

SGRA CONSTITUTION – OUTLINE OF CHANGES TO 2015 VERSION

The purpose behind updating the Constitution is to ensure that it reflects the way SGRA acts as a voluntary organisation which is made up of volunteers (unpaid) and which is reliant on funds from annual subscriptions and advertising revenue to fulfil its aims.

Most of the text of the 2015 Constitution remains but in a different order. Any recasting of some of the paragraphs has been made to make the document more logical – for example, roles and election of SGRA Officers and Executive Committee members to come before paragraphs concerning meetings. Where necessary, wording has been tightened to ensure greater clarity of meaning.

Taking account of the above, major changes include:

- First paragraph confirming the Association's name also clarifies SGRA's coverage geographically.
- Aims instead of objectives. These have been made more high-level (better fitting for a small voluntary organisation with limited, yet unpaid, resources).
- SGRA Officers: we have expanded the roles and responsibilities of each and included a definition of 'Friends of SGRA' which come under the remit of the Membership Secretary
- Executive Committee (EC): bullets recast to reflect roles followed by responsibilities. An important addition has been for the EC to determine the priorities for each SGRA year and to have EC leads for those work-streams. There is now a separate paragraph for the elections to the EC.
- Management of SGRA's funds: we have clarified the role of Treasurer in managing the Association's bank account. The paragraph on investments (in June 2015 version) has been removed as it not applicable to SGRA aims – but if needed in the future a form of wording can be re-instated and agreed at an SGRA AGM or Special Meeting.
- Changing Sub-Committees (2015 version) to Temporary ad-hoc groups: because creation of the former was thought to be too bureaucratic in proportion to a small voluntary group. Also in line with the Exec Comm agreeing priorities for each SGRA year, there may be a need to establish Temporary ad-hoc Groups which will last for the full SGRA year if necessary.
- Street Reps: we have given greater clarity of their roles.
- There have been necessary updates to ensure close alignment with changes in equality and data protection laws.
- Finally, the final heading of the 2015 version 'winding -up' has been changed to 'Dissolution of the Association'.

The revised Constitution will be signed at the first meeting on the newly elected Executive Committee on 18 June.