

**THE
ARTICLE
OF THE
Stonehouse Weavers
SOCIETY**

**GLASGOW
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REID'S COURT, 169 TRONGATE
1813**

STONEHAVEN, 4TH FEB. 1812

At a Quarterly Meeting of the Stonehouse Weavers Society, held this evening in the house of James Craig, Innkeeper, a Petition was presented, and read, stating that the Articles of the Society were defective, and praying that the said Petition be laid before the first Annual Meeting, that they might give the same that weight which they in their wisdom may see meet. The Petition was granted, and laid before the Annual Meeting, held in the house of George Anderson, on the 5th of May, 1812, they were pleased to appoint a Committee to prepare a draught of Articles, which being done, the Society unanimously adopted the same after some alterations and amendments, which are as follows:

ARTICLE I.

THAT the Directors or Managers shall consist of a Collector, Box-Master, and Clerk, along with eight other Masters; to be elected by the poll and plurality of votes of the Members present, upon the first Tuesday of May yearly. (*The Committee consist of 8 managers... Box Master & Clerk*; comment in margin)

ARTICLE II.

The Collector, his Office.

That the Collector shall be Preses of all the Meetings, shall have a vote in all questions, and the casting vote upon an equality; unto whom every Member must direct his discourse, or forfeit such penalty as the Managers shall appoint; and failing or refusing to pay this, or any fine, whether stated or left to the prudent discernment of the Managers to award in the Articles and Regulations following, shall incur the punishment of immediate exclusion from all interest in the Funds of this Society.

ARTICLE III.

Box-Master, his Office.

The Box-Master shall have the power of calling and convening the Members on all occasions, and shall be accountable for the secure and proper keeping of the Box and Ornaments with which he shall be intrusted.

ARTICLE IV.

Clerk, his Office.

The Clerk shall record, in the Minute and Journal Book the affairs and transactions of the Society. Also the minutes of each Meeting, which must be signed by the Preses and himself, after being read and approved of by the Masters.

ARTICLE V.

Four Ordinary Masters, their Office.

The Four Ordinary Masters shall have a vote in all questions along with Box-Master and Clerk and shall be especially subjected to the visitation of sick, or applying Members, two and two in their turn, as the Collector shall appoint.

ARTICLE VI

Officer, his Office.

THAT the Officer shall warn the Members to attend Meetings, and also the Manager, as directed by the Box-Master, and be in attendance to obey the commands of the Preses, during the time of Meetings; be subject to fines for improper conduct, or want of attention in the due discharge of his office, as the Managers shall see cause; and shall receive a salary of not more than twenty shillings a year, as he and the Managers can agree.

ARTICLE VII

Application of Fines, etc.

THAT in case any manager be one half hour too late in attending any Meeting, (being duly warned) or leave the meeting before the minute be signed, without leave of the Preses, he shall pay sixpence for such offence, or neglect, unless a reasonable excuse can be given; and four of the seven managers shall be a quorum fully competent to decide in any matter, for the time being, provided the business cannot well admit of delay till a further Meeting be called; and all fines of the Managers shall be applied for their own use or expense; and those of the other Members shall be added to the Funds. Further, it is provided that the Managers shall be entitled to the sum of three shillings and sixpence sterling towards defraying any expense they may be put to, at each of the five meetings in the year, but may not exceed that sum, even though more Meetings take place.

ARTICLE VIII

Relating to making up Leets, etc.

THAT at the Annual Meetings, to be held on the first Tuesday of May, Office-Bearers shall be chosen, viz Collector, Box-Master, Clerk, and new Masters, by the Members present, from leets previously made up by the Managers, consisting of two Members each, and he that hath the majority of votes in each leet, to be held duly elected. The Collector and Box-Master shall also serve one year as ordinary Managers, at the expiration of which they, the Clerk, new Master, and old Master, shall be put all in a leet for old Master, and he that hath the majority to serve one year more in that capacity, the others to retire and all votes to be taken in a secret form, the better to secure decisions from fear, or undue influence, that the interests of the Society may be the better consulted and promoted; and none can be admitted into office till he be twenty years of age; and it is further provided, that no Member, without his consent, can be again brought into office, till three years elapse from the period of his retirement. (*'Every member pays 2d of fine who is not present at the Annual Meeting'; comment in margin*)

ARTICLE IX.

