

1758 Middleton Railway Trust

CONSTITUTION

1. The Society shall be called the Middleton Railway Trust.
2. Its aims shall be: to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire the use of such parts of the Middleton Colliery Railway, Leeds as may be available; to preserve, restore to good condition and operate the Railway with any suitable form of motive power; to establish a Museum on the Railway devoted to transport with special emphasis on rail transport in Leeds and Yorkshire; to acquire and preserve such articles or relics as may become available; to publicise the Middleton Colliery Railway, Leeds as one of the world's earliest railways, and the world's first commercial steam operated railway; and to undertake such other activities as are necessary for the promotion of the above specified aims.
3. Membership shall be open to all who are in sympathy with the above aims. The rates of subscription for ordinary, junior and life membership shall be set by each Annual General Meeting of the Society. Junior membership shall be open to students and those between 16 and 18 and others at the discretion of the Committee. Honorary membership shall be by election at a General Meeting of the Society. Societies and other organisations may, at the discretion of the Committee, be admitted to corporate membership on payment of such fee as the Committee shall think fit. Corporate members shall receive such benefits as the Committee shall decide and each be entitled to a single vote at a General Meeting. Subscriptions shall be paid by the calendar year. Members shall receive an annual membership card which shall act as receipt for the subscription, and shall receive the Journal.
4. The Society shall be controlled by a Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall comprise: President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not more than four Vice-Presidents together with a Committee Secretary, Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Traffic Manager, Mechanical Engineer, Civil Engineer, and not more than four other members. The Committee may call for the appointment of assistants and/or technical advisors, who have the right to attend Committee meetings but not to vote thereat, should this seem desirable. If no member of Leeds University Railway Society be elected to the Committee, the Secretary of the said Society shall be a member of the Committee ex-officio. In the event of a Chairman not being elected at a General Meeting, a Managing Committee, which may or may not contain members of the main Committee, shall be elected at a General Meeting, to act until such time as a Chairman is forthcoming. It shall be able to attend Committee meetings and shall be responsible to the Committee. Those members of the Managing Committee present at the main Committee meetings shall have a single casting vote in the event of a deadlock being reached.
5. The Committee may appoint sub-committees at its discretion to deal with certain aspects of the Society's work.
6. The Society's property shall be vested in 4 trustees, to be appointed initially by a General Meeting. Any vacancies shall be filled by the remaining  
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trustees, who shall do so in consultation with the Society Committee. The trustees shall at all times maintain close touch with the activities of the Society.

7. The funds of the Society shall be held at a bank or on deposit at interest at the discretion of the Committee. The signatures of at least two officers or members of the Committee shall be required to withdraw funds. The accounts shall be certified by two Honorary Auditors elected at a General Meeting.

8. The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting in Leeds, six weeks' notice of which shall be given in the Society's Journal.

9. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be one quarter of the membership or 25, whichever is the least, and for the Committee one third of the members. For the purpose of a quorum in Committee meetings, the President and Vice-Presidents will not be regarded as Committee members.

10. The business of the Society at General Meetings and Committee meetings shall be by Parliamentary procedure.

11. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by written request of at least 20 members of the Society, such meetings to be held within six weeks of receipt of the request by the Secretary.

12. Elections shall be by simple majority vote of those present.

13. In the event of dissolution of the Society, the trustees shall distribute or realise the Society's assets as they think fit, but having regard to the persons or bodies which have provided donations to the Society.

14. A written report by the Secretary and Treasurer shall be circulated to members before each Annual General Meeting.

15. The constitution shall be revised by a two thirds majority of the members present at a General Meeting.

16. The Society shall keep in touch with those firms having private sidings on the Middleton Railway, with British Railways and the Corporation of the City of Leeds, all of which shall receive the Annual Report of the Society's activities.

17. The Society shall be charitable and non-profit-making. Any surplus shall be devoted to furthering the aims of the Society, or to such charities as the Committee may think fit.

18. The Committee may appoint operating officers as it thinks fit to conduct the maintenance and operation of the Middleton Railway.

19. Operation of the Railway shall be in accordance with the best established practice, as set out by the Ministry of Transport. Printed rules for operating and safety shall be devised and issued to all persons responsible for the operation of the Railway.

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Incorporating revisions up to and including those made at the Annual General Meeting, 2nd May 1970