ROYAL MARINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2025 - MINUTES

Item 1: President's Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed members to the AGM and thanked the Hon Sec for organising a successful annual dinner the previous evening. He presented apologies from the Corps Secretary but noted that his written report had been submitted and would be presented.

Item 2: President's Opening Address

The President introduced his opening address by thanking George Gelder, who once again had provided interesting aspects of the Corps' rich history on which to reflect. He picked out some of those most salient but assured members that the full detail would be included in the minutes. (Appendix1)

Item 3: Minutes of the 2024 AGM and Matters Arising

No matters were raised on the minutes of the 2024 AGM which were deemed to present an accurate record. Acceptance was proposed by Rick Hall. Seconded by Matt Burch and unanimously approved.

Item 4: The RMHS Council

Existing members were re-elected last year and no action was required. However, during the year, the Council had co-opted Gerry McDougall to be Office Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator which needed to be agreed at the AGM. Proposed by George Gelder and seconded by Jeremy Parker the co-option as unanimously approved.

There have been some changes to the ex-officio members. The formal post of a Royal Marines Corps historian, last held by George Gelder, has sadly been discontinued within the Naval Historical Branch. However, George remains on the Council having been elected to be Projects Member last year. Louisa Blight, who was the NMRM representative, has been replaced by James Daly, and we have gained an important new ex-officio member in Paul Evans, who is the historian of the Special Boat Service Association. Ex-officio members do not need to be elected.

Item 5: Standing Reports:

Membership and Library

Adrian Wakeford is now both the societies Membership Secretary and Librarian so had combined both reports. (Appendix 2) at the appendix. At the meeting, he reported headline membership figures of 419 normal members, which is up slightly from 413 last year, and highlighted that the average age is 71.

He informed members that there is a small library in the RMHS office. It is not a formal lending library but is available for research. Members can book to visit on Thursday mornings to search

these holdings. Of note, the Society now a set of raw Royal Marines Routine Orders (RMROs) which are a treasure trove of detailed historical information.

Finance

Rob Granger, the Honorary Treasurer, noted that the accounts had been circulated along with his finance report, (Appendix 3) but wished to summarise some of the most important points to the meeting.

The accounts had been audited by TC Group and they were signed off with no adjustments. The accounts had therefore been approved by the Council and lodged with the Charity Commission.

Whilst the accounts indicate a slight annual profit, that is an accounting profit in cash terms. Actually, the Society lost a small amount of money as planned and anticipated, having set out quite an aggressive outreach programme in 2024, which ate into our reserves.

Finally the Honorary Treasurer emphasised the forthcoming increase in subscriptions and actions that members need to take with regard to their standing orders.

Publications and Marketing.

John Rawlinson, the Honorary Editor, who has also taken on temporary responsibility for marketing until a new portfolio is established, drew attention to his written report (Appendix 4). His brief focused on thanks to the writers who produce all of the things that the Society publishes and opined that if anyone has an idea for an article or a special publication, to share it and the Society can help get it from the idea into publication. A lot of people struggle when there's a blank page in front of them about where to start and there is a lot of experience around to provide support to anyone in that situation. He also thanked the volunteers who have honed our publications from transcribing things, to proofreading, to getting them in the post to members. There's a huge team of people who do all the work.

John noted that the Society has been very fortunate over the last three or four years that some people in the room and some people who have joined on Zoom contribute quite significantly to the cost of publications and that once again the Society's thanks should be officially recorded.

John finished with a note about outreach. When the Society publishes a special publication, about 500 are sent to members and repository libraries and then we tend to sell about another 500 copies. Therefore, publications directly reach maybe 1,000 people, plus anyone who reaches them from a library. In addition, the non-publication outreach program each year (social media and roadshow) reaches around 25,000 people in different ways and the Council believes this to be well worth investment to take Corps history to a much bigger audience, in accordance with our charitable purposes.

Projects/Oral History

George Gelder, the Projects Member, drew attention to his formal report (Appendix 5). The work he inherited mainly revolved around the collection of oral history for which Ian Moore had given

an excellent handover. By virtue of Ian's records, in the aftermath of the hacking attack on NMRN digital archives, which occurred in early 2025 it was possible to work with NMRM to identify that at most 13 records may have been lost, but the search continues.

In terms of future recordings, the Council has agreed to align with NMRN to use their accession process and enable us to use their recording, both voice and film. This allows us properly to take care of data protection and sensitivity to some of the information that we were dealing with, especially material which is more recent.

Finally, George highlighted that project work has expanded to include other activities. The Council has considered whether battlefield tours would be a worthwhile project for us to deliver on behalf of the society. But it turned out that the handling burden, cost and other associated factors made it a non-starter. However, we are looking at providing information and guidance to those who wish to plan their own tours.

Also, every two months, when the Globe and Laural is published, you will see something about Corps history across the years related to those particular months. Linked to that, once a month, there will be some historical input included also in the RMA, REPNET.

West Country Chapter (WCC)

The West Country Chapter report (Appendix 6) outlines a successful year.

Rick Hall noted that support to the RMA Families Day at CTCRM, traditionally a WCC activity, was massively supported by ty John Rawlinson and his team with the RMHS travelling exhibition

Rick flagged that the next planned event, in Spring 2026, is a talk at the Gordon Messenger Centre by Monty Hall based on his new book about SOE training in the Second World War.

Digital/Website

The report is at Appendix 7. There is currently no formal digital portfolio on the Council. In addition to his demanding duties as Honorary Secretary, David Abrtutat has been covering this increasingly important area of activity, which is increasing rapidly to form a core part of the RMHS offer, now with over 10,000 social media followers and increasing interest in our webinars publicly available on our You Tube site.

The key underlying activity has been work to uplift the tired RMHS website that is, not only showing signs of age but also, not able to support our future ambition. We need a platform where we can make RMHS products available to members previously mentioned. This will not be cheap and, although the Council has initially committed £3k of its reserves to this project, progress will be incremental. However, the first stage, is in hand.

Corps Secretary.

