



Southampton University Steampunk Society (Krakensoc) Constitution

Aim: To provide a focal point for members of the Steampunk subculture at the University of Southampton.

The society intends to do so through a combination of social events, creative activities, trips to appropriate venues around and outside of the city of Southampton, and to foster links with other groups across the country.

Core Values and Ethos

The society, as with steampunk worldwide as a movement, is committed to upholding high standards of politeness, courtesy, respect to others, and generally “being splendid” towards each other.

Although the consumption of alcohol is acceptable at Krakensoc events, the society aims to provide an environment in which drinking is undertaken responsibly – in other words, drinking to socialise rather than explicitly to get drunk. Inebriation in this manner is acceptable, although binge drinking, compulsory drinking games and other such abuses of alcohol are strongly discouraged.

For this reason, the society is committed to holding socials in more “traditional” establishments, such as real-ale or alternative pubs, and discourages socials in venues such as Jesters and Sobar. Additionally, socials should begin in a venue with free entry, to give members the chance to have a quiet drink without paying for the privilege of sitting in a pub.

The society, being founded primarily by mariners, has since its inception been infused with a strong nautical flavour. It is entirely at the discretion of future members how the society is themed, however it should be noted here that the roots of the society are based in Victorian science, engineering, aviation and merchant seafaring.

Control of committee power -

- Elected members may be recalled by a majority vote of the committee in extreme circumstances e.g. embezzlement, substance abuse, severe negligence of their duties, damaging the reputation of the society, physical violence or verbal abuse.

Procedures for removal of members -

- In the event of -
- Unsolicited or unnecessary violence of a physical or verbal nature
- Bringing the society into disrepute
- Substance abuse (including repeated severe misuse of alcohol)
- Or similar extreme circumstances at the discretion of the committee and/or students union.

Knowing that this is the lawful, the committee shall reserve the right to remove offending members. In extreme cases the case may be referred to the students union or the Police/Law enforcement officers.

Elections:

Committee members shall be elected by majority secret ballot annually, not later than the week preceding the annual Easter holiday. All members have one vote each. According to the current rules of the student's union, elections must take place in a venue free from alcohol.

In the event of a tie, a coin should be tossed to decide the result, although duelling with non-lethal weaponry (such as foam swords or nerf pistols) may also be used as a tie breaker at the discretion of the candidates and current committee.

All persons wishing to stand for a committee position must be seconded by a member of the society. All persons standing or seconding must have attended a society event at least once in the academic year in which elections are taking place. Every member of the society, subject to these attendance conditions, has the right to stand for the committee and to vote in elections. A candidate may not vote in their own election.

A 2/3rds majority of regular society members may call a referendum at any time on important issues, such as major budget decisions or re-elections of committee members or alterations to the constitution. Participating members must identify themselves in person, writing or any by any other clear means of communication.

Candidates elected will begin their term in office at the start of the following academic year, although the time between the AGM and that point should ideally be used as a transition period to train the new members.

Society Traditions:

Captain may:

- Wear one gold epaulette on the left shoulder in the first year of service (Captain), one gold epaulette on the right shoulder in the second year (Post Captain), and if elected for a third term, a gold epaulette on each shoulder (Post Captain of 3 years seniority).
- Wear a bicorn hat athwartships. Other society members may only wear a bicorn fore-and-aft, if such a hat is chosen as headgear.

Committee members may:

- Wear uniforms and insignia appropriate to their status.

Crew (society members) may:

- Demand the captain stops singing at any point.

Alumni and ex-committee members may:

- Retain their now honorary “rank” with the optional suffix “emeritus” or “deposed” after graduation or after service on the committee, if desired.
- Continue to wear any such “uniform” as listed above.
- Each “Captain” may progress up the “Post Captains” list of former society presidents. Each will move up the list or increase in rank each year, as will other members and committee members if desired.

Committee must:

- Take care of the S.S *Polyphemus* airship model, and pass it on to each succeeding committee to take care of.
- Take care of any colours or flags the society possesses for the purpose of display at national and international steampunk events.

Committee Ranks and Responsibilities

All committee members must be diligent to their elected duty, and fulfil their role to the best of their abilities.

Captain

- Responsible for the running of the society.
- Has the final say on all society matters, excepting their own democratic removal from power.
- Will give due considerations and respect to the views of the committee.
- Responsible for the completion and/or approval of risk assessments.

1st Mate

- Executive officer for the undertaking of society or commanding officer's orders – e.g. for communicating with society members by email etc.
- Responsible for recording the views of committee and society at meetings etc.
- Responsible for the day-to-day running of the website unless a web-master is employed.

Purser

- Responsible for the financial matters and the handling of society funds.
- May not make any purchases without the permission of the Master and Commander
- Must be responsible for the recording of all financial matters, such as the filing of receipts and bank statements.

Boatswain

- Responsible for the organisation of regular social events.
- Must communicate these to the members of the society in collaboration with the rest of committee, particularly the 1st officer.
- Responsibility for the organisation of larger events shall be shared with the rest of the committee.

Supernumeraries

- May be elected as required to assist in the above duties or new/additional duties as appropriate. Additionally, a web-master may be appointed by the committee if a person of suitable skill volunteers for the job. They may be dismissed by the committee if their services are no longer required, or if they neglect their duties as web-master.