



RNARS (Affiliated) LONDON (HMS BELFAST) GROUP

Constitution and Regulations

The RNARS (Affiliated) London (HMS Belfast) Group Constitution and Regulations will be as follows:

1. Name of Group and its aims.

The Group will be known as the "RNARS (Affiliated) London (HMS Belfast) Group", otherwise referred to as "the London Group" for short.

The aims of the London Group are to

- a. Operate amateur radio in the Bridge Wireless Office whilst on display to the public.
- b. Foster amateur radio by use of the Permanent Special Event callsign GB2RN, by making radio contact with other amateur radio stations throughout the world.
- c. To liaise with the HMS Belfast conservation staff in maintaining the BWO as a working radio station.
- d. To interact with the public, advising them of the equipment on display and the radio operating taking place.
- e. To promote Amateur Radio.
- f. To activate the station as much as possible.

2. Membership.

Membership shall be open, subject to the discretion of the Committee, to all persons and Amateur Radio groups who are interested in the aims of the London Group, especially those willing to operate GB2RN on a regular basis.

The Committee shall have power to expel any member whose conduct, in the opinion of at least three-quarters of the full Committee, renders that person unfit to be a member of the London Group. No Member shall be expelled without first having been given an opportunity to appear before the Committee.

3. Subscriptions.

The London Group subscriptions shall be an annual sum agreed by the committee, payable by the last day of April of each year. The committee will be empowered to vary such subscriptions when and if it is deemed necessary. The committee will also be empowered to reduce or waive such subscriptions at their discretion, e.g. in cases of hardship, of blind or otherwise disabled persons.

Subscriptions may be paid in cash or by cheque, international money order, Cheques or international money & postal orders or internet bank transfers are to be made payable to **RNARS LONDON (HMS BELFAST) GROUP**. The London Group's building society is : **Nationwide Taunton Branch, A/c Number 0401/704 058 837 (This may be amended if a new account is arranged).**

4. Officers and Committee.

A) The Chairman will be a member of The London Group and elected by the Committee at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year. The rest of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General meeting of The London Group and such officers will be responsible for the administration and general running of The London Group and they will decide policy unless otherwise instructed by a general vote of The London Group membership.

B) These officers will consist of a Secretary, Treasurer, and up to eight ordinary members of committee but with a minimum of eight including the aforementioned officers.

C) The Chairman will be responsible for calling group meetings at regular intervals; dates of such meetings will be promulgated via the Bulletin, GB2RN website, RNARS Newsletter and on regular society nets.

D) The Vice Chairman will be elected from the ordinary committee members and will deputise for the Chairman as and when necessary.

E) The Secretary will be responsible for all correspondence.

F) The Treasurer will administer group funds and will present a regular balance sheet. He will also be responsible for group records.

G) The ordinary committee members will take on additional duties such as QSL Manager, Station (Shack) Manager, etc.

H) Only fully paid up Group members with at least two years current and continuous membership will be eligible to stand for the committee.

I) Any persons wishing to stand as members of the committee must notify the Secretary at least two weeks in advance of the AGM.

5. Annual General Meeting

A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the Thursday or Friday of the Easter Activity Week. If circumstances mean that the AGM cannot be held during this period, the committee will make arrangements for it to be held as soon as possible thereafter. At least fourteen days notice shall be given to each member in writing (by post or email). Normally twenty eight days notice will be given.

B) The agenda for the meeting shall be:

- i) Apologies for absence
- ii) Ratification of minutes of the previous AGM
- iii) Chairman's report
- iv) Secretary's report
- v) Treasurer's report
- vi) Other Managers' reports
- vii) Adoption of annual accounts
- viii) Election of the new Committee
- (ix) Election of auditor
- (x) Submitted questions and answers

C) There will be no "any other business" questions. If members require questions to be answered, these must be submitted in writing to the committee at least fourteen days prior to the AGM. If necessary, and time permits, the AGM may be followed by a General Discussion Forum. Only decisions made during the AGM are binding on the Committee and The London Group, whereas those made during the following "General Discussion Forum" are not. Any proposals made during the forum should be put to the membership as a whole, at either a subsequent EGM or AGM.

D) Any resolutions at the AGM, which form part of the agenda, are to be decided by a majority vote of those current members present plus any proxy votes advised to the Chairman

6. The London Group Station

A) An amateur radio station will be established in the Bridge Wireless Office of HMS Belfast, Morgans Lane, Tooley Street, London SE1 2JH. The callsigns used shall be GB2RN, G4HMS and G7HMS. GB2RN will normally be used when the ship is open to the general public, except during certain Radio Society of Great Britain contests when G4HMS and G7HMS will be used. G4HMS and G7HMS is for use outside normal ship hours, excepting that we may use our discretion (in special cases) to extend the use of GB2RN beyond normal ship opening times. Do not abuse this privilege. In case of doubt, consult a group official.

B) The use of other callsigns is forbidden except in certain circumstances. Prior approval of the committee must be sought before using any other call. (This only applies when GB2RN is in use).