The Corps Secretary's written report is at Appendix 8. In the Corps Secretary's absence, the Chairman drew attention to the Corps' calendar for next year in which the most important event is the presentation of new colours at Windsor Castle in June 2026, the final date will be confirmed in December. New Regimental and King's colours have been approved by His Majesty and are with the manufacturer. A Corps reception will follow the presentation of colours, held on the Windsor Cricket Club ground; tickets will be on sale in the new year,

The President asked if it would be possible for the RMHS Travelling Exhibition to be at the reception. This will be discussed with the Corps Secretary. (Afternote this has been agreed)

The Chairman concluded Item 5 of the agenda by thanking council members for the hard work they do on the Society's behalf, even more so than usual. When their contributions to the strategic review is taken into account, it has been quite a busy year for them.

Item 6: <u>RM Experience Museum NMRN Update.</u>

James Daly, the new NMRN representative on the Council gave an encouraging briefing on progress towards the museum's planned opening in July, noting that everything that has been done over the last year has been against the background of recovery from a major cyber-attack on the NMRM.

Second round funding was received from the National Lottery for the project so it's now all systems go for the new museum. Builders are on site and works are well underway. The builders are currently installing the steel work that will form the rooms in the new displays, so it is starting to take shape. The target for opening is the summer of 2026; that is quite a tight deadline but we're working very hard towards it. Work on the displays is very advanced, and it is planned to have around 500 objects on display in the new museum and there are curators working on the content pretty much full time. The publicity campaign for the new museum will start quite soon

James also stressed that the opening of the museum is not the end. There is funding for an activity plan which will see projects and programs and events going on, such as working with the Corps, doing open days, and getting people in to do demonstrations and talks.

Item 7: <u>RMHS Strategic Review Report</u>. (Appendix 9)

The Chairman outlined the key points from the Strategic Review Report (Appendix 9)

- The aging demographic of RMHS membership and the need to attract younger members.
- Costs of printing and postage have risen sharply since subs were last set in 2019 forcing the Council to make a long overdue and large increase in subscriptions from January 2026 to an annual fee of £40, £70 for overseas members, to continue to provide our current offer. However, a strong interest in receiving the Sheet Anchor digitally has allowed us to offer a digital membership at the current rate. Details of changes required for standing orders for 2026 have been widely promulgated. However, the Council will encourage members to switch to direct debit payments from 2027 to make increment increases, in line with inflation.
- Interest in digital outputs such as our website and webinars is growing strongly amongst members and other stakeholders, particularly the serving Corps are pushing strongly for output in this field. To that end work is underway to upgrade our website and to make more of the RMHS's digital archive available to entitled researchers.
- In line with this an updated short history will be made available digitally to trainees at CTCRM and on our upgraded website.

- A pilot project in partnership with RMA City of London will be run shortly to try and establish a Southeast Chapter to provide speaking events to members living in that part of the country and develop links with RMA members.

- Outreach to a wider public in line with our charitable purpose has increased markedly both online and increasing activity by the Society's travelling roadshow.

In summary, much ground has been covered. The Council asked members and other stakeholders what they would like from RMHS and, where possible, is working towards meeting those requirements. There is more to be done over the coming months but changes will start to become apparent, starting with the introduction of digital membership.

A question was raised on the number of SPs that will be printed in future. This will depend on the take up of digital membership, but normally beyond those required for members, we print 500 for general sales. Because of the way digital printing now works we can be quite flexible on the numbers.

Concern was expressed about the provision of historical training to recruits and the "fading out" of the Short History. Whilst attempts to get funding for a printed booklet have been unsuccessful, plans are in hand to ensure that an up to date digital copy is easily available to all recruits and historical training is one of the elements in the current CTCRM review of recruit training with which RMHS is engaged.

Item 8: <u>Society Rules Update</u> (Appendix 10)

Council Rules were last submitted to the Charity Commission (CC) in 2016 and an update is not only legally overdue but also needed to reflect current practice and allow for proposed developments. In line with other charities, we propose to keep the rules to the minimum required by the CC and to create in-house documents to manage detailed processes, which need to constantly adapt to reflect changing needs and circumstances. The bottom line is that the object and powers remain fundamentally unchanged except that the Council concluded support to RMM, now NMRM, is adequately covered by the first four powers in the 2016 rules, and have therefore dropped the fifth power, which related exclusively to the former RMM at Eastney. Regarding simplification, bound by current rules the Council structure is no longer right for emerging roles and tasks. The only appointments that we are required to declare to CC are chairman, secretary and treasurer. Other appointments will be kept in house to allow greater flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances, whilst adhering to CC guidance on governance.

A copy of the proposed rules update (Appendix10) was circulated prior to the AGM. No objections were raised and approval was proposed by Mark Bentinck, seconded by Matt Burch and unanimously carried.

Item 9: Any Other Business

Nothing was put forward to the Hon Sec.

Item 10: Society Awards: Award Citations



Douglas Morris Award

The Douglas Morris Award, named after an early benefactor of the Society, the late Captain Douglas-Morris RN, was introduced in 1993. The award is made annually to a member for his services to the Society.

Two awards were made this year.

- David and Calum Murray received the award for their ongoing commitment to supporting outreach events.

- John Gilbert also won the award this year for his dedication whilst in the role of Membership Secretary.

The RMHS Award

The RM Historical Society Award was introduced in 2006 to recognise significant work by a non-member that promotes an interest in the history of the Royal Marines. It also seeks to recognise those who produce works in new media that aren't necessarily covered by the Literary Award.

Project officer Lee McBain and unit photographers Barry Wheeler and Daniel Bladen from 43 Commando, were the winners of this year's award for their work on a short film commemorating Operation ROAST, the operation on Lake Comacchio in NE Italy in the Spring of 1945 by 43 Commando where Cpl Thomas Hunter won his VC.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QIKXgaQF94

The Derek Oakley literary Award

Presented to a recipient who the Council has nominated for the publication of an outstanding piece of literary work that has furthered the understanding of Corps History. This year's winner was Matthew Taylor, for his outstanding book Black Redcoats.

Item 11: Proposed date of next AGM: Saturday 31 October 2025

AGM MINUTES - APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PRESIDENT'S HISTORICAL ADDRESS

This Year. The principal anniversaries in the history of the Corps this year have been the 80th anniversaries of Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan which marked the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Far East. At the end of the war, the strength of the Corp was 78,900, about 10% of the total strength of the Royal Navy. Victory came at a cost, 3,983 Royal Marines died during the war, including 225 musicians, a quarter of their strength, and the highest percentage of any branch of any Service. 2025 is also the year in which the helm of the Royal Navy was taken by a Royal Marine in the appointment of General Sir Gwyn Jenkins as First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff.

