CHARTER AND BYE-LAWS

Revised 2003
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Objects and Membership</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Publications and Collections</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fellows who are Chartered Geographers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Honorary Members and Fellows</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ordinary Members</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Young Geographers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Corporate Members</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Educational and Affiliated Educational Corporate Members</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Honorary Vice-Presidents</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Withdrawal and Removal of Fellows and Members</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Annual General Meetings</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Special General Meetings</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ordinary Meetings of the Society</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Conferences, Seminars and other Functions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The Society’s Premises</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Officers of the Society</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 1</strong> President</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 2</strong> Vice Presidents</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 3</strong> Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 4</strong> Honorary Secretaries</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Section 5</strong> Director and Secretary</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHARTER AND BYE-LAWS

THE ROYAL CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

WHEREAS Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, Knight, and others of our loving subjects did, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty establish a Society, by the name of The Royal Geographical Society, for the advancement of Geographical Science, and of which Society we have become the Patron:

AND WHEREAS it has been represented to us that the same Society has since its establishment sedulously pursued such its proposed object, by collecting registering, digesting, and, from time to time, publishing an annual Journal of Transactions, which have contributed to the progress of geographical knowledge; by carrying out, at its own expense, various important Expeditions in every quarter of the Globe, and by assisting other Expeditions with grants of money and otherwise; and whereas, distinguished individuals in foreign countries, as well as British subjects, have availed themselves of the facilities offered by the same Society for communicating important discoveries, greatly extending geographical knowledge:

AND WHEREAS the same Society has, in aid of its objects, collected a large and valuable Library of Scientific Works, Atlases, Maps, Charts, Plans, Views, Instruments, to which fresh accessions are constantly being made; and the said Society has hitherto been supported by Donations, and annual and other Subscriptions and Contributions to its Funds.

AND WHEREAS, in order to secure the property of the said Society, to extend its operations, and to give it a more permanent establishment among the scientific Institutions of our Kingdom, we have been besought to grant to the said Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, Knight, and to those who now are, or shall hereafter become, members of the said Society, our Royal Charter of Incorporation for the purposes aforesaid.

NOW KNOW YE, that We, being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary, of our especial Grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have willed, granted and declared, and Do, by these Presents for us, our heirs, and successors, will, grant and declare, that the said Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, Knight, and such other of our loving subjects as now are Members of the said Society, or shall from time to time be elected Fellows thereof, according to such Regulations, or Bye Laws, as shall be hereafter framed or enacted, and their successors, shall for ever hereafter be, by virtue of these Presents, one body politic and corporate, by the name of "The Royal Geographical Society," and for the purposes aforesaid, and by name aforesaid, shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with full power and authority to alter, vary, break, and renew the same at their discretion, and by the same name, to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, in every court of us, our heirs, and successors, and be for ever able and capable in the law, to purchase, receive, possess, hold and enjoy, to them and their successors, any goods and chattels whatsoever; and also to be able and capable in the law (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain), to take, purchase, hold and enjoy, to them and their successors, a Hall or House, and any such messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments whatsoever, as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of the Society, the yearly value of which, including the site of the said Hall or House, shall not exceed in the whole the sum of eight thousand pounds, computing the same respectively at the rack rent which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof; and to act in all the concerns of the said body politic and corporate, as effectually, to all intents and purposes, as any other of our liege subjects, or any other body politic or corporate, in our said Kingdom, not being under any disability, might do in their respective concerns.

AND we do hereby grant our especial licence and authority, unto all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate, otherwise competent to grant, sell, alien, and convey in Mortmain, unto and to the use of the said body politic and corporate, and their successors, any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, not exceeding, such annual value as aforesaid.
AND our will and pleasure is, and we further grant and declare, that there shall be a General Meeting, or General Meetings of the Fellows of the said Society, to be held from time to time as hereinafter mentioned; and that there shall be a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the said body politic and corporate, and that the General Meetings and the Council shall have the entire direction and management of the same in the manner and subject to the regulations hereafter mentioned.

