

R. De M. Matterson Esqr.
Langford Mansd.
RULES

OF THE

FIVEHEAD

FRIENDLY SOCIETY

HELD AT THE

SCHOOL-ROOM.

FOUNDED DECEMBER 11TH, 1865.

Mr. CHARLES THOMAS,

SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

LANGPORT:

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FIVEHEAD
FRIENDLY SOCIETY
RULES.

MEETINGS AT THE SCHOOL-ROOM.

FOUNDED - DECEMBER 11TH, 1865.

REVISED - DECEMBER 11TH, 1887.

President, R. De M. Matters on 6/27
Hon. ~~Treasurer~~ : Mr. FRANCIS MEADE, Langport.

Secretary : Mr. CHARLES THOMAS.

Name of Member _____

No. _____

Date admitted _____

ARTICLES.

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I.

The Society shall be called the Fivehead New Eleven Years' Club.

II.

Two of the Members shall be appointed Stewards for the space of three months, and at the end of every three months, two new Stewards shall be chosen from amongst the members in rotation as they stand entered on the Society's list; and if any Member chosen shall refuse to serve the office, he shall pay a fine of two shillings and sixpence, and the next member in rotation shall serve in his stead. Either of the Stewards not attending a meeting night of the Society or being guilty of any neglect or breach of duty, after having taken upon himself to serve the office, shall forfeit for every offence, not otherwise finable by these articles, not more than five shillings nor less than two shillings and sixpence.

III.

The Secretary of the Society shall be Mr. Charles Thomas, who shall keep a correct account of all moneys received or expended by, or on behalf of, the Society, in a book or books to be provided for that purpose; and for his trouble of keeping such accounts, attending the meetings, and transacting the business of the Society, he shall be paid sixpence per year by each member at Midsummer; and in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of Secretary or Treasurer, through resignation, death, or otherwise, a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called as soon as convenient by the acting Secretary or Stewards, for the purpose of appointing a successor, such appointment to be decided by a majority of votes of those present, the voting to be under the control of the Chairman of such meeting. Any member bringing a charge against the Secretary, Stewards, or brother member that he cannot substantiate, shall be fined the sum of two shillings and sixpence.

IV. *wa. R. Matterson Esq*

The Treasurer of the Society shall be ~~Mr. Francis Meade, of Langport who will invest the Society's moneys, paid to him from time to time by the Secretary, as he shall think best, either at Snoddy's Bank or in the Langport and Mid-Somerset Benefit Building Society, the interest on same to be added to the stock.~~

V.

The Committee shall consist of eleven of the most respectable members of the Society, to be chosen annually, and the duty of such Committee is to decide all disputes and differences that may arise in the construction of these rules or otherwise, and generally to assist the Stewards and Secretary in the management of the Club, and particularly on the anniversary days; and if any one of the Committee shall on any occasion refuse to act after having notice by the Stewards, he shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one shilling or be expelled from this Society; and all and every act and thing done by them shall be allowed and signed by six members at least of such committee, or the same shall be of no force. The proceedings, however, of the Committee shall be subject to the review and control of the Society, at any subsequent general meeting within three calendar months.

VI.

Any person of twelve, but not more than fifty years of age, may be admitted into this Society, or any old member over the age of fifty may be readmitted, at the discretion of the Committee; but if any person under the age of twelve years wishes to become a member, he may be elected by a majority of votes at a general meeting, but that member will not be allowed to receive any benefit from the Society as occasional relief until he comes to the age of fourteen years.

VII.

Every member of the Society shall pay, at the first monthly meeting at which he is admitted, an entrance fee of two shillings and sixpence and a subscription fee of one shilling,

and shall, at every subsequent monthly meeting, pay a like subscription of one shilling to the funds of the Society. If any member neglects his monthly payments, for the first offence he shall forfeit twopence, the second offence fourpence, and the third offence sixpence. Every member that shall not make good his monthly payments and all forfeits and arrears to the stock, at every fourth meeting after the same shall become due, and make even with the Secretary and Stewards, he shall forfeit double; and if the double sum be not fully discharged the club night following, he or they shall be expelled this Society.

VIII.

A General Meeting of the Society shall be held every Monday month in the Parish School-room, when the Secretary and Stewards will attend for the purpose of taking the moneys due from the members, between the hours of seven to nine in the afternoon from Lady-day to Michaelmas and from six to eight from Michaelmas to Lady-day. Any member attending with or sending his money after the hours of business shall forfeit twopence, and the place of meeting shall not be changed except so ordered by a majority of members assembled at a General Meeting specially convened for the purpose. The expense attending the use of the School-room to be defrayed by the Committee and Secretary.

IX.

The accounts of the Secretary, Stewards, and Treasurer shall be audited once every year during the continuance of the said Society.

X.