Five Years Ago. in 2020 the Corps introduced the new Commando Uniform (CU20). The introduction of this uniform gave the Corps and its attached ranks a distinct image with the re-adoption of Second World War insignia (rectangular red on navy blue flashes) and a first – and clear sign of integration – in the adoption of a tactical White Ensign on the combat uniform, to help distinguish us as part of the Royal Navy. Similarly, the decision was made that Royal Marine Officers would not be adopting naval rank and associated insignia. The Corps has Maj Gen Matt Holmes to thank for persuading the First Sea Lord of the importance of our distinct identity to our fighting power.

Twenty Years Ago. Following the devastating Tsunami in the Indian Ocean, Operation Garron was initiated to provide humanitarian assistance. RM Protection Teams from 43 Cdo, supported by craft from 1 AGRM were deployed to RFA Diligence and assisted in the disaster relief operations.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. The Corps was involved in Operation Palliser. Following unrest in Sierra Leone a task force was sent to restore order. 42 Commando Royal Marines onboard HMS Ocean as part of Amphibious Ready Group arrived 15th May 2000 to conduct the relief in place of 1 Para Battle Group at Lungi and Freetown, and to evacuate UK nationals. The amphibious group left Sierra Leone for the UK on 21st June 2000. Also, at the beginning of October, 2000 Comacchio Group RM remustered as the Fleet Protection Group RM. Later in October, The Captain General Royal Marines, HRH Prince Philip, unveiled the National Memorial in the Mall near Admiralty Arch to the 11000 members of the Royal Marines who had died on active service in the 20th Century. The edifice, originally known as the Graspan Memorial, was first erected near Horse Guards to commemorate the Royal Marines who had died in the Boxer Rebellion and Boer war. It was moved to Admiralty Arch in 1946.

Thirty Years Ago. Reorganisation in the Corps followed the Defence Costs Study of 1994. DRORM closed at Centurion Building with its personnel functions subsumed into HQRM which was itself opened on 16 May 1995. 3 Cdo Bde Air Sqn RM was incorporated into Naval Air Command as 847 Naval Air Squadron. On 26 October Cdo Log Regt left Seaton Bks and 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE left Coypool and moved to RAF Chivenor. Technical Training Wing at RM Poole closed. Outwith organisational changes, 1995 also saw the deployment of a composite HQ (Rapid Reaction Force



Operations Staff) created from HQRM and commanded by Lt Gen David Penefather, to command operations in Bosnia.

Fifty Years Ago. A RM Detachment of 35 men was formed at Faslane to guard Clyde Submarine Base. Originally a temporary and ad-hoc unit from 45 Cdo RM, it was formalised into a proper detachment and eventually morphed into Comacchio Group, now 43 Cdo FPGRM.

Sixty Years Ago. In 1965 on 28/29 Jan RM offrs provided a guard on the catafalque during the Lying-in-State of Sir Winston Churchill – the first occasion on a State Funeral. For the state Funeral, 41 Cdo provided a Guard of Honour, RM Street Lining and Procession Detachments. Elsewhere the Corps was fully engaged in Confrontation in Borneo as well as operations in south Arabia.

70 Years Ago. On 7 May 1955 the Royal Marines received the freedom of Plymouth in a ceremony at Plymouth Hoe. The freedom was accepted by Maj Gen Sir John Westall, the date coincided with the 200th anniversary of the formation of the Plymouth Division. On 18 Sep 1955 Great Britain annexed Rockall. Lieutenant-Commander Desmond Scott RN, Sergeant Brian Peel RM, Corporal Fraser RM, and James Fisher (a civilian naturalist and former Royal Marine), were winched by a helicopter onto the island by a Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Vidal (The annexation of Rockall was announced by the Admiralty on 21 September 1955). A plaque was cemented on to Rockall, on it the words " The Union Flag was hoisted and possession of the island taken in the name of Queen Elizabeth". Finally in 1955 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, welcomed his uncle, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma into the Royal Marines as Colonel Commandant for life in a ceremony at RMB Eastney.

75 Years Ago. On 22 Mar 1950, following recommendations made by the Newman Committee, the Chatham Group closed. All of its functions were transferred across the other Groups, and the barracks closed in November 1950. In 1950 the Corps was once again fully engaged in operations in the Far East: 3 Cdo Bde in Malaya fighting communist insurgents and 41 Independent Commando in Korea fighting the North Korean and Chinese. Between 29 November and 13 December, 41 Independent Commando took part in the "Advance to the sea" from the Chosin Reservoir as part of 1st Marine Division.

80 Years Ago. I have already mentioned the end of the war in both Europe and the Far east. Suffice to say that RM Commando units were involved in all of the campaigns in France and Germany, the Mediterranean and Adriatic, and Burma, while at sea, Marines could be found on all capital ships, cruisers and landing craft of all varieties. The names, Montforterbeek, Comacchio, Myebon and Kangaw feature in this year.

90 Years Ago. On 24 Aug 1935 the London Battalion was formed to carry out duties in London alongside 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards and 1st Battalion Scots Guards. The Royal Marines for the first time in their history provided the Royal Guard at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, the Bank of England and for the "Hyde Park Magazines". The specially formed battalion of 16 officers, 349 rank and file and 110 bandsmen under Lt Col T L Hunton were quartered with the Coldstream Guards at Chelsea Barracks. The visit to London ended on 19 September with the



battalion exercising the privilege of the Royal Marines of marching through the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed; the first time since 1746.

100 Years Ago. 25 Apr 1925 – The RN Division Memorial, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens was dedicated on Horse Guards Parade on the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. An address was made by Mr Winston Churchill who, as First Lord of the Admiralty, had formed the RND.

110 Years Ago. The Corps was fully engaged by land and sea. Some of the places you might have encountered a marine were Syria raiding against the coastal communications; at sea in the battle of Dogger Bank against Admiral Hipper and his squadron; on the river Danube fighting Austrian monitors; in the Cameroons of West Africa; in France with the RMA howitzers; South West Africa; and finally, not forgetting the Dardanelles where at Gallipoli the Royal Marine Brigade landed on the peninsula on 28 April – a Corps Memorable Date, and then continued to fight for many months afterwards until December when Anzac and Suvla beaches were evacuated. Earlier in the year, during May, L/Cpl Parker RMLI was awarded the VC for displaying conspicuous bravery under fire.