AND we do hereby also will, grant and declare, that there shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and Secretaries of the said body political and corporate; and that the Council shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Trustees, Secretaries, and not more than twenty-one, nor less than twelve, other Fellows of the said Society.

AND we do hereby further will and declare, that the said Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, Knight, shall be the first President of the said body politic and corporate; and the other persons now being the Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Trustees, Secretaries, together with twenty-one Members of the Council, shall be the first Members of the Council, and shall continue such until the election of Officers shall be made in pursuance of these presents.

AND we do hereby further will and declare, that it shall be lawful for the Fellows of the said body political and corporate hereby established, to hold a General Meeting once in the year, or oftener, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, namely, that the President, Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the Secretaries, and other members of the Council, shall be chosen at such General Meeting, and that the General Meetings shall from time to time make and establish such Bye Laws, and vary and alter, or revoke the same, as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said body politic and corporate, for the admission of Fellows and of Honorary and Foreign Members, and for the fixing of the number of the Presidents, Officers, and for the management of the proceedings, and the estates, goods, and business of the said body politic and corporate, so that such Bye Laws be not repugnant to these presents, or to the Laws and Statutes of this our realm, and shall and may also enter into any resolution and make any regulation respecting the affairs of the said body politic and corporate that may be necessary and proper.

AND we do further will and declare that the General Meetings shall take place at such time as may be fixed by the said Council, and that the present regulations of the said Society, so far as they are not inconsistent with these presents, shall continue in force until the same shall be altered by a General Meeting.

AND we further will, grant and declare, that the Council shall have the sole management of the income and funds of the said body politic and corporate, and the appointment of Secretary, Librarian, Curator, and such other officers, attendants, and servants, as the Council shall think necessary or useful, as also the entire management and superintendence of all the other affairs of the said Society, and shall and may, but not inconsistently with or contrary to the provisions of this our Charter, or any existing Bye Law, or Laws and Statutes of this our realm, do all such acts and deeds as shall appear to them necessary for carrying into effect the objects and views of the said body politic and corporate.

PROVIDED always, and we do will and declare that the Council shall from time to time render to a General Meeting a full account of their proceedings, and that every Fellow of the Society may, at all reasonable times, to be fixed by the said Council, see and examine the accounts of the receipts and payments of the said body politic and corporate.

AND we further will, grant and declare, that the whole property of the said body politic and corporate shall be vested, and we do hereby vest the same solely and absolutely in the Fellows thereof, and that they shall have full power and authority to sell, alienate, charge, and otherwise dispose of the same as they shall think proper; but that no sale, mortgage, incumbrance, or other disposition of any messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments belonging to the said body politic and corporate shall be made, except with the approbation and concurrence of a General Meeting.

AND we lastly declare it to be our Royal Will and Pleasure, that no Resolution or Bye Law shall on any account or pretence whatsoever be made by the said body politic and corporate in opposition to the general scope, true intent, and meaning of this our Charter, or the Laws or Statutes of our realm, and that if any such Rule or Bye Law shall be made, the same shall be absolutely null and void to all intents, effects, constructions, and purposes whatsoever.
IN witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself, at our Palace at Westminster, this eighth day of February in the twenty-second year of our reign.

By Her Majesty's command.

EDMUNDS.
Chapter 1 Objects and Membership

1. THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY is instituted for the Advancement of Geographical Science. Until further notice, it shall be known as The Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers).

2. There shall be seven categories of Member –
   Fellows
   Fellows who are Chartered Geographers
   Honorary Fellows
   Ordinary Members
   Young Geographers
   Corporate Members
   Educational Corporate Members

3. References to Members of the Society shall include all categories of membership unless the context otherwise requires.