Election of Office-Bearers, Fines annexed to the Refusal thereof, &c.

THAT if any Member of this Society be elected into any of the aforesaid offices, and refuse to serve, the following fines be exacted:- If the office of Collector, he shall pay the sum of four shillings; if Box-

Master or Clerk, three shillings and, if Ordinary Master, two shillings; and, if Officer, two shillings likewise; unless the Managers are satisfied with a reasonable excuse; and in all such cases, when any office is refused or becomes vacant by death or otherwise, the Managers shall have it in their power to choose another to fill up the vacant office, and exact the same fines on refusal to serve.

ARTICLE X

Key Keeper's Office, Fines, &c.

THAT the three Keys of the Box, shall be kept by the collector, Box-Master, and Clerk, and on any of them losing the same, he shall pay a fine of one shilling, besides the expense of another Key, and damage sustained and incurred by opening the Box.

ARTICLE XI

Terms of Admission.

THAT the dues payable on the admission of each Member shall be three shillings and sixpence sterling, as one half of entry money, four pence to the Clerk, and twopence to the Officer, and three pence for a copy of the Articles, and shall pay others three shillings and sixpence sterling, being in full of entry, by that day six months, and his full year's accounts, being three shillings, in twelve months after the terms of entry, or forfeit all he has paid in; and if any person desire to become a Member, and be free of quarter accounts and other dues, he shall be admitted on paying Two Pounds Two Shillings Sterling of Entry Money, Sixpence to the Clerk, Threepence to the Officer, and Threepence for Articles. Or if any Member desires to have that privilege, he shall enjoy the same on paying One Pound Fifteen Shillings Sterling.

ARTICLE XII

Regular Payment of Dues, &c.

THAT each Member shall, at the Quarterly Meetings after-mentioned, pay into the Funds of this Society, the Sum of Nine pence Sterling, and shall regularly continue to pay the same on Quarter Day, so long as he remains a Member; and shall not be entitled to any Ailment or supply from the Funds, as afterwards specified, unless he has been Five Years a Member. Nor shall any, though he has been a regular Member for Five Years, be allowed and Ailment, if he has failed to pay his last Quarter Accounts, or is in any way indebted to the Society, at least during said Quarter, that he may be in Arrears. And should any Member incline to pay a Quarter (or more Accounts) in advance, the same shall at all times be accepted, if on Quarter Day.

ARTICLE XIII

Quarterly Meetings.

THAT the Members of this Society shall meet once every Quarter viz. On the first Tuesday of May, August, November, and February; or send their Quarter Dues to the Collector, at hour and place of Meeting of which, Members in the town shall be advised of, on or the day before, by the Officer; but should any Member happen not to be warned by the Officer to the Quarter Meetings, this reason will not be accepted as any excuse for the non-payment of his Accounts, nor entitle him to plead exemption from the penalties.

ARTICLE XIV

Qualifications required on Admission of Members.

That every Member to be admitted into this Society, shall not exceed forty-five years of age, nor be under fifteen and must be of a sober moral character, of a sound and healthy constitution, free from maim or bruise, or any secret bodily disease, capable to gain an honest livelihood by his handy labour. Must be of the Protestant Religion, and known by the Managers, or recommended by two Members of the Society, as above, and approved by two-thirds of the Managers. But is it shall at any time afterwards appear, that any Member has imposed on the Society by entering, or recommended and not qualified as above, he or they shall have his or their names razed out of the Books of the Society, and be excluded accordingly; and should any court of Managers admit any known by them not to be qualified, or recommended as above, the majority may be called to account, and fined in five shillings each, by a General Meeting, they being subjected in all cases to the general body for a due observance of the rules of the Society.

ARTICLE XV

Allowance to Members in Distress.

