**Articles and Rules**

For the Regulation and Government of a

**Friendly Society**

Begun the 6th Day of May 1805

And

Held at the House of John Claydon, Called the Red Lion

At

**Twyford**

In the County of Bucks

Article

1. This Society is established for the purpose of raising a fund for the mutual relief and maintenance of the Members thereof, in old age, sickness, and infirmity.
2. That every Member of this Society shall meet on the first Monday in every Calendar Month at the hour of six in the evening from the 29th of September to the 25th of March and at the hour of seven in the evening from the 25th of March to the 29th of September at the Society House where every Member shall pay ninepence in manner following viz. six pence to the Box and three pence to be spent and if he shall be absent two months then he shall pay one shilling to the Box and four pence to be spent and if he be absent three months then he shall pay eighteen pence to the Box and six pence to be spent.
3. That whatsovever Member shall enter into this Society after Monday the 3rd day of June 1805 under Twenty years of age he shall pay seven shillings entrance and one months pay and three pence to be spent and that no Member is hereafter to be admitted that exceeds thirty five years of age except he pays back to that age and no member to be admitted on any account after the age of Forty. If any member shall be discovered to have been past that age at the time of his entrance and that the same was then concealed, he shall be turned out of this Society without any return of money and for ever excluded from all benefit of the Box. Likewise if any Member shall conceal any disease he may be subject to and thereby be admitted contrary to the express qualification of these Articles; as soon as it is discovered he shall be turned out of this Society and excluded all benefit of the Box and that this Society shall not exceed one hundred and one Members without the unanimous concurrence of the whole body.
4. That the Stewards shall provide two Books wherein shall be kept the whole Accounts, one Book to be kept by the Senior Steward and the other in the Box and that a Box be provided all at the charge of the Society with three locks and keys of different sorts. One key to be kept by each of the Stewards, the other by the Father of the Society and if either of them do not bring or send his key on Society Nights he shall forfeit six pence to the Box.
5. That if any member be sick, lame or blind and not able to work after he has been three whole years in this Society he shall receive six shillings per week during the time of his illness and shall begin to receive his money the same day seven nights after he has declared his illness to the Stewards but if any Member of this Society shall wilfully run into any danger by cudgel-playing, fighting, wrestling, football playing etc, or shall enter into his Majesty’s Service whereby he may become sick, lame or blind he shall not for such accident receive any benefit from the Box.
6. That if any Member of this Society shall be deemed incurable or superannuated the Stewards shall lay his case before the whole Society the next Society night and he shall be allowed six shillings per week the first year and three shillings per week afterwards so long as there shall be five pounds in the Box provided the same Member continues to pay nine pence per month to the Box.
7. That if any Member shall die having been entered three whole years into this Society there shall be allowed two pounds if required for a decent burial and every Member of the Society shall attend the corpse to the grave within the distance of four miles (unless he dies of the small pox) two and two as their names are placed in the Society book and if any Member shall neglect coming to the funeral of a deceased brother he shall forfeit one shilling to the Box. That each Member before his departure shall have full power to will to whomsoever he pleases the money hereinafter specified that is to say every Member of this Society shall be obliged to pay one shilling to the use of his deceased brother’s will and if any member should die without will by word or deed then the aforesaid money to be paid to his nearest relations. The money to be paid by all the Members in or near town within two Society nights after the burial and by those out of town within three or four Society nights according to their distance from Twyford. Any Member refusing to pay his money for the use aforesaid shall be excluded this Society.
8. That if any Member be absent from the Society above the space of three months and does not send his money he shall forfeit six pence and if not paid within the space of four months he shall be excluded this Society and receive no Benefit from the Box.
9. That every Member who shall be turned out of this Society shall lose all Benefit of the Box nor shall any person be voted into this Society that was ever voted for before and lost it by vote.
10. That no person having the Venereal Disease shall receive any Benefit from the Box nor shall any Attorney at Law or Write server be admitted into the Society.