Chapter 2 Constitution

1. A Council shall be elected from the Fellows to conduct the affairs of the Society. The Council shall consist of a President, the immediate Past-President, the Chair of the Annual Conference and Vice-President, three other Vice-Presidents one in each division, an Honorary Treasurer, three Honorary Secretaries, the Chair of the Information Resources Committee, ten other Fellows; and up to four further Members co-opted by the Council, one of whom shall represent postgraduate student interests.

2. The President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretaries and other Councillors shall be elected by the Fellowship for a term of three years. The Honorary Treasurer and Secretaries may stand for re-election for a further three years. The Chair of the Annual Conference shall be elected for one year. In relation to all such elections, years of service are measured between Annual General Meetings of the Society.

3. In the case of the death or resignation of the President or other Officer in the course of a year of service, the Council shall have the power to appoint one of its number to perform the duties of the vacant office until the next Annual General Meeting.

4. A retiring President, Chair of the Annual Conference, Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary shall not thereafter be eligible for election to those same offices. A retiring Vice-President shall not be eligible for election as a Vice-President or as a Councillor until two years have expired since his or her retirement as Vice-President. A retiring Councillor shall not be eligible for election as a Councillor until one year has elapsed since his or her retirement as Councillor. A Fellow shall not be eligible for election as a Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary if he or she shall have attained the age of seventy-two years.

5. There will be three thematic divisions to reflect and safeguard the interests that exist within the Membership: General and Education; Research and Higher Education; and Expeditions and Fieldwork. Each thematic division shall be represented on the Council by a Vice-President, an Honorary Secretary and three Councillors. In the case of the Research and Higher Education Division these five representatives must hold a position in research or in higher or further educational institutions, or be persons of similar standing.
6. Any Fellow resident in the United Kingdom or Ireland may stand for election to the Council or as an Officer. A candidate for election must be proposed by five or more Fellows whose names will be recorded on the ballot paper.

7. The nomination of a candidate shall be in writing, signed by the candidate and by all the proposers (whose names and Fellowship numbers shall be clearly shown), shall indicate the position for which the candidate wishes to stand, and shall contain a brief summary of the reasons why the candidate is considered suitable for the vacancy for which he or she is standing. Such nominations must be received by the Director and Secretary by the last day of March in the year of the election.

8. The Council shall appoint a Director and Secretary to manage the affairs of the Society under the guidance of the Council. The Director and Secretary is ex-officio a member of Council.

9. The Council shall establish appropriate machinery to implement and monitor policies of equal opportunity. The Membership of the Society shall be without distinction of sex or other unlawful discrimination.

Chapter 3 Publications and Collections

1. The Society shall publish or licence to be published, in any form, such periodical publications as may be required.

2. A Member of the Society is entitled to receive publications in accordance with the Member’s subscription level. Subject to this Bye-Law the Council may make regulations from time to time concerning the receipt of publications.

3. The Society shall maintain a Library and a collection of Maps, Charts, Photographs, and Archival papers connected with Geographical Science to which Members of the Society shall have access and borrowing entitlements, under such restrictions as may appear advisable to the Council.

Chapter 4 Fellows

1. A person desirous of becoming a Fellow of the Society must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council
   (a) a sufficient involvement in geography or an allied subject through training, profession, research, publications or other work of a similar nature, or
   (b) not less than five years continuous commitment to the Society as an Ordinary Member at the discretion of Council.

2. Every candidate for election as a Fellow of the Society must be proposed and seconded by two Fellows, one of whom has personal knowledge of the candidate. The proposers must submit the candidate's application on an appropriate form, which both proposers must sign, together with their reasons for proposing the candidate, and payment of any entrance fee and first year’s subscription. A candidate must have attained the age of twenty-one years or be a registered student of a British university. Candidates who hold teaching or research positions in departments of geography or equivalent in higher education will qualify for election to Fellowship without the need for proposal or seconding by Fellows.

3. The proposal form, duly completed, shall be delivered to the Director and Secretary. The names of candidates and of their proposers and seconders shall be brought before the Council to be considered for election at the sole discretion of the Council.