THAT the allowance of this Society to the sick, lame or distressed, shall be five shillings (*4/ and 5/ & 6/; comment in margin*) per week, when unable to work, and not confined to bed, and six shillings per week while in distress, so as to be confined to bed, provided such distress has not been brought on by his own irregular life, or improper and immoral conduct and practice. In such cases, and so soon as the Managers are satisfied that such distress has been the effect of an irregular and immoral conduct, either on the patient being visited by a surgeon, or otherwise, at their direction, such Member shall not only be struck off from further benefit for the time, but will be obliged to pay back to the Society what he may have received as supply during said distress; together with all expense incurred on his account, and that within the quarter; and on failing to do so, shall be struck out of the Society's books, and deprived of all further benefit, and should any Member feign himself sick, or unable to attend his business, or by any means attempt to impose upon, or defraud the Society, he or they so offending shall be excluded from the Society; and particularly any person making application for supply who has any venereal disorder, shall upon conviction thereof be excluded for ever from the Society. Any Member, being sick, or lame shall make known his case to the Collector, who shall then order two of the Managers to visit him, and if they find him justly entitled to the relief provided, they shall pay him his ailment for one week, as directed by this article; provided he has been fourteen days unable to work; it being enacted that none shall receive a weeks supply until he has been two weeks unable to work. Members residing furth of the parish falling sick, or lame, so as to be unable for business shall be obliged (before they are entitled to ailment) to send a Certificate, subscribed by a Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, or Minister, any of whom, that may be most convenient, which shall also be subscribed by a Surgeon, and sent free of expense to the Preses of Collector, which Certificate shall instruct of the disease, and the time when seized. Upon receiving said Certificate, the Managers shall be called upon by the Preses, and if said Managers find that the application and certificate are regular, they shall order the supply, or weekly allowance, as aforesaid, to be transmitted to said applying Member, accounting a week's supply due to him the fourteenth day from the time seized; and for every week that may have elapsed since that period, providing always that such distress is certified in the time of it, (without which supply cannot be given,) the like certificate to be sent weekly or monthly, or as often as the supply is demanded, during the continuation of the distresses.

ARTICLE XVI

Aged and Infirm, their provision.

THAT Aged or Infirm Members who though able to work, or to attend their business some part of the day, yet that he be able only to earn a very small pittance, and be in circumstances that some said aid from the Funds, shall on application be allowed from One Shilling to Two and Sixpence a week,

according to the discernment of the Managers who shall have the sole power of fixing and varying this supply as the case may require, and of withholding it from those they deem improper objects of this aid.

ARTICLE XVII

Penalties annexed to Failure in Paying Accounts

THAT any Member residing in the town failing to pay his Quarter Accounts on Quarter Day, and that before the Books are closed, or the Minute signed, shall incur the penalty of Two pence Sterling, which fine must be paid along with the next quarter accounts on quarter day. Failing which to incur a penalty of sixpence sterling, and failing to clear the Books of Fines & Accounts, &c. within the year, to be struck out of the Society's Book, and that without any warning from the Officer, never again to be received, but as an entering Member. Members (firth) of the town failing to pay their Accounts within the year, and that always on a Quarter Day as aforesaid, shall incur the penalty of Sixpence Sterling, to be paid along with the Year's Accounts on next Quarter Day, and failing which to be struck out of the Society's Books.

ARTICLE XVIII

Funeral Charges.

When a full member dies, and application is made to the Preses within twenty-four house after by his nearest relative, the Managers shall have it in their power to pay said relative Twenty Shillings Sterling, towards defraying part of the Funeral Charges, or see the same laid out for that purpose, under the direction of one of their number whom they may appoint.

ARTICLE XIX

Widows, their Allowance, &c.

That when any full Member of this Society dies, (*'Widows is struck off'*; *comment in margin*) leaving a widow, (providing he be not in arrears) it shall be in her power to claim Ten Shillings yearly so long as she remains his Widow, and behaves in a decent and becoming manner. And that from the period of one year after the first Quarter Day from her husband's death, only, should said Widow fail to appear before the Managers on the first Quarter Day after her husband's death, or some person for her behoof,) to get her name enrolled upon the Widow's Salary List, she shall forfeit all claim to the said Salary. Yet the Managers have it in their power to dispense with this neglect, and allow her name to be enrolled as aforesaid, if they are unanimous in finding her case to require said Salary.

