

Society for Co-operation in Russian & Soviet Studies
Registered Charity No 1104012

APPROVED AT SCRSS AGM 21 MAY 2022

RULES

1. **NAME**

The name of the Society is the Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies.
(hereinafter called “The Society”)

2. **OBJECT**

The Object of the Society shall be the advancement of education, learning and knowledge of, and to promote studies in the languages, culture, history and life of Russia and the other countries and nationalities formerly constituting the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

3. **POWERS**

i) The Society will ensure the provision and maintenance of libraries of books, periodicals, manuscripts, music, films, photographs, and artefacts relating to the said Object and to current and future developments thereof for the use by all persons desirous of making *bona fide* use thereof for the said Object subject only to the payment of such sums by way of subscription, fees and other charges as are necessary to defray the provision and maintenance thereof.

ii) In furtherance of the objects aforesaid the Society:

- a) may print and publish reports, catalogues, lists, bibliographies or other books, pamphlets or periodicals for education, learning or knowledge as aforesaid;
- b) may make personal or written appeals and arrange public meetings, lectures, seminars and conferences or otherwise to promote the Object of the Society as aforesaid and for the purpose of promoting contributions to the funds of the Society, whether as donations, annual fees, bequests or otherwise;
- c) may buy, sell, take on lease or charge or dispose of any property necessary for the achievement of the Object of the Society and to maintain and equip the same for use;
- d) may employ such staff as are necessary for the proper functioning of the Society and to make such provision for pensions as may be considered proper. Staff shall not be eligible for election to the Council nor as President or Vice-Presidents.
- e) may do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Object of the Society, and in all its activities shall act where appropriate or required in consultation with or with the consent of the Charity Commissioners and not in any way that may imperil the charitable status of the Society and in all respects to be subject to the laws of England.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Individual membership of the Society is open to any person who agrees with the Object of the Society, and applies for membership and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee. Such members are called full members.
- b) The Executive Committee may in its discretion accept as an affiliate member, any association, educational establishment, institution, library or other organisation or any branch thereof.

5. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- a) Individual members shall pay an annual subscription as fixed by the AGM from time to time.
- b) Affiliate members shall pay such annual subscriptions as may be fixed by the AGM from time to time.
- c) A member or affiliate member whose subscription is in arrears for one full year may be struck off the list of members by the Executive Committee.

6. **RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

- a) Each full member shall receive a copy of the Rules.
- b) Full members are entitled to take part in all the activities of the Society, to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Society and to hold office in the Society.
- c) Affiliate members are entitled to appoint one representative to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Society. Each affiliate member shall have one vote at such meetings. Affiliate members are entitled to use the information in the possession of and the services of the Society, but the Executive Committee may charge a research fee or service charge when it is considered by the Executive Committee reasonable to do so.
- d) If, in the opinion of the Executive Committee it is in the interest of the Society so to do, the Executive Committee may terminate the membership of or remove or suspend from office any member of the Society, but before doing so, such member shall be notified at his or her last known address, and be given the opportunity to be heard.
- e) A member may appeal to the next convenient meeting of the Council of the Society against such a decision, but the decision shall be operative pending such appeal except in the case of termination of membership, when membership shall be in abeyance pending the appeal. Such appeal shall be heard by members of the Council entitled to vote present at the meeting of the Council who did not participate in the decision appealed against. The quorum for such a meeting of the Council shall be two-thirds of the members of the Council entitled to vote who did not participate in the decision appealed against. The decision of the Council on such appeal shall be final.

7. **BRANCHES**

- a) Branches may be formed in any locality on the approval of the Executive Committee and their recognition may be withdrawn by the Executive Committee for any reason. Withdrawal of recognition of any Branch shall be subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Council.
- b) The Branch shall be conducted according to rules first approved by the Executive Committee. Such rules may provide that a Branch may appoint one of its members to attend meetings of the Council with a right to speak but not to vote.

8. **SECTIONS**

With the approval of the Executive Committee, Sections may be formed of those full members of the Society interested in particular branches of culture. Each Section shall be conducted according to rules first approved by the Executive Committee. Such rules may provide for the payment of an additional subscription by members of the Section, and may provide for the Section to appoint one of its members to attend meetings of the Council with a right to speak but not to vote.

9. **MANAGEMENT**

The management of the Society shall be vested in General Meetings (the Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting) which shall have the power to delegate all or any of the powers of management between such meetings to the Council of the Society and its Executive Committee.

10. **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

- a) Members of the Council, and the President, are Charity Trustees and are registered with the Charity Commission.
- b) Except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commissioners no Charity Trustee may receive any benefit in money or kind from the Society or have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the Society or acquire or hold any interest in property of the Society (except in order to hold it as Charity Trustee of the Society).

