

ANHSO Rules

February 2015

1 NAME

The Society shall be called “The Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire”.

2 OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be to encourage an interest in Natural History and to facilitate its conservation and study

1. by lectures;
2. by excursions to places of interest;
3. by general and specialized field work,
4. by conservation field work and recording of the natural history facts of the county and district;
5. by the maintenance of a library;
6. by publications ;
7. by educational initiatives;
8. by consultancy.

3 MEMBERSHIP

Types of paying membership shall be:

1. Ordinary;
2. Family;
3. Student;
4. Corporate.

Members of the public are welcome to apply to join the Society by returning a Membership Form and subscription to the Membership Secretary. New members shall receive a copy of the Rules on joining.

Subscriptions shall be due on joining and on January 1st in each year. Members joining after October 1st shall pay a normal subscription which will entitle them to membership until the end of the next year. Any member whose subscription is six months in arrears will cease to belong to the Society.

The Committee reserves the right to refuse or revoke the membership of any person acting in a manner contrary to the Society's interests.

The Committee may confer Honorary Membership on members for special distinction in science or for special services.

4 MEETINGS

4.1 Annual General Meeting

There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, at which the Treasurer's audited accounts and those of the special interest groups shall be submitted for approval of the Meeting. All accounts will be audited. Subscriptions for the various types of membership will be determined, the officers and Committee elected, an honorary auditor appointed, and any other Society business transacted. Members shall be given at least two weeks' notice of the Annual General Meeting.

4.2 Bernard Tucker Memorial Lecture

There shall be a joint meeting of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire and the Oxford Ornithological Society each year, to be called the Bernard Tucker Memorial Lecture. The President of the Oxford Ornithological Society shall take the chair. A small fee may be charged for attendance to help cover costs.

4.3 Warburg Memorial Lecture

There shall also be a joint meeting of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust each year, to be called the Warburg Memorial Lecture. The President of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire and a representative of the Trust shall take the chair in alternate years. The subject of the lecture shall be consonant with the interests of E.F. Warburg, e.g. plant taxonomy or plant conservation. Other joint meetings may be instituted from time to time. A small fee may be charged for attendance to help cover costs.

4.4 General and Field Meetings

There shall normally be at least seven General Meetings of the Society per year, typically taking the form of an hour's talk on a subject connected to natural history, followed by questions. Field meetings will also be arranged. Records of these meetings will be maintained when possible.

Members shall be notified of General Meetings, Field Meetings, events and courses. Meetings and events will be advertised to the public via the website and other channels when appropriate. Visitors may attend the General and Field Meetings of the Society on payment of a small fee for each meeting, the fee to be determined or waived by the Committee.

5 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The objectives of the Society may be facilitated by convening special interest groups (SIGs). Member(s) wishing to establish a new SIG should present terms of reference to an AGM for the approval of the Society. The existence and activities of SIGs shall be publicised to members through the channels used by the Society and through an annual report to the AGM. Membership of SIGs shall be open to all members of the Society supportive of the aim of the SIG, with the proviso that some SIGs may require a specific level of technical expertise for participation. Membership of the Society shall be a prerequisite for membership of a SIG. With the approval of the Society at an AGM, a SIG may open a separate bank account to the Society. In this case, the accounts should be presented annually to the AGM. With the approval of the Society at an AGM, a SIG may either secede from the Society or be wound up.

6 COMMITTEE

The running of the Society shall be overseen by a committee comprising the members defined in this section. The committee shall meet at least three times a year. A member may hold more than one committee post simultaneously. Seven shall form a quorum, the maximum number of people on the committee shall be twelve.

6.1 Honorary officers

The Society shall elect the following honorary officers annually at the AGM:

1. President;
2. Committee Secretary;
3. Treasurer;
4. Membership Secretary;

5. Field Secretary;
6. Librarian;
7. Editor.

The President may serve for a maximum of three successive years, after which he or she will not be eligible for immediate re-election. Honorary officers shall be eligible for re-election each year. In the event of any post becoming vacant between AGMs, the committee may co-opt a member until the next AGM.

6.2 Vice President

The outgoing President shall be Vice-President during the term of office of his/her successor.

6.3 Special Interest Groups

The chair or another representative of each SIG shall be a member of the committee.

6.4 Elected members

When the honorary officers, Vice President and SIG representatives are fewer than twelve in number, further members of the Society may stand for election to the committee at an AGM. In the event of more members wishing to stand for the committee than there are places, the President shall organise a ballot. A member elected in this capacity for three consecutive years, shall not be eligible for re-election in this capacity until one year has elapsed.

6.5 Additional roles

The committee shall allocate other roles necessary to the running of the Society to its member(s). These may include:

1. Lecture Secretary
2. Publicity Officer
3. Web Officer

In the event of the committee numbering less than twelve, the Committee may appoint additional members to perform these roles.

7 FINANCE

At the discretion of the Committee all members of the Society and others may be paid honoraria for services in pursuit of the Society's objectives.

8 LIBRARY

The Librarian shall be empowered to purchase such publications as are thought fit. These shall be deposited in the library of the Society. The Committee shall be empowered to dispose of any publications no longer required.

9 CONSTITUTION

No alteration to these rules shall be made except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting and the Secretary shall send any proposed alteration to members before the meeting. The Committee shall have power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time and shall give members at least two weeks' notice and state the Agenda for such a meeting.

10 COMPLAINTS

Any member of the Society or the public with a complaint or grievance is encouraged to seek an amicable resolution with the concerned Committee member(s) in the first instance. If this is not satisfactory, then an appeal in writing may be made to the President, who will seek to find a resolution to the matter. A quorate Committee shall be the final appeal.

11 WINDING UP

If the Society shall, by general consent of its members, cease to exist, all residual assets shall pass to an appropriate charity.

12 REVISIONS

February 2015: Christopher Hoskin,
March 2007: Alison W. McDonald.
1984