

# RULES

OF THE

## SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE.

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1. That this Corps be called "The South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade" and its object is to assist the Coastguard in saving life in cases of shipwreck.

2. That the Brigade consist of Enrolled members (effective and non-effective) and Honorary members, the latter contributing to the funds of the Brigade but not enrolled for service.

3. That its Financial affairs shall be managed by a Committee of seven members consisting of the two Captains and Deputy Captain (to be elected as hereinafter provided) and four effective members elected annually.

4. That the Brigade shall consist of one Division comprising a Senior Captain, Junior Captain and a Deputy Captain and members, Medical Officer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and House Captain, only effective members to have a vote. When a vacancy occurs in any of these offices (through death or resignation) it shall be filled up either at the next annual meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose.

5. Candidates for membership of the Brigade may be elected by the Committee at any ordinary

Committee meeting. Such Candidates must attend Instruction Classes and remain on trial for twelve months before being admitted to full membership or rejected by a majority of the Committee.

6. That each member in order to make himself effective must attend four Drills during the year (one drill must be in each quarter), and that attendance at actual wreck service count as a drill. The Committee have power to take into consideration inability to attend drills through illness or other reasons provided the member's previous service justifies the Committee exercising their discretion in returning such member as effective.

7. That the Committee meet at such times as may be necessary for the transaction of business and that five of their number be a quorum.

8. That the Committee shall cause an abstract of the accounts to be prepared annually for the information of the members of the Brigade.

9. That each member shall be provided with a distinguishing uniform as may be agreed upon which should be worn at Drill or on Active Service.

10. That each member entitled to vote shall be supplied with a voting paper to be issued to him at the meeting where the election shall take place but that proxy voting shall be allowed provided the proxy be signed by the member entitled to vote and that all voting papers after being marked shall be handed to the Hon. Secretary or presiding Officer at the meeting where the

election takes place. That any nominations for the position of Captain, Deputy Captain or Committee shall be in writing and lodged with the Secretary on or before the 15th July in each year. Such nominations shall be signed by the member proposed for Captain, Deputy Captain or Committee, also signed by a proposer and seconder, all of whom must be effective members of the Brigade at the time of such nomination. The existing Captains, Deputy Captains and Members of Committee need not be re-nominated only new nominations for the positions need be lodged with the Secretary. A withdrawal of a nomination must be notified to the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting.

11. That the property of the Brigade be vested in Trustees.

12. When the Brigade is assembling for drill or actual service each member shall yield implicit obedience to his Superior Officer and discharge the duty assigned to him as quickly as possible.

13. That in all cases when the Brigade is summoned for drill or actual service, the Officer of Coastguard in charge at the Station shall take command, but should there be (from any unforeseen cause) no Coastguard Officer present, then the command shall be taken by the Officer on duty.

14. The Officers shall be responsible for the discipline of the Brigade, and any insubordination on the part of any member shall be followed by a reprimand or dismissal on the case being proved.

15. That any lady or gentleman may become an Honorary member on payment of a guinea annually.

16. The two Captains and Deputy Captain shall hold office for three years from the time of their election. In case of death or resignation the vacancy may be filled up at the next Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Brigade. In such an event Rule 10 as to nominations and election shall apply.

17. At all meetings of the Brigade the Chair shall be taken by the Senior Officer present.

18. That any member wishing to alter any existing rule or propose a new one shall give notice in writing to the Hon. Secretary who shall bring it before the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting of the Brigade.

19. Should any question arise as to the Construction to be put upon any of the rules at any meeting, the decision of the Chairman at such meeting shall be final.

N.B.—The Signal for the Brigades at the mouth of the Tyne that a ship is on shore will be a Gun fired four times for the North and three times for the South side in quick succession from the Coastguard Station.

J. B. BOWMAN,

Honorary Secretary.

1st July, 1947.