4. The Director and Secretary shall send to each newly elected Fellow notice of his or her election within three days together with a copy of the Bye-Laws of the Society, corrected to the date of issue. But the election of a Fellow shall not be complete, neither shall his or her name be printed in any list of Fellows, nor shall he or she be entitled to exercise any of the privileges of a Fellow, until he or she shall have paid the entrance fee and annual subscription; compounded for the same, as hereafter to
be explained; or been exempted therefrom under Chapter 5 of these Bye-Laws. Unless these payments be made within three calendar months after the receipt of notice of election, such election shall be void; but this period may be extended by the Council in special cases.

5. Postgraduate students are eligible to apply for Fellowship upon the recommendation of their research supervisor, Head of Department, or any other Fellow, at a subscription that shall be determined by Council.

6. A Fellow shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Society and adopt the style FRGS after his or her name, and shall be eligible to be elected on the Council of the Society.

Chapter 5 Fellows who are Chartered Geographers

1. A Fellow who has not less than six years post-graduate experience in the profession and practice of Geography may apply to the Council to be recognised as a Chartered Geographer.

2. The applicant must:

   (a) hold an honours degree or a qualification which is equivalent to an honours degree in Geography awarded by a university, or other educational establishment in the European Union, recognised by the Council as having an appropriate standard of education, or

   (b) demonstrate academic achievement, to the satisfaction of the Council, equivalent to the attainment of an honours degree in Geography.

3. The Council shall lay down regulations governing such application, including if thought fit provisions for the payment of a fee upon application and an annual registration fee.

4. The Council shall lay down regulations establishing a grievance procedure to which an unsuccessful applicant shall have access in case of dissatisfaction with a decision of the Council.

5. A successful applicant shall be entitled to be called a Chartered Geographer and to adopt the style “C.Geog”.

6. A successful applicant who wishes to indicate after “C.Geog” a specialist area within the discipline of Geography may so apply to the Council. Such application shall be granted if the specialist area is a specialism approved by the Council and is in the opinion of the Council reflected in the applicant’s qualifications and post-graduate experience.

Chapter 6 Honorary Members and Fellows

1. From time to time Council may appoint Honorary Members to mark outstanding services to public life and to international affairs that merit recognition by the Society.

2. Council may also appoint as Honorary Fellows persons who have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of geography or the work of the Society.

3. Honorary Members and Fellows shall enjoy such privileges as the Council may from time to time determine, and shall not as such be liable to make any payments under the provisions of Chapter 13 of these Bye-Laws.

Chapter 7 Ordinary Members

1. Any individual who declares a genuine interest in geography in a broad sense, such as through travel, may apply to join the Society as an Ordinary Member. Prospective Ordinary Members must submit a
completed application form together with payment of any entrance fee and first year’s subscription to the Society's Fellowship Office. Subscription shall be as determined by Council.

2. The Fellowship Office shall send to each new Ordinary Member confirmation of his or her acceptance together with a copy of the Bye-Laws of the Society, corrected to the date of issue. An application cannot be approved until any entrance fee and first year’s subscription has been paid.

3. Ordinary Members are entitled to participate in consultations. They are also entitled to attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings. They shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Society, or on the election of Officers and Council, and shall not be eligible to be elected on the Council of the Society.

4. Ordinary Members may apply for Fellowship in the normal way at any time during their membership if they meet the criteria, but they may automatically be considered for Fellowship of the Society after five years continuous commitment if they wish.

5. Ordinary Members may use the general facilities and amenities of the Society upon such terms and conditions and in such manner and to such extent as may be determined by the Council from time to time.

6. The Council reserves the right not to approve an application for Ordinary Membership if, for any reason that it shall not be bound to disclose, it believes this not to be appropriate.

7. An Ordinary Member should not use any style after his or her name to indicate membership of the Society.

8. A Fellow has the right at any time to signify in writing a desire to cease to be a Fellow of the Society and to be instead an Ordinary Member. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Chapter shall not apply in the event of such a change in membership.

