding up

If a resolution to wind up the Society is carried, as much of the assets of the Society shall be realised as is required to discharge all liabilities and any remaining assets shall be divided equally among the members.