11. That if any Member of this Society shall go out of town to dwell he shall give notice to the Stewards and if the distance be within 60 miles he shall have three months allowed him to send his money and if more than 60 miles four months and if sick or lame and not able to work he shall send a certificate signed by the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish wherein he resides certifying how long he hath been ill and what his disorder is inclosed in a letter to the Father of the Society and he shall receive the same benefit as if he was in town viz: six shillings per week during his illness and if incurable or superannuated six shillings per week the first year and three shillings per week afterwards so long as there shall be five pounds in the Box but a fresh certificate will be required every time he shall send for his money and he must also pay nine pence per month to the Box or be excluded.
12. That at the end of every year two new Stewards and four Wardens shall be made in their turns as their names are entered in the Society Book and every Member within the Parish of Twyford or within a one mile is obliged to serve his office as their names stand in the Society Book or to hire a man that is a Member of this Society and they shall serve the next year during which time each Warden shall serve three months as their names stand in the Society Book and summon the Society once a month, visit the sick and inspect into suspected persons that through illness may throw themselves upon the Box and if any such sick Member shall be found doing any work or any sort of gaming or otherwise imposing upon this Society he shall then lose all Benefit from the Box and be for ever excluded this Society.
13. The old Stewards shall give up their accounts at the first Society night after the yearly Feast to the new ones and the Clerk shall balance the books in the presence of the Members at the same time and if either of the Stewards or Wardens whose office it is refuse to visit the sick if in town once every day he shall forfeit six pence to the Box and that the Clerk shall have ten shillings and six pence yearly.
14. Any Member of this Society keeping or employing a servant or servants may direct and order them in his work or employment but if he be found doing any work himself while he is on the Box he shall for ever be excluded this Society. That the Stewards shall give an account to the Members on Society nights what their allowanced is to spend and if the Stewards shall admit of more beer being brought into the room that the aforesaid allowance they shall stand to the same at their own charge.
15. That if any Member shall use the Name of God as a vain expression he shall for every such offence forfeit six pence to the box.
16. That if any Member gives scurrilous language, reflects on any Member’s character, strikes him or seizes him by the collar or makes use of an threatening language to the Stewards or to any of the Society on the Feast Day he shall for every such offence forfeit six pence to the Box and if he persists in such behaviour for the third or fourth offence he shall be excluded this Society, lose all Benefit from the Box and never more be readmitted.
17. That every Member shall keep his seat and be silent while the books are making up unless called for or has complaint to make or forfeit two pence to the Feast.
18. That if any Member shall give the lie, curse, swear or use vile expressions such as damn it, rot it or propose any wager or any kind of gaming in the Society House he shall forfeit two pence to the Feast and if any one refuse to pay his forfeit immediately or on the next Society night he shall be excluded this Society.
19. That if any Member attempts to break this Society or move the Box without the consent of ~~two thirds~~ three fourths of the whole body he shall be for ever excluded the same and that this Society shall continue as long as any three Members shall be willing to keep it on.
20. That once in every year viz: on Whitsun Monday the Stewards and six senior Members shall provide a Feast towards which every Member shall pay Eighteen pence at the time he is called by the Clerk on the Feast Day at the hour of eleven o’clock in the forenoon in order to attend the Society to and from Church as their names are called over in the Book or forfeit one shilling towards the yearly Feast. And if any Member shall send any victuals or beer from the said Feast unless to a sick Member’s family, he shall forfeit six pence then to be spent and that every Member shall come or send his money with all arrears at the monthly meeting immediately before the yearly Feast that the Books may be made up and all accounts settled.
21. That the Father of the Society shall find two sufficient Bondsmen for the security of what money shall be put into the Box and that none of these Articles shall be altered or any Bye Laws added thereto without the consent of ~~two thirds~~ three fourths of the whole society.
22. That the Friend of any Member shall be welcome on Society nights if agreeable provided he does not in the least interfere with the Affairs of the Society and spends his six pence.
23. That the Society Book be kept open but one hour.
24. That these Articles be hung up in a frame in the Society Room on Society nights.
25. That when these Articles are printed every Member shall buy one for which he shall give four pence for the benefit of the Box.

**Addendum:** I have added the first Article, which is declaratory of the purpose for which the Society is establish and I have altered the 19th and 21st Articles so as to make them agree with the requisites of the Statute 33d .Geo.3d.c.54, and subject to those alterations I approve of these Rules and think them agreeable to the intention of the statutes which have been passed relating to friendly Societies. **Nicolas C Tindal, Inner Temple 23rd Sept 1811.**