Chapter 8 Young Geographers

1. There shall be a category of membership of the Society for young persons, who shall be known as Young Geographers and shall enjoy the rights and privileges specified in this Bye-Law.

2. A candidate applying for membership as a Young Geographer must
   (a) be recommended by a Fellow, or by a University, College or School authority approved by the Council, and
   (b) be not less than 14 and not more than 24 years of age, except that
   (c) a registered Geography undergraduate student of a United Kingdom University shall be eligible for Membership as a Young Geographer regardless of age during the student’s period of study and for three years after attaining a degree.

3. A Young Geographer shall pay such annual subscription as shall be determined by Council, but shall not be liable to pay an entrance fee.

4. A Young Geographer of at least three years standing who has attained the age of 21 years, and applies and is accepted for membership as a Fellow or Ordinary Member shall not be liable to pay an entrance fee.

5. A Young Geographer shall be eligible to attend all Ordinary Meetings of the Society, and bring one guest if indicated in the programme of meetings.

6. A Young Geographer is entitled to participate in consultations. They are also entitled to attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings. They shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Society, or on the election of Officers and Council, and shall not be eligible to be elected on the Council of the Society.
7. A Young Geographer may use the general facilities and amenities of the Society to such extent, and upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by Council from time to time.

8. A Young Geographer should not use any style after his or her name to indicate membership of the Society.

9. All persons who were immediately before the coming into force of these Bye-Laws Associate Fellows shall be Young Geographers under these Bye-Laws without further action being required.

**Chapter 9 Corporate Members**

1. There may be Corporate Members of the Society who shall enjoy the rights and privileges specified in this Bye-Law.

2. The bodies eligible for Corporate Membership shall be any of the following (whether or not being in law bodies corporate) who in the opinion of the Council are interested directly or indirectly in the science of Geography, namely any Government Department or Government Institution or any educational, commercial, industrial or professional organisation or body.

3. A Corporate Member shall have the right (i) to send not more than six representatives to any General Meeting and to all Ordinary Meetings of the Society, (ii) to receive such of the Society’s periodical publications and (iii) to use the general facilities and amenities of the Society upon such terms and conditions and in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed by any regulations made by the Council which are for the time being current.

4. A Corporate Member shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Society or in the election of Officers and Council and shall not be eligible to be elected to or represented on the Council of the Society.

5. Corporate Members’ subscriptions shall be as determined by Council but without any right to compound for future subscriptions. The subscription is due on 1st January in each year.

6. Subject to this Bye-Law the Council may make regulations from time to time concerning the procedure and conditions for admission of Corporate members, the circumstances in which a body shall cease to be a Corporate member and matters incidental thereto.

**Chapter 10 Educational and Affiliated Educational Corporate Members**

1. There may be Educational Corporate Members of the Society who shall enjoy the rights and privileges specified in this Bye-Law.

2. The bodies eligible for Educational Corporate Membership (whether or not being in law bodies corporate) shall be any school, or any individual department of a college of education, technical college, polytechnic or university, or any similar educational establishment, institution or organization which may from time to time be approved by the Council. Student exploration societies shall be eligible on the same terms as schools.

3. An Educational Corporate Member shall have the right (i) to send not more than six representatives to all Ordinary meetings of the Society, (ii) to receive publications as decided by Council, and (iii) to use the general facilities and amenities of the Society upon such terms and conditions and in such manner and to such extent as may be prescribed by any regulations made by the Council which are for the time being current.

4. An Educational Corporate Member shall have no rights to vote at any meeting of the Society, or in the election of Officers and Councillors, and shall not be eligible to be elected to or represented on the Council of the Society.
5. Educational Corporate Members’ subscriptions shall be as determined by Council, but without any right to compound for future subscriptions. The subscription is due on 1st January in each year. Each school and student exploration society shall pay a subscription at least equal to half the minimum subscription of other Educational Corporate Members.