140 Years Ago. On 17 Jan 1885, Capt Poe was in command of the Royal Marines Camel Corps. A Naval brigade from *Helicon, Iris* and *Monarch* under Lord Charles Beresford attempted to relieve General Gordon in Khartoum. In the event they failed to reach Khartoum in time & General Gordon was killed on the 26th January. A" Flying Column" was formed from elite troops mounted on camels. The Guards regiment of the Camel Corps was formed from the Royal Marine Light Infantry, the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards and the Mounted Infantry Regiment from line infantry regiments. Three officers and 15 rank and file saw action at Abu Klea in Sudan.

160 Years Ago. 5 Sep 1865, A battalion of RMLI plus ship's marines were part of an international force which destroyed the Japanese shore batteries at the Straits of Simono Seki in Japan.

170 Years Ago. On 30 Jan 1855 the Royal Marines was designated a light corps and became the RMLI. On 7 Jun 1855 in the Crimea, Bombardier Wilkinson RMA was awarded the Victoria Cross as specially recommended for gallant conduct at Sevastopol in the advanced batteries in placing sandbags to repair the works under a galling fire, as worthy of special notice. On 13 Jul 1855 Lt George Dowell RMA was recommended for the Victoria Cross. At Viborg in the Baltic an explosion occurred in one of the rocket boats of *Arrogant* during the attack on some forts near Viborg. Lt Dowell (who was on the *Ruby* Gunboat, whilst his own boat was receiving a supply of rockets) jumped into a boat along with three volunteers and under heavy fire rescued the men of the cutter and then was instrumental in keeping afloat and bringing off the sinking cutter.

220 Years Ago. 1805 -Trafalgar. A Corps Memorable Date. Nearly one third of the Corps was present at Lord Nelson's victory over the combined fleet at Trafalgar, the most decisive sea battle in British History. 92 Officers and over 3600 Marines, at their traditional stations on the upper decks of the British ships, bore a brave and important part in the success of the day. Their losses were particularly heavy on board the leading ships. In Nelson's *Victory*, all four Royal Marine Officers were killed or wounded. The total Royal Marine casualties during the battle were 5 officers and 121 men killed or wounded or died of wounds, together with 12 officers and 204 men wounded.



250 Years Ago. On 17 June 1775 the battle for Bunker Hill took place. A Corps Memorable Date. On the night of 16th Jun, a rebel American force occupied the dominating heights to the North of Boston where a British garrison was based. On the following morning, Gen Sir William Howe, launched an attack with was repulsed with heavy loses. A second attack was unsuccessful, but the third, after Howe had been reinforced by a Marine force under Major John Pitcairn consisting of the 1st and 2nd Marine Battalions was successful. The Marines suffered 29 killed and 87 wounded in storming the heights, including Pitcairn who was killed. A contemporary account said " the reputation of the marines were never more nobly sustained. Their unshaken steadiness was conspicuous and their valour in closing with the enemy when part of the attacking column wavered, gained them not only the admiration of their comrades but the commendation of their distinguished chief". The Corps motto " Per Mare Per Terram" believed to have been first used during this battle.

270 Years Ago. Fifty independent companies of Marines were raised and divided into three Grand Divisions, Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth.

280 Years Ago. On 27 Nov 1745, Hannah Snell enlisted in Colonel Frazer's regiment at Portsmouth, subsequently joining the RM detachment of HMS *Swallow*. She took part in the attack on Pondicherry in India. Rumour has it she was hit 12 times by musket balls, which she removed herself rather than have her sex revealed.

360 Years Ago. Finally, on 10 Dec 1665, the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps was formed.

APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

RMHS Membership statistics as of 13 Nov 2025 are shown in the table below. As can be seen, membership remains relatively stable. It has been possible this year to exploit previously held comprehensive and accurate membership details with more Excel and AI analysis.

There has been steady recruitment over the year but there is a backlog of prospects that have not completed joining procedures. These will get reminders to complete or to withdraw applications.

There is, and probably will continue to be, difficulty tracking individual membership changes, especially those who are deceased.

As part of the RMHS Strategy, it is hoped to add additional information of members' service experience. This should enable us to supply SP and Sheet Anchor article authors with potential research sources.

Membership Statistics - 2025		**2024**
Ordinary Membership		
UK	397	
Overseas	22	
Total	**419**	**413**
Obligatories and Non-Members Receiving Publications	24	20
Associate Members	7	7

Membership Count by UK Regions	
London	25
South East	120
South West	162
East of England	18
West Midlands	14
East Midlands	11
Yorkshire and the Humber	6
North West	10
North East	2
Scotland	21
Wales	8
Northern Ireland	0

Average Membership Age	71

Prospects	17

Deceased in year	13	6
Resigned in year	4	8

Removed in year, subs unpaid, reason not known	4	11



LIBRARY REPORT

The RMHS Library is fairly extensive and has been collected over many years on an opportunity basis. We are under no obligation to maintain a comprehensive set of books relating to the RM; that is the responsibility of others. However, it is a potentially valuable source of information and the RMHS will continue to maintain the library.

This year we have received an extensive collection of Royal Marine Routine Orders (RMROs) which had been maintained by the RM Historical Officer and subsequent posts in the RN Historical Branch. With the removal of the final ex RM officer serving with that branch, the RMRO collection was passed to us by the last post holder – Lt Col George Gelder RM (retd). It is a valuable source of useful information on the Corps for the years covered. Some RMROS are bound though unfortunately some are in less good state. These latter will be placed in document boxes for protection. RMROs are not now formally maintained in hard copy and we do not have access to the digital system.

It is planned to place a copy of the Library Catalogue in the members area of the website. Also we hope to add book summaries/abstracts where these can be readily copied from an internet source.

The library is not a formal lending library but items can be made available to members for research purposes. Ideally any member wishing to do research should contact the RMHS Librarian (also the Membership Secretary) with a view to visiting in normal office hours on Thursday mornings. This may not always be possible but an alternative arrangement may be negotiable. Contact via: rmhsmemsec@yahoo.com



APPENDIX 3: TREASURER'S REPORT

Your Council has already formally approved the accounts for the 2024 financial year. You will note they have been prepared on a different basis to previous years, moving from Receipts and Payments to an Income and Expenditure basis. This is both more appropriate for an organisation such as the Society, but also better allows us to demonstrate the longer-term investment our outreach work brings to the Society. More on that later. The change has been undertaken with the blessing of our independent examiners TC Group, to whom we remain grateful for their efforts.