ARTICLE XX

Of Members in His Majesty's Service.

That any Member who may be in His Majesty's service can have it in his option, whether he continue to pay up his dues regularly, or have said dues suspended during said service, be rendered not eligible to claim any supply during that time, but should he pay the first quarter accounts due after receiving his discharge on quarter day, and two thirds of the Managers approve of him as a healthy Member, he shall be accounted a Member of such standing as he had formerly paid his accounts for, and be entitled to his privileges accordingly.

ARTICLE XXI

Fraudulent, or Criminal Actions.

THAT if any Member shall commit any Fraudulent, or felonious crime, so as to be detected or punished by the law, he shall be excluded the Society.

ARTICLE XXII
Reduction of the Funds, &c.

THAT if the Funds of this Society shall be reduced to an hundred pounds, it shall be in the power of the Managers to raise the Quarter Accounts to One Shilling and Sixpence, or such lesser sum as they shall think proper. And as long as seven members are willing to continue it shall be in their power to prevent the Funds from being divided.

ARTICLE XXIII
Of Calumny and Evil Speaking.

THAT if any Member of this Society shall be convicted of speaking evil of the Society, or exposing their affairs with an evil intent, or of upbraiding one another for receiving benefit, he shall be liable to such a fine as the Managers shall think proper for such an offence.

ARTICLE XXIV
Rude or Indecent Behaviour.

THAT if any Member in time of Meeting be guilty of rude or indecent behaviour, enter into sub-committees, or trifling chat, address any but the Preses, and that otherwise that in a becoming manner, and particularly of being intoxicated, or by taking the name of God in vain, by swearing or otherwise, the Member or Members so offending shall be fined in such a sum as the Managers shall think fit.

ARTICLE XXV
Of Lent Money.

THAT the Managers shall be responsible to the Society for showing due regard to the safety and proper application of the Funds, and though they are bound to promote their advancement by lending them out at legal interest, yet they are specially enjoined to lend only on Bill, and that when two sufficient cautioners furth of the Society can be obtained. Loans of lesser sums than ten pounds to be abolished, except in so far as may appear proper to the Managers, and unanimously approved of by them, and without such approval no money to be lent. Nor shall old Bills be renewed, but in conformity to the present regulations; and further it is enacted, that previous to the old Managers obtaining a discharge from the new Managers, upon the second Tuesday of May yearly, or have the Books and Bills taken off their hands, that the latter must be satisfied with the accuracy of the accounts, and the safety of the Money or Bills and should the former fail to present them in a proper state on the aforesaid second Tuesday of May, they shall be subjected to such a fine as the New Managers shall think fit.

ARTICLE XXVI
Bills.

THAT every Bill must be drawn payable to the Collector, or his successor in office, or order, dated on Quarter Day, as interest or any cash payment can only be received at Quarter Meetings. And it is provided, that should any fail to pay their Annual Interest upon the Quarter Day it falls due, then, and in that case, he or they so failing shall be subjected to a Fine of One Penny for every Pound they have in loan, and that by the next Quarter and failing to pay the same by that day, it shall be deemed unwarrantable for the Managers to delay legal diligence upon the Bill so as to procure payment of its contents.

ARTICLE XXVII
Of Mortcloths.

THAT should the Managers see meet, it is enacted, that seeing the extraordinary price which the Heritors of Stonehouse make (even for poor tradesmen,) for their Mortcloths, that so much of the Funds may be applied to the furnishing of two decent Mortcloths, to be lent out at a moderate price fixed by the Managers, under such regulations as may appear to them best suited to answer the intentions of the Society. And further, it is provided, that the Managers shall have the power to lend the said Mortcloths to a Member's Funeral or Widow's, gratia, should circumstances require such lenity.