6. Subject to this Bye-Law the Council may make regulations from time to time concerning the procedure and conditions for admission of Educational Corporate Members, the circumstances in which a body shall cease to be an Educational Corporate Member and matters incidental thereto. The Council may also make regulations for the admission of Affiliated Education Corporate Members for more limited purposes.

Chapter 11 Honorary Vice-Presidents

1. The Council may select one or more Fellows of the Society to be Honorary Vice-Presidents, who shall enjoy such rights as the Council may from time to time determine.

2. The names of Honorary Vice-Presidents so selected shall be announced at the next Annual General Meeting.

3. Every Past President of the Society other than the Immediate Past President shall ipso facto be an Honorary Vice-President.

4. Every Honorary Vice-President after appointment shall remain as such while he or she continues to be a Fellow.

Chapter 12 Withdrawal and Removal of Fellows and Members

1. Any Member of the Society may withdraw from the Society by signifying his or her wish to do so, by letter addressed to the Director and Secretary, at the House of the Society.

2. Any Member may be removed from the Society for failure to pay the annual subscription or other debt to the Society.

3. The Council may remove any Member from Membership of the Society if he or she is guilty of gross misconduct or conduct likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the Society; or if he or she commits any serious breach or (after warning) continued or repeated breaches of the rules and regulations of the Society.

Chapter 13 Subscriptions

1. (a) All Members of the Society shall be required to pay on election and subsequently on 1st January each year an Annual Subscription, except as otherwise provided.

   (b) No Fellow shall be entitled to vote, nor shall any Member be entitled to enjoy any privilege of the Society, while in arrear.

   (c) Members except as otherwise provided may compound for their Annual Subscriptions on election or at any subsequent time by payment of the sum appropriate to their age and length of membership. Life compounding fees shall be calculated by an actuary, revised periodically and subject to approval by the Council. The Table of Fees will be available from the Fellowship Office.

2. The first subscription payment of newly-elected Members shall be pro-rated from the full annual subscription as calculated from the month in which election occurs. The same provision applies to Education Corporate Members and Corporate Members.
3. Any Member who has not paid his or her subscription shall not receive publications until he or she has paid the due subscription and shall be struck off at the end of the calendar year in which the subscription was due.

4. Any Fellow or Ordinary Member whose combined age plus years of continuous membership of either the Society or of The Institute of British Geographers adds up to one hundred or more may choose to pay such reduced rate of subscription as may be decided by Council.

Chapter 14 Annual General Meetings

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society shall be held on a Monday in the month of June subsequent to the last Ordinary Meeting of the Session, or on such other date as the Council may determine.

2. Notice of this Meeting shall be sent out to every Member, whose address is known, three weeks at least before the day of Meeting:

3. The following items shall form the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting:

   (a) The Presentation of the Medals and other awards of the Society.

   (b) The President’s Address (after which Visitors shall withdraw).

   (c) The presentation of the Annual Report of the Council, which shall have been already sent to Members.

   (d) The election of the Council and Officers for the ensuing year.

No resolution shall be passed at the Annual General Meeting. But in the event of any Fellow being desirous of bringing forward a Motion on any point in the Report of the Council, such Motion shall be handed in, read and referred to a Special General Meeting; provided that such Motion is supported by not less than forty Fellows.

4. In order to give effect to the provisions in Chapter 2 regarding election of Officers and Council members, a printed balloting list shall be sent out to every Fellow, whose address is known, at least three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Fellows may vote either in person at the AGM, or by post, or by giving a proxy to the President. Proxies and postal votes, signed by the Fellow and including his or her Fellowship number, must be received at the Society’s house at least two working days prior to the AGM.

5. The chair shall be taken by the President (or in his or her absence the senior Vice-President, or in their absence a member of the Council appointed by the meeting) at the time named in the notice, or as soon after as twenty-five Fellows shall be present.