11. **PROPERTY**

- a) The Executive Committee shall cause the title to:
 - i) all land held or in trust for the Society; and
 - ii) all investments held by or on behalf of the charity;to be vested in the Charity Trustees.
- b) Provided that the Charity Trustees act only in accordance with the lawful direction of the Executive Committee, the Charity Trustees shall not be liable for the acts or defaults of its members.
- c) The Charity Trustees shall approve the terms of any appeal for funds and ensure the application of such funds for the purpose declared in the appeal.

12. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

- a) The Society shall appoint a President and Vice Presidents. These shall be members who have rendered outstanding service to the Society or to the field of Russian and Soviet Studies.
- b) The President and Vice Presidents shall be nominated by the Council, and elected by members present and voting at the AGM. The President and Vice Presidents shall serve for a term of three years before re-election.
- c) The President shall be a full voting member of the Council and a Charity Trustee.
- d) The Vice Presidents shall be entitled to attend and speak at all meetings of the Society and its Committees but shall have no vote at any Committees.

13. COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Council shall consist of 20 full members of the Society who shall serve for a term of three years before re-election.
- b) Any vacancy occurring in the Council may be filled by the Council until the next AGM. The Council may co-opt not more than three members. Any member so co-opted shall exercise all rights of a full member of the Council, may be counted in a quorum, and shall remain a member until the next AGM.
- c) The notice convening the AGM shall call for nominations to the Council to be made to the Secretary of the Society to reach him or her not less than three weeks prior to the AGM. All nominations of members to the Council must be seconded by another SCRSS member. In the event of the persons nominated exceeding the number of places to be filled, there shall be a ballot conducted at the AGM. The Executive Committee shall, prior to the AGM, appoint two members who are not candidates as scrutineers to count the votes cast. Each full member present in person or by proxy and each representative present on behalf of an affiliated body shall have one vote for each place to be filled.
- d) At each AGM, those members of the Council who have completed their term of three years and those who have been co-opted to the Council since the previous AGM shall retire from office. A retiring member shall be eligible for immediate re-election.
- e) The new Council shall assume office immediately after the AGM.
- f) The Council shall meet not less than three times during the year.
- g) The Council shall elect from among its members the Officers, namely the Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and such Officers as it may from time to time determine.
- h) Any member of the Council who shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings thereof without presenting apologies or being excused by the Council may be deemed to have resigned therefrom.
- i) The Council shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, and delegate to that Executive Committee the powers of the Council between meetings of the Council, save that the Executive Committee shall have no power to vary or rescind a decision of the Council. The Council may at any time vary or rescind a decision of the Executive Committee.
- j) The Council and Executive Committee may appoint such Sub-Committees as may be considered necessary from time to time.
- k) Except as provided in Rule 6(e) the quorum for meetings of the Council shall be one third of the members entitled to attend and vote, but in the absence of a quorum the members present may deal with any unopposed business.
- l) A resolution signed by all the members of the Council or Executive Committee as the case may be, shall be fully effective as if adopted at a meeting of that body.
- m) No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Society or receive remuneration or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Executive Committee) in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee.

14. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- a) This shall be held not earlier than March and not later than May in each year. Notices shall be sent to each full member and affiliate member at least four weeks before the meeting.
- b) The AGM shall receive the Report of the Council and the Financial Statement for the previous year ending 31 December.
- c) The AGM shall elect members of the Society's Council as described in Rule 13.
- d) The AGM shall approve the appointment of an independent examiner for the Society's accounts, in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance, who will hold office until the next AGM. This person shall not be a Charity Trustee, Vice President or employee of the Society.
- e) The notice convening the AGM shall call for motions to be made to the Secretary of the Society to reach him or her not less than three weeks prior to the AGM. All motions must be seconded by another SCRSS member.

15. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

These shall be convened at the instance of the Council or Executive Committee or on the written request made to the Honorary Secretary by at least forty full members. A Special General Meeting shall only deal with the matters of which notice has been given. Not less than two weeks' notice shall be given to all full members and affiliate members of a Special General Meeting.

16. **VOTING**

At all General Meetings each full member shall have one vote and the representative of each affiliate member shall have one vote. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules, all decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting. A full member unable to attend a General Meeting may appoint another full member as his or her proxy at the meeting. Notice in writing of any such appointment must be given to the Honorary Secretary not less than 48 hours before the General Meeting. A proxy may vote on behalf of the appointing member in addition to his or her own vote.

17. **ALTERATION OF RULES**

No alteration of these Rules shall be made except by a resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society. The notice of the meeting shall set out the proposed alteration. No amendment shall be made to the Name [Rule 1], the Object [Rule 2], or Rule 13(m) of these Rules or this clause without the prior consent of the Charity Commissioners or which may imperil the charity status of the Society.

18. **DISSOLUTION**

If the Council decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, they shall call a meeting of all members of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Council shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Object of this charity as the members of the Society may determine, or, if that cannot be done, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.

19. **INTERPRETATION OF RULES**

The Executive Committee may determine any matter on which these Rules are silent, and the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Society for Co-operation in Russian & Soviet Studies

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Founded in 1924 as the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics