

# **THE MALTA PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

## **Constitution**

### ***Title***

1. The Society shall be known as The Malta Philatelic Society.

### ***Aims and Principles***

2. The objects of the Society shall be:-
  - (a) To promote philately and the study of postage stamps and postal history.
  - (b) To facilitate the exchange of stamps among members.
  - (c) To promote the intensive study of stamps and postal history by the formation of study circles within the Society.
  - (d) To form and/or co-operate with kindred bodies in the formation of a reference library for the use of members.
  - (e) To hold regular meetings of members and to arrange exhibitions, competitions, displays, reading and discussions of papers on philatelic subjects and to undertake and contribute to the increase of the study and practice of philately in general.
  - (f) To provide and issue gratuitously or by way of sale, any journals, pamphlets or other publications in furtherance of the aims of the Society.
  - (g) To provide the organization and/or financial assistance for social, commemorative and other functions which it is deemed appropriate should be organized.

### ***Membership***

3. All persons whose name appears on the Society's Register of Members at the date of the adoption of these Rules shall be deemed to be duly elected members of the Society.
4. All nominations for membership of the Society shall be in writing in the form prescribed by the Committee. Such nominations shall be placed before the Committee who may require such other information, reference, or recommendations as it shall deem fit. The Committee may elect to membership any person so nominated.

### ***Junior Members***

5. Candidates for membership under the age of sixteen years may be admitted to membership subject to the written guarantee of parents or guardians to accept responsibility for the safe-keeping of any of the Society's exchange books or other property which may come in the possession of such member during minority. A Junior Member shall not be entitled to hold office during minority.

## ***Management***

6. The business and affairs of the Society shall be governed and managed by the Committee. A member wishing to stand for election on the Committee must submit his name to the Secretary at least two (2) weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

## ***Committee***

7 (a) The Committee shall consist of the following:-

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Asst. Secretary  
Asst. Treasurer  
Members (4)

7 (b) The Officials of the Society are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

7 (c) The posts of Secretary and Treasurer can be combined. Additionally any other member may hold more than one office but in either case holding a plurality of votes shall not apply.

8 (a) The Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected, but they shall all be eligible for re-election. Such elections shall be by secret ballot, conducted at the Annual General Meeting. All nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee shall be done at the meeting. The President is elected for a three year term and will have to seek re-election at the end of that term in the normal way.

8 (b) In the event of there not being the requisite number of nominations to constitute the Committee, the Chairman in consultation with the elected numbers of the Committee shall have the power to co-opt such members as may be necessary to conform to the requirements of Clause 7.

## ***Vacancies in the Committee***

9 (a) If any member of the Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings without requesting the Committee to be excused, he shall automatically forfeit his seat, and the Committee shall, at the earliest opportunity, record this fact and inform such member that his appointment has lapsed.

9 (b) Any vacancy in the Committee occurring between an election and another shall be filled by the remaining members of the Committee first preference being given to the members who at the last election polled the highest number of votes among those who failed to get elected.

### ***Quorum***

10 (a) At Committee meetings four shall form a quorum.

10 (b) At Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings one-third of the members shall form a quorum; provided that if no quorum be present within fifteen minutes from when the meeting was due to start, there shall be a second convocation after another fifteen minutes at which the members present shall form a quorum.

### ***Honorary Members***

11. The Society may at any General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Committee, elect as an Honorary Life Member any person who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered meritorious services to philately. Provided however, that there shall not be at any time more than five Honorary Life Members. Upon election, an Honorary Life Member shall enjoy all the rights, powers and privileges of Membership, including the right to election as an Officer or Member of the Committee.

### ***Duties of Officers***

12 (a) The *President*, and in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside over all meetings of the Society. If both are absent, the meeting shall choose one of those present to preside. The person presiding the meeting shall have a casting vote, in addition to his own original vote.

12 (b) The *Secretary* shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, keep a detailed Minute Book of proceedings and read the Minutes at every meeting. He shall also prepare, under instructions of the Committee, a full report of the year's activities for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. He shall also keep an up-to-date Register of Members and shall keep the Treasurer fully informed of the names and addresses of new members as they enrol. He shall hand all subscriptions and other monies received by him to the Treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

12 (c) The *Treasurer* shall have control of the funds of the Society, pay promptly all accounts passed by the Committee and submit at the Annual General Meeting a duly audited Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the information of members. He shall arrange for all receipts to be regularly banked to the credit of an account opened in the name of the Society with a Bank appointed from time to time by the Committee. He shall present an Interim Statement of the Society's financial position at each Committee Meeting. The Society shall have a bank account which shall be operated as follows:-

For amounts not exceeding €233 (LM 100), the Treasurer shall sign.

In excess of that amount the Treasurer's signature will be countersigned by an authorized signatory of the Society.