ARTICLE XXVIII
Purchasing of Meal or Grain,

THAT the purchasing of Meal or Grain, at a proper season, appearing beneficial to the Society, it is provided, that the Managers may at any future period purchase what quantities they may see proper, from time to time, and sell the same out at a moderate profit, that the Funds may rather be augmented than diminished thereby, and nothing but a fall in markets, or an incidental loss to be the occasion of any temporary hurt to the Funds; which loss is to be made up yearly at the Annual Meeting by a levy upon the Members, in due proportion, at the discernment of the Committee; and those failing to pay the same on that day to incur a Fine of One Shilling, to be paid along with their next Quarter Accounts, or be excluded the Society. And further, it shall be in the power of the Managers in such times, to choose from among the Members, at least seven to themselves, who shall act in concert with the managers as a Committee, the purchasing and selling of said Meal, and, or refusing to act to be fined in such a sum as the Committee shall think proper. And the Committee shall have it in their power to choose a Salesman, and award his fee, and to fix other fees that may be necessary to attach to sundry offices in the said concern, always having a due regard to economy and moderation.

ARTICLE XXIX
Concerning Disputes.

As it may happen that a Member may be aggrieved by the neglect or humour of a Member of Members, in the Management of the Society's affairs, therefore, if any dispute shall arise which the Members of this Society cannot amicably terminate among themselves, the Member or Members so complaining shall choose one or two men, Members of another Society, who shall be known to understand Society Laws, and the Managers shall choose the like number in the same circumstances, and they shall judge, and determine the dispute, and their discernment shall be final, and the party failing to obey such determination, or demurring to the disquiet of the Managers, shall be immediately excluded the Society.

ARTICLE XXX
Of Parades.

THAT as a parade may tend to increase the Members of this Society, it is enacted, that every Member once in three years shall either parade, sit at dinner, or pay one shilling sterling towards defraying such expense as shall be incurred on the occasion, which sum of one shilling (*'There is no penalty now for not parading'*; *comment in margin*) must be sent to the Collector previous to the walking in procession, failing which, said one shilling, together with an additional sixpence of fine, must be paid along with next quarter accounts, and such fines to be applied also to the parade. The same order and distinction of ornaments shall be observed as heretofore; and whoever chooses only dine, shall be free

of other expenses. Only it is provided, that unless two-thirds of the Managers approve of a parade at the time stated, no exactions can be made from the members on that account.

ARTICLE XXXI

Alteration of Articles, Regulations, &c.

THAT whosoever belongs to, or shall become Members of the Society, shall be agreeable to all these Articles, as here said and repeated, and live as becomes brethren in Society in binding fast to these Articles. Bus as no human system can be perfect, it shall be in the power of the Society to make minutes in their Books, at Annual Meetings, which shall be as binding on all concerned as if engrossed in the body hereof: nevertheless, it shall be in the power of the Society to make alterations in these articles, at any future period, as they shall see cause; and when any thing is proposed as an amendment to any of the preceding articles, or as an additional regulation, it will not be enacted till three months at least after it has been laid before the Society, and approved of by a majority of a General Meeting; and these Regulations are by appointment signed by the Preses and Clerk.

JOHN MILLER, Preses
ROBERT GRAY, Clerk

THE PRESENT OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY:

JOHN MILLAR, Preses,
JOHN CORR, Box-Master,
ROBERT GRAY, Clerk,
HAMILTON, New Master,

JOHN MILLAR,
JAMES SORBIE,
JAMES THOMSON
THOs SUMMERS, Officer

No. Stirling, 18
Certifying that

is a full and free Member of the Stirling Carpet Weavers Brotherly Society, he being neither restrained nor in arrears, so as to exclude him from receiving the aid given to members of this Society, when they are afflicted. The which is attested by me,

Clerk.

Unto the Preses. Sir, I being rendered by affliction unable to work, or to attend my ordinary occupation, therefore requests the aid given to members in my situation. Meantime remain yours,

Unto the Visiting Masters. You will please call on the above applicant, and act as your judgement and information shall direct. No more but remains yours,

Preses.

Unto the Treasurer. Sir, we have visited the above-named applicant, and finds his claim just. As witness our hands, and date as above.

Visiting Masters.

Stirling, 18

I hereby acknowledge to have received from the Treasurer of said Society, the sum of pounds, shillings, pence. As witness my hand,