I'm happy to answer any questions on these figures, though unfortunately this year I can no longer just blame them on my predecessor. However, I would like to mention some of the main points, both risks and opportunities.

If you look at Page 4, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, you'll note the assets figure. 2024 saw an active programme of outreach with volunteers attending a number of events to raise awareness of both the Society and the Corps. This was funded in part by a very generous contribution from the RMA and allowed us to purchase the necessary infrastructure to support this. These assets obviously have a longer life expectancy, indeed have done sterling work in 2025, and so are recognised here and depreciated by one third their value each year rather than just being expensed in year.

Moving to the Statement of Financial Activities you will see that while Income exceeded Expenditure, this is largely down to the change in accounting treatment. Our cash balances decreased on last year. Without generous donations we would have seen a deficit in year. This is not problematic, in that we have reserves and there was a conscious decision made to spend more on outreach, but it hopefully goes to show that we need to grow our income streams or reduce our expenditure if we want to achieve the charitable objectives set out in our Rules.

And we did grow our income, membership revenues increased and the sales of our SPs were healthy thanks to the efforts of our volunteers. But we are being pinched by the increasing printing and postage costs of getting those SPs to our members, hence the proposals made for new forms of membership.

To confirm the news you have hopefully already seen on our website and we will repeat in the upcoming mail out, new membership rates will come into place on 1 January 2026. It is important to note that if you pay by Standing Order you will need to cancel your existing Standing order with your bank and set up a new one if you wish to choose the hard copy membership rate. We in the Society are not able to adjust Standing Orders. If you set up a new one then there is a chance both SOs will be honoured by your bank so please take the time to make sure your bank is doing as you've asked.

To repeat my message of last year, and those of the Chair, with only minimal levels of profit being made through our operating activities and our reliance on donations, the risk is that we lack the ability to either invest in the necessary infrastructure of the Society, such as an improved website and digital offering, or to undertake the necessary outreach to undertake our Charitable Objectives.

APPENDIX 4: PUBLICATIONS AND MARKETING

I usually start by thanking the army of volunteers who support our publications, exhibitions and mail outs. They of course deserve our thanks, they happily, well sometimes they are happy, do all the work between them and I get to bask in their reflected glory and we, as members, enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

However, it occurred to me that we should also consider another group of volunteers this year… our writers, it is of course they who provide all our content, none of them get paid and they all have to go through the pain of developing their manuscripts into something that can go to print – it can feel like being told you have an ugly baby.

Each year a range of different types of articles and ideas for special publications are submitted, the vast majority come from you, our members. They range from first-hand accounts often written for private use, close to the time when the events depicted actually took place - gold dust for historians - to well researched material that in many cases can represent many hours, if not years, of dedicated time both online and in dusty archives. We also seem to benefit from the magpie instinct of Marines; I am surprised that any papers at all ever made it into the National Archives.

It often amazes me that even though the RMHS has been about our business for 61 years that there is still more to say about Corps history and how many areas that are left to explore, add to this that the Corps continues to make history, the well of new material will not run dry for years to come.

A huge thank you to these dedicated writers, theirs is a labour of love and a desire to share Corps history to a wide audience. We have filled some important gaps in Corps history in recent years, thanks to the generosity of one member we have reprinted come of the classic Corps histories with more to come from that project – 42 Cdo for the first time have their own unit history; D Day, the biggest operation in the history of the Corps that changed things for ever is now understood and accessible and later this year members will receive ‘From Ball to Bullet’, Rob Wilsey’s much needed work on RM weapons. Next year we will fill two more gaps, Op Haven was a long time ago and next year’s SP will ensure this story is captured before memories fade, as well as due to the dedication of a large group of former COs and the significant financial support of Andy Higginson members will receive a free copy of the history of the Commando Logistics Regiment. Several other projects are already well underway up to 2029; the unknown stories of a small but extremely brave group of Marines who helped to train, served alongside and in SOE is well advanced and we will fill another gap in Cdo unit histories when the story of 41 Cdo after Korea.

The quality of material we receive for the Sheet Anchor remains excellent and it’s pleasing to see us get so much good stuff, we are steadily clearing the back log of material and are always keen to encourage more, not everything will get into print immediately, but it all finds its time and place. Diaries and narrative histories abound and we are always on the lookout for articles that also interpret what this history means; when you are contemplating writing history it is useful to think about what changed and what stayed the same, was something the cause or the consequence of events, and really importantly, why does this history matter today and to who is it important.



Don’t worry if the story has been told before, if it has, work out if they got it right and what new things have you found out and focus on these areas.

A recent newsletter dealt with this year’s travelling expo so I won’t repeat that here but will add that we are well on our way with planning next years that will explore how the Corps has changed since WW2. The Expo has become our major marketing effort and although our presence at Corps family events has really raised awareness within the family of our existence the strategy surveys really show that we do not reach the wider public. We combined the marketing function with the editor a few years ago, largely because I am from a marketing background but also due to a lack of volunteers however with the increased importance of digital its time that these roles were separated out again and you will hear more on this from the Chairman.



APPENDIX 5: PROJECTS/ORAL HISTORY

This is my first report to the AGM. I took over from Ian Moore on 19 November last year. Before I continue, I would like to thank Ian for the marvellous work he did during his lengthy tenure in charge of RMHS projects and for the Devon afternoon tea that was part of the handover. I left pounds heavier!

The projects brief has developed in the breadth of areas covered and I will just cover them in broad terms and then take any questions or comments afterwards.

Oral histories. Work on the oral histories, which are such an important aspect of learning from and understanding our history has been on hold for the year. The principal reason is the hacking attack on NMRN from which they are just recovering. Unsurprisingly, the main effort of the museum was to recover as much of their online archive as possible and reestablish a working system. This effectively pushed work on oral histories well down the in-tray. However, using the information from Ian Moore and the original recordings held by the Society, plus the soft copy recordings originally on Mark Phillips' website, we have been able to establish that only a few of the recordings remain unfound by NMRN. We have now come to an agreement with NMRN, endorsed by the Council, that it would benefit the Society to use the NMRN accession process for future recordings. Working in partnership with NMRN comes with considerable advantages and benefits because it largely absolves us of GDPR and operational sensitivity issues. Another reason why partnership with NMRN is advantageous is that they are moving away from voice only to voice and film, something the Society cannot match. More work on where gaps in our voice recordings is required.

