

# Rules of Great Cockcrow Railway Club

1 May 2026

GREAT  
COCKCROW  
RAILWAY

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## **1 Name**

The name of the club is Great Cockcrow Railway (the **Club**).

## **2 Objects**

The objects of the **Club** are the running and promotion of miniature railways in a sociable environment with the other advantages and facilities of a club.

## **3 Primary concepts**

- 3.1 The Club is a proprietary club, the proprietor being the Ian Allan Group Ltd whose registered office is Dial House, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8AG (the **Proprietor**).
- 3.2 The Club premises are located at Hardwick Lane, Chertsey KT16 0AD or such other premises as the Proprietor may provide (the Premises).
- 3.3 Members of the club are those who are accepted into membership and agree to be bound by the rules of the Club.
- 3.4 The Proprietor shall provide the Club with Premises and all necessary facilities for carrying on the Club in accordance with these objects and rules. The Club shall be responsible for looking after and maintaining the Premises using its members' efforts and finance provided by the Proprietor.
- 3.5 The Proprietor shall provide insurance cover for buildings, fixed plant and equipment located at the Premises. It shall further provide public liability insurance for all those using the Premises at no cost to the **Club**.
- 3.6 The members of the **Club** are under no financial liability by reason of their membership of the **Club** save any annual membership fee which may be determined by a Management Committee (as herein after described).
- 3.7 An Asset Register (as herein after defined) shall be kept to show the ownership of each item of railway rolling stock, tools and machinery, kept at the premises from time to time. A copy shall be made available to the Proprietor on request.

## **4 Officers**

- 4.1 There shall normally be a minimum of 7 officers of the **Club** of whom there shall be a General Manager, and heads of function for each of the following departments: Structures, Signalling, Mechanical Engineering, Railway Operations, Permanent Way and Commercial (including café), together the **Functional Heads**.
- 4.2 The other officers of the **Club** shall be appointed by the General Manager and subject to the agreement of the Proprietor who may remove any officer from office at any time without reference to the Members.

4.3 Subject to adequate performance of duties, appointed officers of the **Club** shall remain in post until a new General manager is appointed. They may from time to time undertake other roles subject to the agreement of the Management Committee.

## **5 Constitution of the Management Committee**

5.1 The Management Committee of officers of the **Club** must exercise the powers given to it by these rules and such other powers of management as it may from time to time undertake at the reasonable request of the Proprietor

5.2 The Management Committee shall consist of:

5.2.1 the General Manager elected at the AGM,

5.2.2 at least six (6) other members appointed by the General Manager as **Functional Heads**.

5.3 The General Manager shall be elected by the membership by a simple majority of votes cast and shall hold the post for two years subject to the agreement of the Proprietor. They will be eligible for re-election at the end of their term.

5.4 The General Manager shall have a probationary period of six months during which they may be removed by majority vote of the **Management Committee**.

5.5 Any four (4) members of the **Management Committee** will form a quorate Management Committee unless there is at any time fewer than four (4) members of the Management Committee, in which case the quorum shall be all of the members of the Management Committee

5.6 All acts bona fide done by any meeting of the **Management Committee** or of any sub-committee of the **Management Committee** or by any person acting as a member of the **Management Committee** shall, notwithstanding it being afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or continuance in office of any such member, officer or person acting as aforesaid or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if such person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified to be a member of the **Management Committee**.

## **6 Co-option**

6.1 Should the General Manager be unable or unwilling to continue in the role, the role may be filled by a nominated deputy or by direct appointment by the **Management Committee** until the next AGM .

6.2 The **Management Committee** may also co-opt not more than four (4) additional members to itself who retire at the next AGM but are then eligible for further co-option.

6.3 Co-option to the **Management Committee** is at all times subject to the approval of, and is terminable at any time by, the Proprietor, acting reasonably.

## **7 Control and management**

The **Management Committee** has and is granted all powers necessary to carry out the objects of the Club in accordance with these rules.

## **8 General Committee meetings**

8.1 The **Management Committee** shall conduct its business in such manner as it considers appropriate and convenient, acting reasonably.

8.2 Any Committee member with a conflict of interest (real or perceived) shall declare it before proposing or voting on any motion or decision.

8.3 Any officer or member of the Management Committee or sub-committee of the **Management Committee** may participate in a meeting of the **Management Committee** or such sub-committee by means of electronic mail or conference call or other similar communications equipment whereby all persons participating in the meeting can either hear and speak to each other or otherwise communicate and any member participating in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

## **9 Records**

9.1 The **Management Committee** shall appoint one of its number to conduct and administer the records and correspondence of the Club (the **Membership Secretary**).

