

Patrons:
H. E. The Thai
Ambassador
The Lord Geddes

Chair:
Dr. Orapin Dawson



Hon. Secretary:
T. J. Knox
62a Dore Road
Sheffield
S17 3NE
Tel: 0114 236 8129

www.anglothaisociety.org

THE ANGLO-THAI SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND RULES [2010]

NAME

1. The Society is known as “The Anglo-Thai Society” (ATS).

AIM

2. The principal aim of the ATS is to support and further relations between the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Thailand.

ACTIVITIES

3. The ATS will organise, support and participate in social, cultural, educational, official, business and other activities which the Committee determines to be consistent with its principal aim.

MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership is open to all individuals and organisations supporting the aim of the Society, subject to the approval of the Committee.
5. The ATS has the following categories of membership:
 - (a) Ordinary - an individual over the age of 18.
 - (b) Family - two individuals over the age of 18 in a legally recognised partnership, and any of their children under the age of 16.
 - (c) Corporate - companies and societies supporting the ATS. Corporate members may nominate up to 5 representatives to attend ATS functions.
 - (d) Student – an individual over the age of 16 in full time education.
 - (e) Life - an individual qualified for membership who makes a ‘Life Membership’ subscription, at a rate to be determined by the Committee at the time.
 - (f) Honorary - conferred by the Committee on an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the ATS, or whom the Committee considers merits membership ‘honoris causa’. Such a member will not be : (i) required to pay an annual subscription ; (ii) entitled to vote ; or (iii) required to serve as an Officer of the Society. Exceptionally, an Honorary member shall be titled "Honorary President", and shall hold office for a period determined by the Committee.

RESIGNATION

6. A member may resign from the ATS at any time by giving written notice to the Honorary Secretary. There will be no refund of subscription unless the Committee determines that this would be justified by the circumstances.

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

7. Membership of the ATS may be suspended, withdrawn or terminated by the Committee in a written notice from the Honorary Secretary to a member.

8. Such action may be taken only if the Committee has determined, by a majority vote, that a member has behaved in a manner prejudicial to the aims and interests of the Society, or is seriously in arrears with payment of his/her annual membership subscription, without satisfactory reason.

9. The member concerned has the right to appeal in person or in writing to the Committee against any such decision.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

10. Members shall pay an annual subscription, due on 1st March, at a rate relevant to their category of membership.

11. The Committee shall determine, in advance, the scale of annual subscription for each category of membership, to be announced at the Annual Meeting.

12. Members joining the ATS after 1st March will have their initial year's subscription calculated on a pro-rate basis.

PATRONS

13. The Patrons of the Society shall be His Excellency The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Court of St. James's ; and such other persons as the Committee may consider appropriate.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

14. The affairs of the ATS shall be directed by a Committee elected at each Annual Meeting of the Society, having full powers to administer its funds and control its assets.

15. The Officers consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. These shall be elected by the Committee from amongst its members, at the next Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting. They shall hold office for one year, and be eligible for re-election.

16. Nominations to the Committee shall be made in writing to the

Honorary Secretary **not less than 14 days** before the Annual Meeting. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the ATS and a list of such nominations **will be placed on the Society's website 14 days before the date of the Annual Meeting.**

17. The Committee may fill casual vacancies in their number or co-opt for special purposes members, who shall remain Committee members until the next Annual Meeting.

18. If, for any reason, a Committee is not elected at an Annual Meeting, or an Annual Meeting is not held, Officers and Committee members shall continue to hold these positions until an election is held.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

19. The ATS shall hold an Annual Meeting not later than 30th September.

20. The Honorary Secretary shall send each member a notice **at least 28 days** before the Annual Meeting stating its date, time, venue and agenda.

21. The Agenda shall include :

- (a) Chairman's Annual Report.
- (b) Honorary Treasurer's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
- (c) Election of a Committee for the forthcoming year.
- (d) Appointment of Auditors.
- (e) Any other business of which due notice has been given.

22. Any member wishing to discuss business under paragraph 21(e) above shall give written notice of it to the Honorary Secretary **at least 14 days** before the Annual Meeting. **Any such notice will be placed on the Society's website 14 days before the date of the Annual Meeting.**

23. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at all Annual, Special and Committee Meetings. If neither is present, the meeting shall elect a member present as Chairman.