6. Each Fellow present at the AGM shall deliver his or her folded ballot paper to a Scrutineer appointed by the President. The results of proxies and ballot papers sent by post will be announced at the AGM by the Scrutineers at the same time as the votes of those present at the Meeting. All ballot papers will be considered as valid only if correctly completed.

7. The Scrutineers shall report the number of votes for each person to the Chair, who shall declare the persons on whom the election has fallen.

Chapter 15 Special General Meetings

1. The Council may at any time call a Special General Meeting of the Society whenever it shall be considered necessary.
2. Any six Fellows may propose to the Council, by letter addressed to the Director and Secretary, any new Bye-Law, or the alteration or repeal of any existing Bye-Law, or any resolution respecting the affairs of the Society, and if dissatisfied with the answer of the Council, may, if supported by the written request of not less than forty Fellows, require that the proposition be referred to a Special General Meeting, which shall be held for that purpose within sixty days after the Council have received such request; the days in the months of August, September, and October not being included in the reckoning.

3. Notice of the timing and object of every Special General Meeting (SGM) shall be sent out to every Member at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. A voting paper setting out every resolution to be considered at the SGM shall be sent out to every Fellow at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. No other business than that of which notice has been given shall be discussed or considered at such meeting.

4. Fellows may vote either in person at an SGM, or by post, or by giving a proxy to the President or other Fellow attending the SGM. Postal votes or proxies, signed by the Fellow and including his or her Fellowship number, must be received at the Society’s House at least two working days prior to the SGM. No resolution shall be adopted unless supported by at least two-thirds of the votes so received or cast at the meeting.

5. The chair at a Special General Meeting shall be taken and the Chair appointed in like manner as at an Annual General Meeting.

Chapter 16 Ordinary Meetings of the Society

1. Ordinary Meetings shall be held on Monday evenings during the Session; or otherwise as judged expedient by the Council.

2. Members of the Society will normally be admitted to Meetings, on showing their Member’s Card which will be sent to all those whose Subscriptions are not in arrears. Corporate and Educational Corporate Members may bring up to six persons to Ordinary Meetings.

3. One guest may be introduced personally by each Member present to those lectures that are indicated in the programme of meetings as being open to guests. Guests may also be admitted by invitation from the Council.

4. At the Ordinary Meetings the order of proceeding shall be as follows:-

   (a) The Minutes of the last Meeting shall be read by an Honorary Secretary or senior staff member of the Society, and if their accuracy be not questioned, signed by the President or Chair.

   (b) The lecture shall then be delivered or paper read.

5. At the Ordinary Meetings of the Society nothing relating to its regulations or management shall be brought forward.

Chapter 17 Conferences, Seminars and other Functions

1. There shall be a residential Annual Conference, open to all Members on payment of appropriate fees.

2. The Society may organise such other meetings as it deems appropriate and charge accordingly.

3. No resolutions relating to the regulations or management of the Society shall be brought forward at any Conference, Seminar or other such Meeting.
4. Any group of Fellows with shared geographical research interests may apply to the Council for permission to form a research group of the Society. All approved research groups will be governed by such regulations as the Council may from time to time issue.

Chapter 18  The Society’s Premises

1. Members of the Society may use the facilities and amenities of the Society upon such terms and conditions and in such manner and to such extent as the Council may from time to time determine.

2. To avoid overcrowding at lectures or other functions in the Ondaatje Theatre, the Council may from time to time institute such measures as they think fit to control the number of persons seeking to attend, including a charge for the admission of a guest.

Chapter 19  Council

1. The government of the Society, and the management of all its concerns, are entrusted to the Council, subject to the provisions of the Charter and the Bye-Laws of the Society.

2. The President, any one of the Vice-Presidents, or any three other Members of the Council, may at any time cause a Meeting of the Council to be called; and when such a Meeting is to be held, every Member of the Council residing in the British Isles is to be summoned in writing.

