

SURTEES SOCIETY

Established in the year 1834

In honour of the late Robert Surtees of Mainsforth, Esquire, the author of *The History of the County Palatine of Durham*, and in accordance with his pursuits and plans.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

Agreed upon in 1849; revised 1863, 1925, 1954, 1967 and 1991

1. The Society shall be called the SURTEES SOCIETY (hereinafter referred to as the Society).
2. The object of the Society shall be the advancement of public education in the region that constituted the ancient kingdom of Northumbria, especially by the transcription, editing, translating and publication of original historical documents. The word 'region' as defined covers those parts of England and Scotland between the Humber and the Firth of Forth on the east, and between the Mersey and the Clyde on the west.
3. Members of the Society shall be persons or institutions, who are either members of the Council of the Society, or who have been elected to the Society at a meeting of the Council following Written application to the Secretary, and whose subscriptions are not in arrears.
4. The rate of the annual subscription shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the Society and shall be payable in advance on the 1 st day of January in every year.
5. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a Council consisting of the president, treasurer, secretary, and a number of at least seven and not exceeding twenty-four vice-presidents to be nominated by the Council for election at the general meeting. Vacancies occurring between general meetings may be filled by the Council until the next general meeting. Meetings of the Council shall be convened by the Secretary as needed, or on a requisition to do so signed by at least four members of the Council. A quorum for the conduct of business to require at least one-third of the members of the Council to be present.
6. Each subscribing member shall be entitled to one copy of every work published by the Society following that member's election to membership. Any work published prior to a member's election may be supplied to that member on such terms as the Council may from time to time determine.
7. Persons and institutions that are not members of the Society may be supplied with the publications of the Society on such terms as the Council may determine.

8. The funds of the Society, including the vouchers or securities for any investments, shall be kept at a Bank to be selected by the Council in the name of the Society. Such investments shall only be dealt with by an authority signed by the Secretary and by the Treasurer.

9. The accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the Society, and of its assets and liabilities, for each period of twelve months ended 30th September shall be audited by an Auditor or Auditors to be appointed by the Society.

10. An annual general meeting of the members shall be held in Durham on the second Thursday in December, to receive the Council's report; to receive the Treasurer's financial statement and to elect an auditor or auditors; to elect any persons nominated by the Council as either president, treasurer, secretary or vice-president; and to transact the general business of the Society, but leaving for final decision by the Council the form, content and number of copies of each publication to be printed and the selection of a printer. Members shall be informed of the time and place of the general meeting on application to the Secretary.

11. The editor of, each publication shall be entitled to receive five copies of that publication without payment.

12. The Secretary shall keep a minute-book wherein shall be recorded the transactions as well at meetings of the Council as at general meetings of the Society.

13. The rules shall only be amended at a General Meeting called for that purpose giving at least 21 days notice of the proposed amendment. No amendment shall be made to the constitution that would cause the Society to cease to be a Charity at Law. Any amendment to the constitution must receive the assent of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting. Any amendment to Clause 2 or Clause 14 or this Clause shall require the prior approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

14. The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. In the event of dissolution any property remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of this Society as the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction may determine.