Battlefield Tours. The Council examined the potential for the Society to offer battlefield tours, but after detailed examination it became clear that costs and the administrative burden would be prohibitive. It was decided and endorsed by the Council that the Society could offer information packs with outline tour suggestions for members. There are already notes for Walcheren and the Scheldt battles as well as for most of the beaches at Dieppe. Their availability is linked to the development of an effective web page with a secure members area.

Globe and Laurel – On This Day. For those of you that still receive the Globe and Laurel, you will have seen in the last two editions, features on Corps history relative to the month of publication of the magazine. This has been done not only to bring to the attention of the Society to the readership, but also to mitigate a lack of knowledge about the history of the Corps. It seems that it has been reasonably well received.

RMA Corps History Article. The size of the RMA/TRMC readership is considerable. The intention is to provide a historical article each month that will not only educate the readership, but also link them to the Society, informing them of the benefits of joining the Society.



APPENDIX 6: WEST COUNTRY CHAPTER

This year's Spring Meeting took place at the Gordon Messenger Centre opposite CTCRM. It was to feature a presentation by Rod Boswell on the M&AW Cadre in The Falklands Conflict. Sadly a funeral caused a last-minute change of plan, which gave Rick Hall a chance to reprise his Webinar of the RMs in the Crimea. That seemed to be well-received, as was the buffet lunch, enjoyed by approx 30 RMHS members.

In September a number of members helped John Rawlinson, David and Callum Murray to man the RMHS display for the Families Day at CTCRM. It was a very successful event which attracted over 3000 visitors and it was heartening to see the interest in RM history displayed by so many recruits and young officers.

Our Autumn gathering took place at Stonehouse where 25 members and several guests finally got the chance to enjoy Rod Boswell's presentation, an interesting, enlightening and enjoyable talk which was delivered with his customary aplomb.

The date for the Spring gathering has yet to be decided but former RM officer and TV presenter Monty Halls has already agreed to deliver a talk about his forthcoming book which covers the early Commando training activities at Inverailort House in Scotland.



APPENDIX 7: DIGITAL/WEBSITE

(data correct as of 20251105)

WEBSITE REBUILD: www.rmhistoricalsociety.org
WG plan and structure emerging for developing the website.
Starting to shape the backend area/paywall for Members area.
Using Wix as the build template – working with an oppo to build.

Website will have more historical content (backbone being the Short History), community/research forum/chatroom, online payment methods and in line with the new Digital Membership offering have a 'Members Area' where Members will have access to digital back copies of SA/SPs, G&Ls, Research and a Chatroom/forum etc

Current website: this year to date we have had 9.3k visits to our website – with 15k pageviews documented. Most of our webtraffic is generated through websearch or direct. 72% of the site visits are from UK, followed by the next majority, USA at 12.6%.

SURVEYMONKEY: digital surveys commissioned for RMHS Members to inform new Strategy for Council/WG in February [239 responses] and follow-on in September [168 responses], and public survey for non-Members [71 responses].

DIGITAL MEDIA SITES: We have seen a significant uplift in our Facebook group since the last Council meeting. FB has been a useful forum for the RMHS out of all the digital platforms – but how much develops into new members is a debate.

X – 4417 followers
INSTAGRAM – 1383 followers
THREADS – 284 followers
FACEBOOK – 8500 members

2025 WEBINAR PROGRAMME:
26 March BLACK REDCOATS – Matt Taylor (winner of 2025 Award)
3 September DESERT SAILORS/30AU webinar by Dave Roberts

Future 2026 webinars on:
- Op DEVON – Invasion of Termoli October 1943 Rupert Hague-Holmes
- CLR history (formation, Op CORPORATE, HAVEN etc) Andy Higginson
- SOE and Royal Marines Simon Bailey

APPENDIX 8: CORPS SECRETARY

Corps Events 2026

1. MFM - 20/21 Mar 26.

2. Graspan Memorial on the Mall – 10 May 26.

3. Royal Marines Officers Dinner Club (RMODC) – 19 Jun 26. (open to members of the RMODC).

4. Beating Retreat Horse Guards – 16/17 Jul to be confirmed.

5. Corps Families Weekend – 11 to 13 Sep 26.

6. Spean Bridge – 24/25 Sep 26.

Presentation of New Colours

7. His Majesty will present new Colours to the Royal Marines at Windsor Castle in June 2026; the date will be confirmed in December. New Regimental and King's Colour designs have been approved by His Majesty and are with the manufacturer. A Corps Reception will follow the Presentation of Colours; this will be held on the Windsor Cricket Ground. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year.

Senior Officers Uniforms

8. Senior Officers uniforms have changed to become more closely aligned with the Royal Navy, to better embrace our proud Identity and to soften the distinction in uniform appearance between senior Royal Marines officers and the wider Corps. The work considered the historical perspective and explored options to move away from the current protocol of adopting General Staff identity. The first change, which has been successfully adopted, sees senior officers wearing a new cloth Globe and Laurel cap badge, returning letters 'RM' to rank slides and using letters 'RM' as post-nominals. The second phase, which is currently ongoing, sees officers at the rank of Lt Col and above removing mounted order as a form of dress and for Colonels and above removing gorget patches. All officers will be expected to make the changes in time for the Presentation of Colours in June 2026.

G&L Design

9. Extensive engagement continues with organisations to seek approval to use the new Globe and Laurel design (Tudor Crown with Lion atop). After setbacks, recent discussion with the College of Arms has proved more fruitful. It is hoped an announcement will be made soon.

Misc



10. King's Portraits. The Corps has purchased eight signed portraits of The King. Unsigned copies are available for purchase from Crown Portraits.