9.2 The **Membership Secretary** must ensure that adequate records of all proceedings of the Club and of the **Management Committee** (and any sub-committee) are kept which must be open to the inspection of any member of the Club on application to the **Membership Secretary**.

9.3 A list of the names, contact numbers, email and addresses of all members of the Club must be kept by the **Membership Secretary** and produced on demand for inspection as required and in accordance with the law and these rules.

## **10 Sub-committees**

10.1 The **Management Committee** may appoint sub-committees consisting of members of the **Management Committee** and/or other members of the Club as it may deem necessary or expedient for the object of furthering any particular activity of the Club or its members.

10.2 The **Management Committee** may depute or refer to each sub-committee such of its powers and duties (except those relating to the discipline and/or expulsion of members) as it may determine

10.3 Each sub-committee must keep records of its proceedings which it must produce to the **Management Committee** and must conduct its business in accordance with these rules and the directions of the **Management Committee**.

10.4 No sub-committee may incur any expense on behalf of the Club or give any warranty on behalf of the Club except to the extent that the **Management Committee** from time to time specifically authorises.

## **11 Membership**

11.1 Every candidate for adult membership of the Club must be at least 16 years of age.

11.2 Junior membership of the Club is available to persons at least 12 years of age.

11.3 On all visits to the Premises junior members must be overseen by the adult members who remain responsible for the conduct of the junior member whilst on the Premises.

11.4 An annual membership subscription, if any, of the Club shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

11.5 Any membership fees are due pro rate on acceptance as a member of the Club and subsequently payable to the Club on 1 May in each year.

11.6 Proposals for membership must be on the forms provided for that purpose and must be signed by the candidate for membership and in the case of junior membership by the adult member or parent making the proposal.

11.7 Proposals must state the full name, email, contact number and postal address of the candidate. The candidate must not be accepted for membership until at least 7 days after receipt of the proposal for membership.

11.8 Acceptance of members is at the sole discretion of the **Management Committee**.

11.9 When an individual is accepted, they are then a member of the Club and entitled to all the privileges of membership and shall agree to be bound by these rules by signing a copy and returning it to the **Membership Secretary**.

11.10 If there is a membership fee, the **Management Committee** may terminate the membership of any member whose membership fee is more than three (3) months in arrears.

11.11 Any member who shall, in the opinion of the **Management Committee**, act or have acted inconsistently with the objects or rules of the Club or the Railway Rule book or has become otherwise unsuitable for membership may be suspended or excluded from the Club by resolution of a majority of the **Management Committee**.

11.12 The name of a member whose membership is terminated will be removed from the list of registered members and such person will immediately cease to be a member of the Club and forfeit all rights of membership. They must remove any of their assets that are at the Premises within one month or they will be disposed of or pass into club ownership.

## **12 Rights and liabilities of members**

- 12.1 Every member of the Club is entitled to use and enjoy (in common with other members of the Club) the Club premises and things provided by the Proprietor for the use of the Club only at such times as the Premises is open to members (as directed by the **Management Committee**) and/or as the Proprietor may from time to time stipulate.
- 12.2 Certain members may be designated by the **Management Committee** as Key Holders. This does not by right give access to the Premises for other members outside or normal opening hours. Keys shall be used for the performance of Club business only. Keys shall be returned on reasonable request by the **Management Committee**.

## **13 Guests**

- 13.1 Adult members may introduce friends who are 16 years old or over as their guests but no member may introduce more than five (5) guests in any one day..
- 13.2 The Guest of an adult member shall become a day member and must wear a badge identifying them as Guests.
- 13.3 A Guest is entitled to the privileges of membership for the day of their membership but may not themselves introduce any further guests into the Club or onto the Premises nor take part in the management or running of the Club.
- 13.4 Junior members may only introduce Guests by prior agreement with the Management Committee.
- 13.5 Members must oversee Guests introduced by them whilst on the Premises and shall be solely responsible for their conduct.
- 13.6 The following may not be admitted as Guests:
- 13.6.1 anyone who has been previously expelled;
  - 13.6.2 persons who, having applied for membership, have been rejected; or
  - 13.6.3 members who are under suspension.

## **14 Rules and Procedures**

- 14.1 The **Management Committee** may from time to time with the approval of the Proprietor make, vary and revoke rules and procedures (not inconsistent with these Club rules) for the regulation and smooth running of the Club and the conduct of its members.
- 14.2 Until revoked, all rules and procedures are binding on the members of the Club.

## **15 Conduct of members**

- 15.1 A member may resign their membership at any time in writing delivered to the **Membership Secretary** at the Club address or by email.

