

Supporting Document for Motion A

The reasons for this change stem from the ACM moving from May to September. Back then the reasons for subscriptions/fees must be paid six weeks before the ACM made sense. But when the ACM was moved to September the final payment date was not changed. Regardless, subscriptions were still due on 1 January – this has always been the date when payments are due to be made. This is the reason for the changes in Rules 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 4.4, 4.7 and 4.9.

There has always been some conjecture for when societies should calculate their membership numbers. The how to calculate the membership has been deliberately loosely defined, but the “when” needs some tidying up. We have suggested that societies use the due date (1 Jan) to use as a snapshot of membership numbers, or failing that at their most recent annual meeting. This is the reason for the changes in the Standing Orders S1.1.

We have put in a timeline for societies to inform, in writing, of any changes to their Representative Members. This is the reason for the changes in Rules 4.6, 4.8 and 4.10.

Finally, we have renamed subscriptions to affiliation fees as everywhere else we refer to affiliated societies, so it makes sense to keep the language consistent. This is the reason for the changes in Rules 3.7 b), 3.8 c), 3.12 c), 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 4.4, 4.7, 4.9, 6.15 c), and Standing Orders F1, M1.4, S2.1, S2.2, S2.3, S2.4 and S2.8.

Here are the changes in detail.

Proposed Rule changes

Affiliated Societies

- 3.4 A society shall cease to be an Affiliated Society if:
- a) its Society Membership falls below 50; or
 - b) it becomes an Associated Society or Registered Small Society; or
 - c) its Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** under Rule 0 is more than 12 months in arrears; or
 - d) a Motion for disaffiliation is agreed by no less than two-thirds of Representative Members present and voting at a Council Meeting; or
 - e) notice of disaffiliation is given to the Secretary by at least two of the society’s officers.

Associated Societies

- 3.7 A bell ringing society making an application under Rule **Error! Reference source not found.** shall become an Associated Society and shall be entered on the Register of Associated Societies when its application has been approved by decision at an Executive Meeting provided that:
- a) the Executive is satisfied that the application meets such requirements as may be stated in the Standing Orders;
 - b) the Executive is satisfied that an appropriate ~~annual subscription~~ **Annual Affiliation Fee** has been agreed with the Applicant;
- 3.8 A society shall be removed from the Register of Associated Societies if:
- a) it becomes an Affiliated Society or a Registered Small Society; or
 - b) its Society Membership falls below 50; or

- c) any Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** due under Rule 0 is more than 12 months in arrears; or

Registered Small Societies

- 3.9 A society shall be removed from the Register of Small Societies if:
 - a) it becomes an Affiliated or Associated Society; or
 - b) its Society Membership rises above 100; or
 - c) any Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** due under Rule **Error! Reference source not found.** is more than 12 months in arrears; or

Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee**

- 3.13 Each Registered Affiliated Society shall pay, according to its Society Membership, an annual ~~subscription fee~~ as prescribed from time to time by the Standing Orders. Each year's ~~subscription fee~~ shall become due on 1st January, **and must be paid by 31st March.**
- 3.14 Each Associated Society shall pay an annual ~~subscription fee~~ as prescribed from time to time by the Standing Orders or as agreed with the Executive. Each year's ~~subscription fee~~ shall become due on 1st January, **and must be paid by 31st March.**
- 3.15 Each Registered Small Society shall pay an annual ~~subscription fee~~ of a fixed sum as prescribed from time to time by the Standing Orders. Each year's ~~subscription fee~~ shall become due on 1st January, **and must be paid by 31st March.**

Representative Members

- 4.4 Each Affiliated Society shall be entitled to send one or more Representative Members to attend each Council Meeting provided that ~~no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:~~
 - a) the Society's Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place and notice of its Society Membership shall have been received by the Treasurer **by 31st March;** and
 - b) notice of the Society's Membership shall have been received by the Secretary **by 31st March.**
- 4.6 Subject to Rule **Error! Reference source not found.:**
 - a) an Affiliated Society may register or amend the names and contact details of its Representative Members at any time by giving notice to the Secretary **in writing within four weeks of any amendment;** and
 - b) each Representative Member shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Affiliated Society notifies the Secretary **in writing** of a change.