11. Enactment of New Traditions. In addition to the introduction of the new traditions, The King's Sword and The King's Royal Marine of the Year, a proposal has been sent to the Commando Force Padre to provide a form of words to be known as The King's Grace. Commando Force Padre has reached out to the Corps Padre community for submissions. The intent is for His Majesty to direct the Corps to use the new Grace during His speech at the Presentation of New Colours in June 2026

APPENDIX 9: RMHS STRATEGIC REVIEW REPORT

Introduction

1. Last year I told you that our previous President, Julian Thompson, and my predecessor, Brian Carter, had charged me to address the financial and social headwinds that were straining our Sheet Anchor and to recommend changes to the Societies business plan to alleviate the pressure. Over the intervening year, a working group, overseen by the Council, has worked hard to address this remit, and I commend David Abrutat, John Rawlinson, Rob Granger, George Gelder and Adrian Wakeford for the extra hard yards that, as volunteers, they have committed to this work.

2. The baseline for the review was the existing Society Rules and powers, approved by the Charity Commission in 2016 which are shown on this slide, and a membership survey to which over half of you responded, sufficient upon which to base our planning, and a follow up survey to refine detail. A wider public survey of our social media followers produced a disappointing and insignificant response. We also ran a programme of stake holder engagements with key leaders from the serving Corps, the RMA, and the NMRN. We have not yet engaged with the RMR but have had a late entrée to the RM Cadets, which needs further development.

3. The key issues arising were…

Membership and Fees

4. Most of our members have joined because of an affiliation to the Corps (through personal service, or a family member who served). Our membership serves an aging demographic, with 82% of members aged between 65 and 85 (82%), which needs to be factored into the work and ambition of our Society going forward.

5. Members overwhelmingly commented on great value for money. Any other response would have been disappointing since subscriptions have remained static since 2019 whilst printing and, in particular, postage costs have risen sharply. We were forced to set deficit budgets in 21, 22 and 25 but ended with an actual deficit in 22 and 24. Faced with the prospect of cutting services or raising charges, we have channelled our inner Rachel Reeves and decided that we must set an index linked annual fee of £40 (£70 for overseas members) to continue to provide our current offer.

6. However, given that 65% of respondents indicated that they would be content to transition across to our new Digital Membership package to receive Sheet Anchor and SPs digitally with an option to purchase SPs of their choice at member's rates, we have decided to offer three membership options slide: (JR):

a. Standard.

b. Standard Overseas

c. Digital.

Having done our sums, whatever the final take up of these options should be financially viable for the Society.

7. Linked to this, and in order to avoid a similar cliff edge downwind, we will be encouraging you all to switch your subscription payments to Direct Debit to allow for incremental, index linked increases rather than the dramatic one we have now been forced to impose.

Publications

8. The main products we deliver for our members are very well received, with the Special Publications (82%) and Sheet Anchor (85%). However, our digital offerings are gaining increasing support – the website (51%) and webinars (37%) which are becoming core elements of our output. Also, as we transition to a more digital focus we intend to make more of our historical documents and products available to members through an upgraded website about which I will say more in a moment.

Battlefield Tours

9. There was strong support for the idea of RHHS sponsored battlefield tours. However, detailed research has indicated that we do not have the resources to mount organised tours. We will however, gradually roll out information packs relating to RM battles, which members can use to plan their own tours. With expert advice, three batchmates and I have done this for the last 2 years and I can vouch that it works well.

Oral History

10. You may have heard of the hacking attack on NMRM earlier this year. There was initial concern that 33 RM oral histories were not accounted for. This has been eased considerably by the RMHS providing recordings on CD as well as in digital form. Looking forward, the first priority for NMRM is enhanced cyber security and when that is in place, we will join the NMRM Oral History project, which will provide video as well as aural collection, together with a much-needed framework of legal safeguarding. For interest the IWM also holds 172 RM oral histories

Research Support

11. Many members expressed interest in conducting their own research and, importantly for the Society, a willingness to share their outputs. I must emphasise that, research support will be a guided DIY enterprise – we do not have the capacity to individually assist all takers. However, we will organise an annual webinar advising on how to conduct military historical research and, in parallel, the website will provide guides and allow members access to much of our extensive digital database. Also, we will provide a catalogue of the small library held in our Portsmouth office, recently enhanced by a collection of RMRO's and lovingly cared for by Adrian Wakeford which, with prior notification, can be accessed on Thursday mornings.

SE Chapter

12. Sufficient interest was expressed in forming a SE Chapter, mirroring that which exists in the SW, to warrant further investigation. However, based on a London Portsmouth axis, there is a

problem finding suitable, affordable venues. We have therefore decided to try and adopt a different approach to the WCC model and are will soon be trialling a joint venture model, initially with RMA City of London, in which they would be responsible for the venue and administration whist RMHS would provide an appropriate speaker. Not only should this approach make events available to members living in the SE but also, provide a useful partnership with RMA members.

Outreach

13. Both our purposes and members survey responses point towards a need for greater outreach to the Corps family and the general public.

Corps' Family

Clearly, after members, the most important of our stakeholders is the serving Corps as we seek to connect today's young marines with the proud history of their Corps. We were encouraged by our meetings with DGCRM, Major General Paul Maynard and the Commandant CTCRM Colonel Innis Catton, both expressed strong commitment to this aspect of our role. As I said in the newsletter, The Corps has embraced digital "If you are not digital, you are on life support". At the tactical level John Rawlinson is engaged with a root and branch overhaul of CTCRM courses, starting with recruit training. In line with the digital challenge, they want trainees to research history rather than learn VCs and memorable dates by rote. The Corps would welcome a continuation of the Short History but, like a good proportion of our members, would prefer to receive it digitally. Encouragingly, DCGRM saw a clear role for RMHS in helping the serving Corps to engage with the general public by promoting its history.

The RMA has 26,000 multigenerational members to whom we are keen to reach out, as well as a big pot of money. Discussions quickly revealed that other than a £5K annual grant, if RMHS became a branch there would be no financial help from this direction. We declined the offer of becoming a branch but reaching out to their membership remains a worthwhile ambition. I have mentioned already the pilot project that we are planning with RMA City of London and as mentioned in the newsletter are running combined travelling exhibitions with RMA at Corps and national events. Also, we are about to commence a monthly RMHS branded contribution to the RMA's weekly newsletter, similar to that already featuring in the Globe and Laurel.

NMRN

a. As you have heard from James Daley NMRM hope to open the RM Experience in Boathouse 6 next July. I visited the site a few weeks ago and the ripping out process, where one might expect to find hidden problems had just been completed. John Rawlinson visited a couple of weeks ago and Discussions with the CEO are exploring how RMHS can support the opening events and provide ongoing support to the museum by way of, for example, occasional presentations/seminars in the associated conference facility. I very much hope that we will be able to hold our next AGM in that location.

