

# Harrogate Model Railway Group

## Constitution

Harrogate Model Railway Group (“the Group”) is established by a group of volunteer members, who have joined together on an informal basis, to build and run model railways on a mutual basis. Any and all assets the Group may have, at any time, are jointly owned by all the paid-up members of the Group.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is a voluntary association, and does not seek to have any other more formal status.

This Constitution (as may be amended at any future time by any Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) of the Group) is intended to be the sole document setting out the basis of the voluntary Group.

The Group will be managed by two Officers (“the Officers”) as follows:

Group Treasurer

Group Secretary

Each to be voted into office annually at the AGM by agreement, or in the event of there being more than one candidate putting themselves forward to be an Officer, by simple majority vote of the paid-up members attending the AGM by secret ballot. Should any member be unable to attend the AGM they may nominate in writing another member to cast a proxy vote on their behalf.

The Group will hold an AGM as soon as convenient to most Members as assessed by the Officers following each year end on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September each year. All paid-up members will be invited to the AGM to elect the Group officers and vote on any proposals that are included in the AGM Agenda, which is to be circulated to all paid-up Members at least 7 days before the AGM.

Group membership is by subscription on an annual basis. A charge is also levied on each Member for each meeting attended; (the charges contribute towards the Group’s funding of its activities. Membership subscription and attendance fees are subject to periodic review and change as necessary, at each AGM if altered by agreement or majority vote at the AGM.

Visitors and Group Members under the age of 18 must always be accompanied by a responsible adult, in accordance with current UK safeguarding legislation. Should a minor wish to become a member, no charge will be made until they reach 18 years of age, but their membership must be registered. Responsible persons accompanying minors must become Members of the Group, and therefore the adult membership and attendance fees will be applicable to them.

Prospective Members may attend up to 4 meetings without charge. After this period, they must become fully paid-up Members to continue attendance. All prospective Members will

be required to complete a membership enrolment form with their contact details. This form also contains the Group's required "privacy statement" details.

All funds raised from exhibitions, club sales, etc. will be used exclusively to benefit the Group or to pay for legitimate expenses of the Group.

All monies of the Group will be kept in a non-interest earning account, to comply with HM Revenue and Customs requirements.

In the event of the Group's dissolution, all assets will be divided into equal shares for all paid-up Members. This however will not apply to members under the age of 18 years.

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November 2023