### ***Auditors***

13 (a) The Committee shall annually appoint two Honorary Auditors who shall audit the Books of Accounts and the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet kept or prepared by the Officers of the Society. The Auditors shall report on such books of account, financial statements and balance sheets at the Annual General Meeting.

13 (b) Every Officer of the Society shall, on demand, produce to the Auditors any records, books or statements of account kept or required to be kept by him and shall furnish all explanations or information which the Auditors may require.

### ***Subscriptions***

14 (a) All subscriptions shall be paid in advance by the thirty first January of each year.

14 (b) Although the Society is a not-for-profit organisation it is essential that the running costs are recovered to ensure continuity. Consequently the Committee shall from time to time review the annual subscriptions rates payable by its members without the requirement of calling an Extraordinary General Meeting to seek approval.

14 (c) In the case of Overseas Members the annual subscription rate shall be based on that paid by Local Members in addition to taking into consideration the official rate of exchange, in relation to the Euro where applicable, as well as the postal expenses involved.

15. The Committee may accept the resignation of any member who shall give notice of such intention in writing.

16. Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription fee within three months of its falling due shall cease to be a member of the Society.

17. The Committee may by a two-thirds majority terminate the membership of any member who, in the opinion of the Committee, has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member of the Society. Notice of the charge and an opportunity of being heard before the Committee shall be given to a member before any decision to terminate his membership is taken. Provided that a General Meeting may, at the request in writing of the member whose membership has been terminated, appoint a Committee consisting of nine members to review his case. The decision of this Committee shall in all cases be final.

### ***Alteration of Rules***

18. A special meeting held in accordance with Rule 20 of Annual General Meeting may deal with any special business, including suspension or alteration of any of these Rules, subject to notice of motion in writing signed by five or more members being

furnished to the Secretary prior to the previous monthly meeting and shall be notified to members present at such monthly meeting.

No motion submitted in pursuance of any such notice shall have any effect unless passed by simple majority of the members present in person.

### ***Monthly Meetings***

19. Regular Monthly Meetings of the members of the Society shall be held only from October to June on the day, at the hour and at the place appointed by the Committee from time to time.

### ***Special Meetings***

20. The Committee may from time to time call Extraordinary General Meetings and may submit to members such business or motions as it may deem fit. Upon a request signed by not less than one-third of the members, the Committee shall call a Special Meeting to deal with such other motion or business which the Committee may determine. The Committee shall determine the time and place when and where such meetings shall be held, provided however, that such meetings shall not be held earlier than one calendar month and not later than three calendar months following the notification to members at a General Meeting of the Society.

### ***Bye-Laws***

21. The Committee shall have the power to frame, alter or repeat bye-laws when deemed necessary, provided they are not inconsistent with any of these Rules.

### ***Dissolution***

22 (a) The Society shall be dissolved if:

(i). The Committee receives an application for the Dissolution of the Society signed by at least twenty (20) paying members explaining the reasons of such an application. The application is to be approved by a majority vote taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society specially convened for the purpose.

OR

(ii). The Committee by a Resolution supported by at least six (6) Committee members, so recommends to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society which recommendation is to be approved by a majority vote taken at the said meeting specially convened for the purpose.

22 (b) The Society shall be wound up by the Committee and shall dispose of the assets of the Society by a donation to a charitable institution or institutions.

### ***Disposal of deceased members' collection***

23. The Committee shall, when requested to do so, advise persons deriving title from a deceased member upon the advantageous disposal of such member's collection of stamps or other philatelic material.

### ***Patrons***

24. The Committee may seek for the Society the Patronage of any distinguished person or persons.

### ***Annual General Meetings***

25. The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the thirty-first January in each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be dealt with in the following order:-

- (a) Reading and adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Matters arising.
- (c) President's address and presentation of Editor's Report.
- (d) Presentation of the Annual Report of the Secretary, Treasurer's Financial Statements and the Auditors' Report.
- (e) Election of the Officials of the Society and the Members of the Committee.
- (f) Appointment of two Honorary Auditors.
- (g) The making or alteration of Rules of which due notice has been given.
- (h) Any other business of which due notice has been given.

### ***Judicial Representation***

26. The President and the Secretary shall represent the Society in judicial proceedings.

### ***Editor and Staff***

27. For the purpose of issuing any periodical publication, the Committee shall appoint an Editor and staff, who shall perform the functions assigned to them by the Committee. The Editor shall "ex-officio" be a member of the Committee, in addition to the members elected in accordance with Rule 7 hereof.

### ***NOTE***

*The above Rules were approved at the Foundation Meeting of the Society held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1966, and they incorporate amendments made in the General Meetings of the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1966, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1966, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1968, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1974, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1975, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1977, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1978, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1985, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2006, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.*