3. In all Meetings of the Council, five shall be a quorum; and all questions shall be decided by vote, unless a ballot be demanded. Any determination of the Council, whether by vote or ballot, shall, at the desire of any two Members present, be deferred to the succeeding Meeting; but no question shall be more than once so deferred.

4. Minutes of the Proceedings of every Meeting of the Council shall be taken by the Director and Secretary or his or her deputy or, if both are absent, by some Member of Council whom the President or Chair shall appoint for the occasion. The Minutes shall be transferred to a fair Minute-Book. They shall be circulated before the next Meeting of the Council, and at such meetings shall be signed by the President or Chair.

5. The Accounts of the Society shall be audited and approved by the Council each year; and at the Annual General Meeting the Council shall present a complete statement thereof, together with a Report on the general affairs of the Society during the preceding year.

6. There shall also be permanent working Committees of Council. The number, designation, and purposes of such Committees shall be arranged by the Council as, from time to time, may seem necessary. Committees should not normally have more than twelve members, such members to serve on them for not more than two consecutive three-year terms. The three thematic divisional Committees shall each contain the Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and three other Councillors elected for that division, as well as members proposed by the Council or co-opted by the committee itself. The Research and Higher Education division Committee shall contain three members elected by the Society's Research Groups and the postgraduate student representative on Council.

7. The Council empowers the Director and Secretary, with the approval of the Finance Committee, to appoint staff to carry out the business of the Society and to decide their job descriptions, conditions of service, and remuneration, subject to any Agreement with the Staff Association currently in force.

8. The Council may invest the funds of the Society in the name of the Society (or in the name of any trust corporation or bank or company as nominee) in or upon such investments real or personal and securities (which term includes stocks funds and shares) of any description whether or not authorised by law for the investment of trust funds as the Council shall think fit and from time to time vary or transpose the same for or into such other investments and securities as the Council shall think fit.
9. The Society shall not make or distribute any dividend, division, or bonus in money, unto or between its Fellows.

Chapter 20 Officers of the Society

Section 1. - President

1. The President when present is Chair of the Council.

2. He or she shall execute, and cause to be executed, the Bye-Laws of the Society; shall see that all the Officers of the Society perform the duties assigned to them; shall call for Reports and Accounts from Committees and persons; shall cause of his own authority Special Meetings of the Council and of Committees to be summoned; and shall propose, from time to time, to the Council such measures as shall appear to him or her conducive to the welfare of the Society.

3. When prevented from being present at the meetings of the Fellows or Council, or from otherwise attending to the current business of the Society, the President shall give timely notice thereof to one of the Vice-Presidents, or, in their absence, to some other Member of the Council, who shall exercise his or her authority during his or her absence.

4. In all Meetings of the Society and Council, except in the cases otherwise provided for, the decision of a majority of the Fellows voting shall be considered as the decision of the Meeting, the President or Chair having only a casting vote.

Section 2. - Vice-Presidents

One of the Vice-Presidents to be nominated by the President shall exercise the authority of the President when absent.

Section 3. - Honorary Treasurer

1. The Honorary Treasurer shall advise the Council upon all questions affecting the Finances of the Society and shall, by virtue of his office, be Chair of the Finance Committee of the Council.

2. The Accounts of the Society shall be audited annually by a Chartered or Incorporated Accountant, and an Annual Statement and Balance Sheet shall be prepared for submission to the Council.

3. Chairs of thematic divisional Committees and of the Information Resources Committee shall be ex-officio members of the Finance Committee.

Section 4. - Honorary Secretaries

The Honorary Secretaries shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties, and shall exercise such other powers as the Council shall delegate to them from time to time. The Honorary Secretaries, by virtue of their office, shall be Members of all the permanent Working Committees of the Council.

Section 5. - Director and Secretary

The Director and Secretary shall be a salaried Officer, appointed by the Council following public advertisement, and responsible for the management of the affairs of the Society under the guidance of Council.