General Public

b. As well as being part of the Society's charitable purpose, members and the serving Corps told us, that reaching out to the general public is an important target. Whilst the following of our



social media pages has been steadily growing there was a disappointingly low response to the survey we conducted of these followers, insufficient upon which to base any planning. However, interest in our travelling exhibition, the activity of which is detailed in the latest newsletter, has been gratifyingly high and we intend to continue this activity next year, if we can get sufficient volunteers to help, and will provide travel expenses to encourage this.

The Internet

14. Underpinning all of this will be a remodelled, attractive and more capable Website, which will include a discrete members area allowing exclusive access to our extensive digital archive, and other material such as battlefield tour guides as well as a chat room to facilitate mutual support for research. This will not be cheap but work is well underway and Abs will now give you a quick oversight of where we are heading. ...

Summary

15. In Summary a lot of ground has been covered we have asked members and other stakeholders what they would like from RMHS and where possible we a working towards meeting those requirements. Financial pressures have forced an overdue increase in subs but a greater focus on digital capacity has allowed us to offer digital membership at the same rate as today for those who wish it, whilst a much-improved website will allow members greater connection to the Society. All of this is for information. The only agreement we need from the AGM today, is to submit the updated rules to the CC.



APPENDIX 10: SOCIETY RULES UPDATE

Name

1. The name of the Society shall be "The Royal Marines Historical Society".

Object

2. The object of the Society shall be to educate the public and members of the Royal Marines in the history and traditions of the Royal Marines.

Powers

3. In furtherance of the object of the Society but not further or otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers:

a. To engage in, encourage and publish research into the history, uniform and traditions of the Royal Marines.

b. To provide a means of communication between persons interested in the history of the Royal Marines.

c. To stimulate an interest within the serving Corps and amongst the general public in the history and development of all activities of the Royal Marines.

d. To provide a source of historical knowledge and expertise to members of the Society, the serving Corps, the staff of the Royal Navy Museums and others.

Council and Trustees

4. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of not less than 6 elected members, 3 appointed members and ex-officio members co-opted by the Council as required.

a. The appointed members will include an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Editor, all 3 of whom will be appointed annually by the Council.

b. The elected and appointed members of the Council will be the Trustees of the Charity.

c. The ex-officio members may include the Corps Secretary (representing the Commandant General Royal Marines), the SBSA Historian, a representative appointed by the Chairman of the Royal Navy Museums and other ex-officio members at the discretion of the Council.



d. The Council will appoint from their number a chairman to preside at their meetings who will be appointed at least once in every 3 years.

5. Candidates for election as Members of the Council shall be proposed and seconded by two paid-up members of the Society and shall hold office for 3 years. Members of the Council shall be elected by a simple majority of members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Two elected members will retire annually in rotation but may be considered with other nominations for election for a further term.

6. The Council shall meet from time to time, as notified by the Honorary Secretary. A quorum will consist of either the Honorary Secretary or the Honorary Treasurer and any three others, two of whom will be elected members.

7. Decisions of the Council shall require approval by 3/4 of its members present.

8. The Council may at any time co-opt one or more members who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. Such co-opted members shall be considered elected members for the purpose of Rule 4.

President

9. The Society shall elect a President. Their term of office will be subject to mutual agreement between the President and the Council.

Vice Presidents

10. The Society may elect as Vice Presidents not more than five persons at any time who have produced literary works on the history of the Corps or have otherwise performed notable service in the interest of the Society. Vice Presidents shall be eligible for election to the Council.

Membership

11. Membership of the Society shall be open to any person who has a genuine interest in the study of the history, uniforms and traditions of the Royal Marines.

12. Associate membership shall be available to representatives of Regiments, libraries, other Historical Societies and other bodies on payment of an annual subscription. Associate membership will entitle such an organisation to one vote at a General Meeting.

13. Membership shall be subject to approval by the Council. Honorary Life Membership may be granted to any person considered, in the opinion of the Council, to have performed outstanding work in the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Society.



14. The Council shall have the right to remove any person from the List of Members at any time. The member will be given notice of this intention, in writing, and will have the opportunity to respond before a decision to remove them is made. They will have the opportunity to appeal to be reinstated on the membership role to the council within 12 weeks.

15. Any members who resign and subsequently wish to renew their membership may apply to do so. Should such a member wish to pay arrears of subscription from the date of resignation they will be entitled to reinstatement as from their original date of membership. If such members do not pay their arrears of subscription, their application will be considered as for a new member. Any member who allows his subscription to lapse or is removed from membership under Rule 14 may apply for reinstatement.

16. The annual subscription and types of membership shall be determined by the Council.

Subscriptions and Finance

17. All subscriptions, donations and other income shall be paid into an account or accounts opened in the name of "The Royal Marines Historical Society". Authorised signatories will be nominated by the Council and can only draw upon the accounts for purposes approved by the Council.

18. Accounts shall be prepared by the Honorary Treasurer in a format approved by the Council and acceptable to the Charity Commission. Draft accounts shall be subject to Independent Examination and be presented to the Council for approval.

General

19. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society will be held once a year on a date decided by the Council. Notice of the meeting, with provisional agenda, shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary to all members at least 30 days before the date of the meeting.

20. The AGM shall be for the following purposes:

a. To approve nominations for President, Vice Presidents and Councillors, where vacancies exist.

b. To decide on future activities.

c. To decide on any resolutions proposed by the Council or submitted by individual members.

d. To receive the Independently Examined accounts for the preceding year.

21. Other General Meetings may be held as decided by the Council or if required by a majority of the members of the Society: members to be notified as under Rule 19.



Amendment Provision

22. These Rules may be altered by a majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting: provided that no amendment shall be made which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.

Dissolution Provision

23. In the event of the winding up of the Society, the Trustees shall apply the assets of the Society to payment of all just debts and liabilities of the Society, and if after the satisfaction of all just debts and liabilities there shall remain any assets whatever, the same shall not be distributed amongst the members but shall be given, or transferred, to some other charitable organisation or organisations having objects similar to the Society and if, and in so far as, effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some other charitable object.

Approved 22 November 2025