A meeting of the Society shall be held annually at the Club-room, on or about the last Thursday in May, when a dinner shall be provided, the expenses of which shall be defrayed by an equal share of all the members present, but nothing on account thereof shall be taken from the stock. Every member, residing within ten miles of Fivehead, shall provide for himself a blue pole with yellow head, and blue ribbon, not less than two yards long and two inches wide, and shall appear and answer to his name by ten o'clock in

the forenoon, or forfeit one shilling; and if not in place one hour after, or on his refusal to pay his contribution towards the dinner, he shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence; but this fine shall not be enforced if the doctor's certificate of sickness be produced. The Society shall go to church in regular procession, headed by a flag and a band of music, and the minister of the parish shall be requested to preach a sermon on the occasion.

XI.

If any member at the annual feast shall curse, for every such offence he shall forfeit sixpence; if he quarrel or fight, or arrange to fight at any future time, for every such offence he shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence; and if any member refuse to pay the fine, after being demanded by the Stewards, he shall be expelled this Society.

XII.

If any member will not keep silence at the hours of transacting business at the monthly meetings, he shall forfeit sixpence for every offence or be expelled this Society, and as soon as the hour is up for the Secretary and Stewards to settle their accounts every member shall leave the room or forfeit sixpence.

XIII.

At the feast day after dinner no member is allowed to leave the room till he is called to answer his name, without liberty from the Secretary or Stewards, and show cause why he wants to leave; for every offence he shall forfeit one shilling or be expelled this Society.

XIV.

Any member who does not walk in regular procession from the time of assembling in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening, and answer to his name when called by the Secretary, shall forfeit one shilling for every offence. Any member giving his pole to another person to walk in his place shall forfeit one shilling or be expelled this Society.

XV.

Every member expelled this Society under any of its rules shall forfeit all claims, right, or title to, and share in money, goods, or chattels, or any other property belonging to the said Society.

XVI.

An estimate of the provisions and liquor for the dinner and necessary expenses, shall be made and presented by the Stewards at the General Meeting next before the feast, and the whole management of the Annual Meeting shall be under the direction of the Committee and Stewards for the time being. None of the provisions or liquor shall be consumed, embezzled, concealed, or clandestinely carried away or disposed of, other than for the mutual and entire use of the Society, under payment of a fine of two shillings and sixpence, and any member refusing to pay the fine above-mentioned shall be expelled this Society.

XVII.

The Stewards shall receive and count the contributions paid into the stock at every monthly meeting, and mention the respective member's name, paying the same to the Secretary, that they may be entered in the account, and the business managed with exactness and regularity; and if they take any base or counterfeit coin, or any mistake or deficiency be found in calculating the money then received, they shall be answerable for and make good the same. Also, at the end of every three months, they shall settle and sign their accounts, produce vouchers for all payments to the sick and for other incidental expenses, and deliver over the keys, current stock, securities, books, accounts, articles, and all things belonging to the Society in their custody, to the succeeding Stewards.

XVIII.

A strong and substantial box shall be provided with three different locks and keys, wherein the Stock and Securities of the Society are deposited, the keys to be kept by the Secretary and Stewards; and if either of them lose his key he shall replace it at his expense. The Stewards and Secretary shall be at the place of meeting by the time appointed, or within

half an hour, or forfeit one shilling for every neglect; and if absent the whole evening, or withholding his key, he shall forfeit respectively two shillings and sixpence.

XIX.

No member shall be entitled to or receive any benefit from the Society during the first two years after his election; and after that period, if any member shall be afflicted by the hand of Providence with sickness, fever, blindness, contagious distemper, fractured bone, abscess, ulcer, wound, and thereby rendered bedridden, the Stewards for the time being shall pay him, out of the stock, the sum of six shillings per week during his confinement, not exceeding eight weeks; but if the doctor advises him to sit up a few hours daily, he may do so, having a certificate from the doctor to that effect; and then, or so soon as he may be recovered as to be capable of walking about, but not able to work at his usual employ, the Stewards shall pay him three shillings per week, not exceeding twelve weeks. No member allowed to be out of doors whilst receiving bed sick-pay. For such offence he will be expelled this Society.

XX.

Each of the Stewards shall alternately visit every member on the sick list, if within four miles of Fivehead, once a week, and shall pay him such weekly allowance as he is entitled to; but if any disabled member happen to reside more than four miles from Fivehead, he shall first give the usual notice, and then send a certificate at the end of every month, to the Secretary or Stewards, signed by a Minister, Churchwarden, Overseer, or a Surgeon of the parish, or the Surgeon attending him, where such member may then be, setting forth the cause, duration, and present state of his disability, and his weekly allowance shall then be paid to any person for his use, who shall be duly authorised to receive the same, but not otherwise. Any sick member having had notice when one of the Stewards would visit him and not being home at the time of such visit, shall forfeit one shilling; and any member who shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Stewards and Secretary to have been drunk while receiving sick pay shall be forthwith expelled.

XXI.

