Friends of
The
ROYAL
MARSDEN
Chelsea

OBJECTS AND RULES

Friends of the Royal Marsden, Chelsea

Fulham Road, London SW3 6JJ

Registered Charity Number 222613

PART 1

1. The name of the body shall be “Friends of the Royal Marsden, Chelsea” (hereinafter called “Friends”).

Preliminary

2. In these Rules:

(a) The expression “the Trustees” means the Board of Trustees for the time being of the Friends as hereinafter constituted;

(aa) The expression “the Committee” means the committee referred to in Rule 8 of these Rules;

(b) The expression “the Rules” includes any amendment or alteration thereof for the time being in force;

(c) The use of the feminine shall include the masculine.

Object and Powers

3. The object of the Friends shall be to relieve patients and former patients of the Hospital who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped, infirm or in need of financial assistance and generally to support the charitable work of the said Hospital. For the purpose of carrying out the above object, but not further or otherwise, the Friends shall have the following powers:-

(a) To educate the public in the needs of the patients of The Royal Marsden Hospital and to mobilise, encourage, foster and maintain the interest and support of the public in the said Hospital.

(b) To assist with the establishment of the Friends and to foster cooperation and inter-communication between the Friends, other charitable institutions, Local Authorities, Hospital Authorities and National Health Service authorities.

(c) To give and exchange information and advice and to promote education in all matters relating to hospitals and hospital management, to promote research and to disseminate the results.

(d) To publish, or to contribute to the publication of, any papers, books, periodicals, reports or other documents.

(e) To hold conferences, meetings, lectures, exhibitions and discussions.

(f) To recruit, and to assist in the recruitment of, voluntary workers in and for The Royal Marsden Hospital.

(g) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons or organisations whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.

(h) To take and accept gifts of property, whether subject to any special trust or not, for the Object of the Friends.

(i) To supplement the service provided by The Royal Marsden Hospital for the health, welfare and comfort of the patients therein by the provision of facilities, buildings and equipment which may be required for the treatment of such patients or for the efficient running of the Hospital.

(j) To provide, or to assist in the provision of, amenities in The Royal Marsden Hospital for patients and staff, including the provision and running of hospital shops, canteens, libraries, flower services, the establishment of clubs, health and recreation centres, hostels and rest and convalescent homes for the use and benefit of such persons.

(k) To relieve distressed and needy patients, former patients or other invalids or, where appropriate, their families, being in need of financial assistance.

(l) To undertake and execute any Charitable Trust.

(m) To do all such things as are necessary for the attainment of the above Object.

Membership

4. The subscribers to these Rules and such other persons as the Trustees or the Committee as hereinafter constituted shall admit to membership of the Friends shall be its members.

Subscription

5. There shall be a minimum annual subscription as fixed by the Annual General Meeting.

Officers

6. (a) The Friends shall have a President, nominated by the Committee, approved by the Trustees and appointed by the Annual General Meeting from among the members of the Friends.

(b) The President shall serve for up to five years from the date of their appointment and shall not be eligible for re-election.

(c) In the event of a casual vacancy, the Trustees on the recommendation of the Committee may appoint a member of the Friends as President until the next Annual General Meeting.

(d) The officers of the Committee if constituted shall be its Chairman and Treasurer;

(e) The Officers of the Committee if constituted shall be nominated by that Committee from among the members of the Friends for appointment by the Annual General Meeting. They shall serve for three years and be eligible for re-election.

(f) In the event of a casual vacancy, the Committee may appoint a member of the Friends to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting.

(g) All officers shall be honorary.

Trustees

7. (a) The business of the Friends shall be conducted and managed by the Trustees which may exercise all such powers of the Friends and do on behalf of the Friends all such acts as may be exercised and done by the Friends and as are not by these Rules required to be exercised or done by the Friends in General Meeting.

(b) Each Trustee shall serve for up to nine years from the date of their appointment and shall not be eligible for re-election except that:

i) A trustee may serve for an additional period of up to five years if and for so long as elected President in accordance with clause 6(a); and

ii) A Trustee may be re-elected for a period not exceeding three years after standing down as a Trustee provided that a period of not less than one year has elapsed since standing down and, following expiry of that additional term, shall not be eligible for re-election

(c) The Trustees shall comprise the President of the Friends and a minimum of three members nominated by the Committee for appointment at the Annual General Meeting if such committee be constituted, but if not by appointment by the Annual General Meeting.

(d) The President shall chair the meetings of the Trustees. At any meeting at which the President is absent, the members present may elect one of their number as Chairman of that meeting.

(e) Two Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the valid transaction of the business of the Trustees.

The Committee

8. (a)The Trustees may delegate to a sub-committee to be called the Committee the conduct and management of the affairs of the Friends provided that all acts and proceedings of the Committee shall be reported back to the Trustees as soon as possible.

(b) The term of office of committee members shall not exceed three years but retiring members may seek re-election.

(c) The Committee may appoint members of the Friends to fill casual vacancies in the Committee occurring between Annual General Meetings to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Chairman of the Committee shall take the chair at the meetings of the Committee. In the event of the absence of the Chairman from any meeting the members present may elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting in her/his place.