C) Anyone holding the appropriate Full United Kingdom Amateur Radio Licence, will be entitled to operate this station. To obtain access to the station, they must be with a London Group member. However, Intermediate and Foundation Licence holders may also operate but under the supervision of a Full UK licence holder.

D) In order to comply with Ofcom regulations governing the Permanent Special Event NOV's, overseas licence-holders may only operate from the BWO if accompanied by an RNARS London Group member who holds a Full UK Licence.

E) Only those members holding the appropriate up to date Group membership card will be permitted access to the BWO. Members must realise that this card does not allow them access to other parts of the ship. Do not abuse our hard won privileges.

F) Conduct on the air must be exemplary at all times. This station is a showpiece and licensing regulations must not be abused.

G) All members must sign the BWO attendance book.

H) All contacts must be logged either using one of the paper logs or the computer logging system.

7. Public Relations

A) Public relations are of prime importance, even if this means neglecting amateur radio operation. Members are expected to converse with visitors and to explain who and what we are and what we do. This is especially important when conversing with the younger generation.

B) Extend hospitality (with the means at our disposal) to visiting radio amateurs, short wave listeners and legal Citizen Band operators. There should be no animosity to the last category whatever your attitude to Citizen Band radio. They are all communicators and a potential source of recruits to amateur radio. Please ensure that all visitors sign the Visitors Book. Note, for Health & Safety reasons, only qualified Radio Amateurs should be permitted within the BWO.

8. Use of the Station.

Members of The London Group are to be encouraged to use the amateur radio station as regularly as possible. Our declared intention is to have regular manned operation of the station.

9. Finance.

The London Group is financially independent of the RNARS.

10 Activity Reports.

Regular reports of Group's activity will appear in the Bulletin on the GB2RN website. For those without Internet (email) facilities, a report will be sent by the postal service.

11. Accounts.

A) A statement of Group accounts will be published at the AGM.

B) The London Group will open a current banking account and if the funds exceed running costs, a deposit account will be opened. Two signatures will be required to draw money from such accounts. These will consist of the Treasurer's signature and one of the other permitted signatures.

C) The auditor(s) will be appointed at The London Group AGM and they will audit all books.

12. QSL Policy.

Contacts will only be confirmed upon receipt of incoming QSL cards. Operators are requested to sign the log and note their own call sign to assist the QSL Manager.

13. Honorary Membership.

Honorary membership shall be restricted to persons who have rendered eminent service in the field of Amateur Radio or to The London Group. They shall be entitled to vote.

14. Equipment Maintenance.

This will normally be carried out by Group members unless the task is beyond their capabilities. In such cases the equipment will be returned to the supplier for repair or overhaul. If equipment is donated or loaned by manufacturers or suppliers, then the maintenance, repair and overhaul of such equipment is the supplier's responsibility.

Use all equipment with care. If there is a fault, switch off. The costs of normal repairs will be met from group funds.

15. Care of the Bridge Wireless Office.

The enclosed area of the BWO, Galley and surrounding area is our responsibility and must be kept clean and tidy. When leaving the office, switch off all the equipment at the consumer unit located in the BWO. Secure the BWO and the Galley whenever it is left unattended; this applies especially when the ship is open to the public. Make sure the station is secured and the keys are returned to the duty Quartermaster before leaving the ship, ensuring that the return of the key is logged. If the galley has been used for cooking or making liquid refreshments, wash up all utensils and switch off the lights. If supplies in the galley are used either replace them or leave some remuneration for replenishment.

16. Donations.

Any donations over and above the normal subscription will be gratefully received, whether it be cash, equipment, magazines (especially from overseas) call books etc. and such donations will be acknowledged.

17. Activity Periods.

An annual Activity Period, lasting normally from Easter Monday until the following Monday, will take place from the ship, unless the ship is away for refit, closed by industrial action, or any other such cause. Other Activity Periods will be encouraged. The London Group will participate in National and International contests whenever possible.

18. Extraordinary General Meetings.

- A) Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Committee, or not less than twenty per cent of the membership, the location and the date of the meeting being the earliest convenient, as decided by the Committee.
- B) Written notice must be given to the Secretary, who in turn shall give members at least fourteen days notice of the agenda.
- C) Only the business for which the meeting was called may be transacted at the EGM.
- D) The quorum for the EGM shall be twenty-five per cent of the membership.
- E) Any resolutions at the EGM, which form part of the agenda, are to be decided by a majority vote of those current members present plus any proxy votes advised to the Chairman.

Original 26th April 1975,

Revision dates that are known:

1st Revision 1st April 1981, 2nd Revision 31st March 1989, 3rd Revision 26th September 1991,

4th Revision 19th December 1991, 5th Revision 23rd April 1992, 6th Revision 8th March 1998,

7th Revision 15th April 2004, 8th Revision 25th January 2009, 9th Revision 28th April 2011.

10th Revision 29th June 2012.