24. No business shall be transacted at the Annual Meeting which is not on the Agenda, and unless a quorum of not less than 10 members (including proxies) is present. In the absence of a quorum, the Annual Meeting shall be reconvened at a time and place agreed by the Committee and duly notified to members by the Honorary Secretary. No quorum is required at a reconvened meeting.

25. The Honorary Secretary shall record the proceedings of all Annual, Special and Committee meetings, which shall be approved by the next appropriate meeting, and signed by the Chairman as a true record. If the Honorary Secretary is absent the meeting shall nominate one of their Members to act in his place.

26. At any Annual or Special Meeting all matters upon which a vote is required shall be decided by a simple majority of a show of hands, unless the Chairman, or a minimum of five members, require a poll. The Chairman shall decide how to conduct such a poll. He shall declare the result of each vote and the Honorary Secretary shall record it.

27. Every member (except Honorary) present or forwarding their proxy to the Honorary Secretary before a meeting, is entitled to one vote on every motion. The duly authorised representative of a Corporate Member is entitled to three votes. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any motion.

28. No Member may exercise his vote, or serve on the Committee, if he is seriously in arrears with his subscription or his membership has been withdrawn under Rule 7.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

29. The Committee may call a Special Meeting of the ATS at any time and for any special purpose, including a request in writing from any ten members stating the reason for it.

30. The Honorary Secretary shall send each member a notice of such meeting at least 14 days in advance, stating its purpose, date, time and place.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

31. The Committee shall meet as frequently as the affairs of ATS require. Such meetings, to include one within a calendar month of the Annual Meeting, shall be called at the Chairman's request by the Honorary Secretary, giving at least 7 days notice of the date, time and place.

32. No business shall be transacted at such meetings unless a quorum of 6 Committee members is present.

33. All matters shall be decided by a majority of members present, the Chairman exercising a casting vote in the event of a tie.

34. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a record of attendance and circulate Minutes to all Committee members.

35. The Committee may appoint for specific purposes sub-committees, which are bound by the appropriate rules and procedures of ATS.

FINANCE

36. The ATS Committee is responsible for the Society's assets and funds, which are under the day to day control of the Honorary Treasurer, and held in such banks as are approved by it.

37. The accounts of the ATS are operated by the Honorary Treasurer. His signature, and/or that of one of three other approved Committee members, is required on any cheque or electronic authorisation for the distribution of Society funds.

38. The Honorary Treasurer shall deposit all incoming funds in the approved bank account as soon as practicable after their receipt.

39. The assets and funds of ATS are to be used solely for the purposes of the Society, as set out in this Constitution. This shall include the remuneration of expenses incurred by any member of the Society in fulfilling services at the request of the Committee.

40. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare an Annual Report and Statement of Accounts which, when audited, shall be circulated to every member of ATS with the notice convening the Annual Meeting.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION & RULES

41. When the Committee sees a need for change, it may prepare and present a revised Constitution and/or Rules for the conduct and management of the ATS.

42. These proposals and any subsequent amendments shall be circulated to every ATS member by the Honorary Secretary with the notice convening the regular Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for this purpose.

43. Proposed changes to the Constitution & Rules of ATS may only be agreed and ratified at such meetings by a 75% majority vote of members attending (including valid proxies).

44. Once agreed and ratified, the Constitution and Rules of ATS shall be binding upon all members of the Society.

DISSOLUTION

45. The ATS may only be dissolved by a 75% majority vote (including valid proxy votes) of members attending a Special Meeting called for that purpose by the Honorary Secretary. He shall subsequently

circulate Minutes of such a meeting to all members, with a notice calling for a similar meeting to be held not less than one month later for the purpose of confirming the decision to dissolve the Society. This shall require an absolute majority.

46. Following such confirmation the Committee shall realise and distribute the assets of ATS and declare the Society dissolved.

47. Having settled any ATS debts and liabilities, any surplus assets shall be distributed to such charitable institutions and good causes as the Committee determines, these being preferably ones with similar or related objectives to the ATS. In default, the assets shall be given to the Charity Commissioners.

48. In this document the singular number shall include the plural number; the masculine gender include the female gender; and vice-versa. Words importing persons shall include corporations.

MDMS
5/III/10