Associated Society Representatives

- 4.7 Each Associated Society shall be entitled to send one Representative Member to attend each Council Meeting provided that ~~no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:~~
 - a) the Society's Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place and notice of its Society Membership shall have been received by the Treasurer **by 31st March;** and
 - b) notice of the Society's Membership shall have been received by the Secretary **by 31st March.**

- 4.8 Subject to Rule 0:
- a) an Associated Society may register or amend the name and contact details of its Representative Member at any time by giving notice to the Secretary **in writing within four weeks of any amendment**; and
 - b) the Representative Member shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Associated Society notifies the Secretary **in writing** of a change.

Small Society Representatives

- 4.9 Each Registered Small Society shall be entitled to send one Representative Member to attend each Council Meeting provided that ~~no later than six weeks before that meeting's date:~~
- a) where determined by the Standing Orders, that society's Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** for the year in which the Council Meeting takes place has been received by the Treasurer **by 31st March**; and
 - b) notice of the Society's Membership shall have been received by the Secretary **by 31st March**.
- 4.10 Subject to Rule 0:
- a) a Registered Small Society may register or amend the name and contact details of its Representative Member at any time by giving notice to the Secretary **in writing within four weeks of any amendment**; and
 - b) the Representative Member shall be deemed appointed from the point at which their name is confirmed in accordance with these Rules, and shall remain appointed until the Registered Small Society notifies the Secretary **in writing** of a change.

Powers of the Executive

- 6.15 The Executive shall exercise the following powers only with the specific approval of Representative Members in the form of a Motion agreed at a Council Meeting:
- a) to buy, sell, lease, let or otherwise acquire or dispose of any landed property;
 - b) to borrow money;
 - c) to change the Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee**;

Proposed Standing Orders changes

F1 Annual ~~Subscription~~ Affiliation Fee

- F1.1 The Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** for each Affiliated Society shall be £1.00 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership.
- F1.2 The Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** for each Associated Society shall be £0.40 per member of that Society based on its declared Society Membership. This ~~subscription fee~~ may be varied on application to, and at the discretion of, the Executive; but shall not be less than £30.

F1.3 The Annual ~~Subscription~~ **Affiliation Fee** of each Registered Small Society shall be £10.

M1 **Fellows**

M1.4 There is no membership ~~subscription~~ **fee** for a Fellow.

S1 **Society Membership**

S1.1 For the purposes of the Rules the Society Membership of a bell ringing society at any time shall be defined with reference to **either a snapshot of membership numbers as of the due date of the Annual Affiliation Fee for that year, or failing that the numbers reported at the society's most recent annual meeting before the due date given the preceding calendar year (or that society's equivalent membership year) as follows:-**

S2 **Transferring a Society's affiliation**

S2.1 An Affiliated Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.4(a), may become a Registered Small Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers levels dropping.

S2.2 An Associated Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.6(a), may become a Registered Small Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers levels dropping.

S2.3 A Registered Small Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.10(a), may become an Affiliated Society or an Associated Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers increasing. If they wish to become an Associated Society they must state that they agree with the ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** as mentioned in Rule 3.14. If an ~~subscription~~ **affiliation fee** is not agreed within one calendar month then the transfer will not be approved.

S2.4 An Affiliated Society may become an Associated Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** are due, informing them that they wish to transfer. They must state that they agree with the ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** as mentioned in Rule 3.14. If an ~~subscription~~ **affiliation fee** is not agreed within one calendar month then the transfer will not be approved.

S2.8 If a Society successfully changes its affiliation during a year then any ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** due for that year cannot be refunded, and their new affiliation will take effect 1 January of the following year when ~~subscriptions~~ **affiliation fees** are due.