Every member of this Society shall pay ~~three shillings and sixpence~~ ^{4/11} yearly to the Secretary for a Medical Officer, to be paid in two instalments, viz., two shillings in July and ~~one shilling and sixpence~~ ^{2d} in January, at the monthly meetings, and if not paid when due the defaulting Member shall forfeit sixpence, and if not paid within three months he shall be expelled the Society.

Doctor John Hughes, of Curry Rivel, to be such Medical Officer so long as he performs his duties to the satisfaction of the majority of the members. His duties are to attend to each member of the Society, residing not more than five miles from the Club-room, in surgery and medicine, and in cases of illness not occasioned by misconduct or any unlawful means, broken bones and accidents included. All members requiring medical aid must attend, when able, at the surgery before ten a.m., or, if to be seen at home, must send a message before that time, unless in emergency. Members requiring medicine in bottles will be supplied with the first; after that they must bring their own bottles.

XXII.

All members, however, engaged in any naval or military service under her Majesty's Government, who may be disabled or otherwise in the actual discharge of his or their duty, and shall transmit a certificate stating the nature and particulars of their disability, authenticated by the surgeon or commanding officer of the ship, regiment, troop, or corps, to which he or they respectively belong, and making good their regular payments to the stock, and in all other respects conforming to the rules, shall be entitled to the like benefit and allowance from the Society, in as ample and beneficial a manner as other members.

XXIII.

If any member should die, every surviving member shall pay one shilling each towards defraying his funeral expenses, and one half may be taken from the stock by applying to the Secretary and Stewards; and any member refusing or neglecting to pay the same, at or before the second General Meeting after the funeral, shall be fined in lieu thereof double the sum;

one half to be added to the Stock, and the other half for the use of the widow of deceased member, or in case of leaving no widow, then to his legatees or next of kin, for the purposes aforesaid; but no person shall be entitled to or receive any benefit from the Society for disability occasioned by drunkenness, venereal disease, wrestling, fighting, or any gambling exercises, nor of any other complaint, which by his own precaution and prudence he might have prevented.

XXIV.

If any member's wife should die, every member shall pay sixpence each towards defraying her funeral expenses; but nothing to be taken from the stock. Any member refusing or neglecting to pay the same, at or before the next General Meeting after the funeral, shall be fined in lieu as in the twenty-third Article.

XXV.

If any member shall have entered the Society, or obtained sick-pay, or any other advantage or benefit by false statement as to his age, state of health, illness, or by any unfair means; or if any member shall be found guilty of defrauding or imposing on the Society by embezzlement or false certificate in order to obtain relief, upon proof thereof, to the satisfaction of the Committee, he shall be forthwith expelled from the Society and lose the benefit of any interest therein.

XXVI.

All fines, forfeits, and penalties shall be added to the stock, and if the same be not immediately paid, if demanded by the Stewards or at the end of three months, the offending member refusing payment shall be expelled. But no member shall be expelled or fined for non-attendance or not serving any office, if prevented by sickness or any accidental and unfeigned disability.

XXVII.

And it is ordered that at the expiration of eleven years from the commencement of each term, this Society shall be dissolved by mutual consent; and all moneys due on securities shall be called in, and the whole stock be then divided amongst the surviving members, in equitable shares and

proportions, according to the length of time that the respective member shall have been in the Society, deducting, however, from each member's share what he shall in the meantime have received from the Society as occasional relief.

XXVIII.

It is also ordered that the Secretary do cause these Articles to be printed, and a copy to be delivered to each member, for which he shall pay fourpence, to be added to the funds.

XXIX.

To the Secretary and Stewards of the Fivehead New Eleven Years' Club.

This is to acquaint you that I am now and have been ever since the _____ day of _____ rendered incapable of following my usual or any other employment by being afflicted with _____

(as certified by the Medical Officer), and therefore expect the benefit of _____ shillings per week of the said Society. Witness my hand this _____ day of _____

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N.B.—In the above blank, after the word with, let the sick member's disorder be carefully set forth.

To the Secretary and Stewards of the Fivehead New Eleven Years' Club.

WE, the Minister, Churchwardens, or Overseers, of the parish of _____ do hereby certify that

a member of the aforesaid Society, is now and has been ever since the _____ day of _____ rendered incapable of doing his usual or any other sort of work by being afflicted with _____ and is now and has been ever since the said _____ day of _____ confined to his room.

And that such his said _____ sickness does not proceed from the venereal disease, or any species

thereof, duelling of any sort, wrestling, backsword, rioting, debauchery, excessive drinking for wagers, &c., or any other matter forbidden in the articles, rules, and orders of this Society.

Witness our hands this day of 18

Minister.

Surgeon.

} Churchwardens. } Overseers.

We, the undersigned Committee and Officers of this Society, having carefully examined and considered these articles, do approve of the same.

Given under our hands the

No.

_____ aged _____
years, of the Parish of _____ was
elected a Member of this Society, the _____ day
of _____, in the year of our Lord

Secretary.

} _____
Stewards.