(e) The quorum necessary for the valid transaction of the business of the Committee shall be as determined by the Committee from time to time.

(f) A member shall cease to be a member of the Committee if he/she fails to attend three meetings in a year, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Committee Procedure

9. (a) The Trustees and the Committee may meet for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(b) A meeting of the Trustees may be requisitioned at any time by resolution of the Committee. A meeting of the Committee may be requisitioned by notice in writing to the Chairman of the Committee signed by not less than three members of the Committee. The business to be transacted at the meeting shall be specified in the notice.

Sub-Committees

10. The Trustees may delegate any of their powers to sub-committees consisting of such members as the Trustees may think fit provided always that there is at least one member of the Trustees on every sub-committee. All actions of such sub-committees shall be reported to the Committee in the first instance or to the Trustees and any sub- committee so formed shall, in exercise of its powers so delegated, conform to any regulation that may be imposed on it by the Trustees.

Defective Appointments

11. All acts done by any meeting of the Committee or of any sub- committee or by any person acting as a member of the Committee or of any sub-committee shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any such person, be valid as if such person had been duly appointed.

Secretaries

12. The Committee may appoint a secretary who may (but need not) be a member of the Committee. The Trustees shall appoint a secretary of the Friends for the purpose of making and receiving official communications and performing general office duties. The Committee shall fix the period of appointment and may at any time remove the secretary from office and appoint some other person in her/his place. When the secretary is not a member of the Committee that Committee may pay her/his such remuneration as it thinks fit.

General Meetings

13.(a) An Annual General Meeting of the Friends shall be held in each calendar year and at a date not later than fifteen months after the last Annual General Meeting. The Chairman of any general meeting shall be the President or in her absence then the members present shall elect a Chairman from amongst themselves.

(b) The Trustees may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting and must do so if requisitioned in writing by resolution of the Committee.

(c) Fourteen clear days' notice in writing shall be given of General Meetings and the purpose thereof to all members entitled to receive notices of meetings.

(d) At a General Meeting each member shall have one vote. Voting shall be by show of hands only unless a ballot is demanded by not less than ten members present.

(e) The Chairman's direction as to how a ballot is to be taken, her/ his declaration as to the result of any voting and her/his decision on any question of procedure or point of order at a General Meeting shall be considered final. In the event of an equal vote the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

(f) No vote may be cast by proxy.

(g) No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting of the Friends unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Ten members personally present shall be a quorum. If, within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened upon the requisition of members, shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day the next week at the same time and place; and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall be a quorum.

(h) On the recommendation of the Trustees the General Meeting may appoint a member of the Friends as a Vice-President in recognition of outstanding service given to the Friends and may appoint a member of the Friends or a non-member to be an Honorary Member.

Accounts

14. There shall be prepared annually and laid before the Friends in General Meeting an audited statement of account and report of the activities of the Friends.

Cessation of Membership

15. If the subscription of any member shall be in arrear and unpaid for a period exceeding eleven calendar months the treasurer or Secretary shall give her notice in writing that unless he/she pays his/her arrears within fourteen days he/she will be deemed to have resigned; and if such member shall not within fourteen days after service of such notice have paid his/her arrears she shall be deemed to have resigned.

Notices

16. If a member has given to the Secretary an address within the British Isles for the giving of notices to his/her (and not otherwise) he/ she shall be entitled to receive notices of all General Meetings of the Friends. The notice may be given by the Friends to any member either by delivering it by hand or by post to his/her address or by email.

Property

17.(a) The moneys and property of the Friends not immediately required for the purposes of the Friends may be held by or vested in such persons whether members of the Friends or not as the Trustees may from time to time determine to hold any such moneys or property upon trust for the Friends.

(b) Cheques drawn on behalf of the Friends shall be signed by such person or persons as the Trustees may from time to time direct.

Alteration of Rules, etc

18. The Friends may, by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, alter, add to or delete all or any of the provisions of this constitution, provided that no alterations shall be made which cause the Friends to cease to be a charity at law and no alterations shall be made to Rule 3, this rule or Rule 20 without the prior approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners and provided that notice of intention to propose such alteration, addition or deletion
and the details thereof are served upon each member with the notice required to be given by Rule 13(c) hereof.

Informalities

19. No action or decision of the Committee or of any meeting of the Friends shall be invalidated by reason only of informality or neglect in any service of notices or in any matter or matters of procedure unless, in the opinion of the Committee, such informality or neglect has resulted in a situation which is unjust.

Provision for Dissolution

20. Upon dissolution of the Friends, the surplus assets (if any) of the Friends remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to nor distributed amongst the members of the Friends but shall be given, or transferred, to such charitable institution or institutions as the members of the Friends shall at, or
before, the time of dissolution, in General Meeting, determine with the approval of the Charity Commissioners.

Form of Certification

Certified to be a true copy of the original.

The Objects and Rules are stated as amended and altered by the members of the Friends of The Royal Marsden at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends held on 30 May 2024 and took effect on 30 May 2024.

The Objects and Rules have been amended and re registered by the Charities Commission on 19 September 2024.

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