- 15.2 The **Management Committee** may expel from the Club (or suspend from membership for a specific period) any member whose conduct, in the opinion of the Management Committee (acting reasonably), might be injurious to the character or interests of the Club or render them unfit to associate with members of the Club. Such conduct maybe a one-off event or low level repetition of undesirable behaviour in the opinion of the **Management Committee**.
- 15.3 Before a member is expelled or suspended, the alleged member's conduct must be investigated and the person involved must be given the opportunity to defend themselves and/or to justify or explain their behaviour.
- 15.4 Having inquired into the events, if the **Management Committee** is of the opinion that the member is guilty of such conduct as mentioned above and has failed to justify or explain it satisfactorily, the **Management Committee** may either expel or suspend the relevant member at its discretion.
- 15.5 A member expelled forfeits all the privileges of Club membership without claim for any refund of any membership fees, if paid.
- 15.6 No betting or gaming, drunkenness, bad language, discriminatory behaviour, failure to adhere to Health and Safety requirements or other misconduct is permitted on the Premises at any time.

## **16 Conduct of junior members**

- 16.1 Junior members may not operate locomotives or signalling equipment whilst the premises are open to the public unless of the designated age, under formal training and with the direct supervision of a qualified adult member.
- 16.2 The Club is not intended to be a youth group, child care facility or playground. Anyone treating it as such may be suspended or expelled from membership.

## **17 Annual and special general meetings**

- 17.1 An annual general meeting (AGM) must be held in every year, usually at the end of a running season:
- 17.1.1 for the election of General Manager, if needed and
  - 17.1.2 for any other business that may be permitted in accordance with these rules.
- 17.2 Special general meetings may be convened by the Proprietor or the **Management Committee** or on written requisition to the General Manager signed by at least twenty (20) members or three (3) of the Management Committee.
- 17.3 At least 14 days' notice of an AGM or special general meeting specifying the business to be transacted and the place and hour of the meeting must be given by exhibiting a notice prominently at the Premises and in such other places or in such other manner as the **Management Committee** considers appropriate.

17.4 At a general meeting of the Club (including an AGM) every member may be present and vote on every question raised and in the case of equality of votes the General Manager shall have a second or casting vote.

17.5 The **Management Committee** shall arrange for a record of the proceedings at all general meetings to be made.

## **18 Addresses of members and notices**

18.1 Each member must inform the **Membership Secretary** of any changes to their address, email, contact number and postal address.

18.2 Notices required by these rules to be given to members may be given either by letter, email or by exhibiting the notice in a prominent place at the Premises.

## **19 Special Events**

19.1 During any special Club event, participants and bona fide spectators are entitled to the access the Premises provided that:

19.1.1 no one admitted to the Premises by virtue of this rule may take part in the management of the Club or introduce Guests, and

19.1.2 persons admitted to the Premises under this rule are subject to the same rules as members of the Club.

19.2 All special events must be authorised in advance by the Management Committee.

## **20 Hours of opening**

20.1 The Club and its premises shall be open to receive members on Sundays and such other days as may be notified at the discretion of the Management Committee, with the consent of the Proprietor.

20.2 In the event of inclement weather or other Emergency the Premises may remain closed by decision of the **Management Committee**.

## **21 Alteration of rules**

21.1 These rules may be revoked, supplemented or altered by the Proprietor provided that in the case of any revocation, supplementation or alteration of these rules that:

21.1.1 would enable it to expel or to suspend members otherwise than in accordance with rule[s] 15.2 or 17.2, or

21.1.2 alters the objects of the Club;

the Proprietor must have the consent of the Club given by a resolution passed at a general meeting by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting.

## **22 Dissolution**

22.1 The Club may be dissolved:

22.1.1 by the Proprietor at any time, acting reasonably; or

22.1.2 by the members in general meeting pursuant to a resolution passed at such general meeting by a majority of three-quarters of the members present and voting.

22.2 No resolution to dissolve the Club may be considered in a general meeting unless a proposal for the resolution has been submitted to the General Manager in writing and signed by at least twenty (20) members of the Club, at least 21 days before the date of the said meeting.

22.3 On the dissolution of the Club by the Proprietor or by the members such property of the Club as belongs to the members and recorded in the Asset Register must be removed or disposed of in a manner decided by the members in general meeting.

## **23 Disputes**

Any dispute or difference which may arise as to the meaning or interpretation of these rules or any procedures or as to the powers of the officers or **Management Committee** or any sub-committee or the validity of any election or proceedings of the Management Committee or any sub-committee shall be determined by the Proprietor, whose decision is final and binding on all members of the Club, save in the case of fraud or manifest error.

## **24 Interpretation**

In these rules, the headings are for ease of reference only and are not to be taken into account in their interpretation.