

PEMBROKESHIRE PROSPECTORS SOCIETY (PPS) RULES

JANUARY 2023

AIMS AND AMBITIONS

1. To promote the hobby of metal detecting in a responsible and legal manner, upholding the highest standards of conduct.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange of information and opinions.
3. To arrange expeditions and projects.
4. To encourage interest in Pembrokeshire and its history and other matters of mutual interest and benefit.
5. To encourage members to study, label and preserve their collections of finds

RULES OF MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The members of the Society will be persons normally resident in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire or Cardiganshire (but at the Members discretion persons from other areas will be accepted), all however must be interested in metal detecting, and associated activities.
- 2) Members will normally be adults over the age of 16 years. However junior members (between 11 and 16 years) may be allowed to join the Club and attend meetings and club searches, if under the care and supervision of an adult club member. Once a junior member becomes 16 on their birthday, a full membership fee to is be paid in the following January.
- 3) Members
 - a) All new potential members must undergo a trial period covering at least 2 attendances of club meetings, before being accepted as a full member. Being a trial member allows access to club searches under the supervision of an existing full member.
 - b) An annual membership fee is payable, the amount to be fixed at the A.G.M. in January. The current fee levels are: Adults £10.00. Juniors £6.00. Numbered membership cards to be provided.
 - c) Renewal subscriptions must be paid by and including the February meeting or the membership with have deemed to be lapsed and the member will not be eligible to participate in usual club activities.
 - d) In order to attend club meetings, members must also apply for membership of the Haverfordwest Cricket Club. Honorary members who attend more than 3 club meetings a year will have their HCC subscription paid by the PPS.
 - e) Each new member to be given a copy of the club rules.
 - f) Members must have a current membership of the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) or similar insurance.
 - g) New members who join after June in any year will only pay 50% of the full membership fee.
- 4) Club Officials
 - a) A committee elected by the members and consisting of The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to administer the Society. Two out of these three to be the Authorised Signatories on all Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society's Cheques issued.
 - b) The newly-elected Vice Chairman to assist the Chairman & Secretary with the Find of the Month Competition, and that the Vice-Chairman be automatically asked to stand as Chairman the following year.
 - c) The Chairman not to be up for re-election for 12 months after the AGM.
 - d) The Web-Site Officer to be paid £29-00 per annum
 - e) Any member who acts as a search officer/steward and organises a monthly club search, to be paid £7 in expenses
 - f) The Secretary to be paid £110-00 expenses per annum.

g) A Treasurer and Membership Secretary to be appointed at the AGM

5) Meetings

- a) The Society will hold regular meetings, and one annual general meeting per year.
- b) The chairman will have discretion to vary the start time between 7.30 and 8pm and to vary the order of the agenda. The meeting will finish no later than 9.30pm.

6) The Society shall adopt such rules as are considered necessary for the benefit of the Society.

7) Membership will be capped at 60 members with the addition of two honorary members, and an application form to vet prospective members be used. Membership shall be terminated, or refused at the discretion of the membership if behaviour incompatible with the stated aims of the club is demonstrated.

8) The members will abide by the Code of Conduct, and the Country Code.

9) That any Members not filling in holes properly on a Club Search either on land, beach, or fore-shore, to be given a verbal warning by an Officer of the Club. After 2 verbal warnings, a written warning to be issued if offending for the third time. All warnings to be recorded and reported at the next meeting. Membership to vote on expulsion if written warning has to be given.

10) All persons engaged in Society activities MUST be paid up members or honorary life members with full voting rights as if a paid up member.

- a) Visitors from other clubs can participate in the society's activities as long as they can prove they are N.C.M.D. or F.I.D members.
- b) Guests can attend no more than 3 meetings a year, and apply for membership in that time if they want to.

11) Club Searches

- a) Any activity arranged by the Society, and any permission for search granted to the Society, will be designated an official Society activity.
- b) Any designated Society activity shall be carried out under the leadership of an organising member.
 - i) Pen and paper to be put in a plastic bag for members to sign in on club searches.
 - ii) A Fee of £2-00 will be levied per Search
 - iii) Start and finish times to be agreed. A steward to be appointed for the day whose responsibilities will include taking a register and payments and checking all members have left and the land is left in good order. A payment of £7 will be made to the steward.
 - iv) To aspire have at least 6 Land Searches & 6 foreshore/estuary club Searches per year.
 - v) The Club Search Land Owners to be given a bottle on day of Club Search or a gift of equivalent value.
- c) On any organized Out of Pembrokeshire Detecting Rallies No Coach to be Hired until the full amount of non-returnable money from the members who are going, is given to the Treasurer. The cost of the coach is to be subsidised by the PPS by 50%.

12) Club Sites

- a) No individual member shall take advantage in any way of any site, or activity designated as a Society site until such a site is derestricted.
- b) A motion to de-restrict a site shall be proposed and seconded at an ordinary monthly meeting and debated at the next monthly meeting.
- c) A member inviting a club search on land he/she has permission to search will not be designating that land as Society land.

13) Regarding Rights of ownership to any finds:-

- a) The Land-Owners on Club Searches should be made aware of Finds made, and so come to an agreement on ownership.
- b) Finds on Club Searches to be split 50/50 between the searcher and the Land-owner. For any finds by a member on an invited site worth over £1,000 to be split:- 50% to Land-owner, 25% to Finder, and 25% to person who made the site available. Artefact to be valued by independent valuer if necessary.

- c) No information regarding the activities of the Society on sites, or the whereabouts or products of such sites will be given to any persons outside the Society without the express approval of the membership.

14) Finds of the Month Competitions

- a) The Find of the Month Competitions will run from December to the following November, and the Financial Year will run from January to December.
- b) All entries for the Finds of the Month competition must have been found by the entrant, whilst using a metal detector, and be wholly or mainly made of metal. Entries must be a Find of the Current Month, ie; found since the last Club Meeting, and must be clearly labelled and identified.
- c) Only 1 entry per Club Member to be put into each separate Find of the Month Competition Category.
- d) Any coin or artefact which in the opinion of the committee needs verification can be withheld and sent to the National Museum of Wales Cardiff, or any other appropriate museum. When positive identification has been established, it can be entered in the competition in the month in which it is returned.
- e) Any contemporary forged copper or silver Tokens and Coins go into the Coin Category.
- f) Love Tokens to go into Ancient Artefacts.
- g) The Club to display a small finds table or tray for member's finds that are not to be entered into "The Find of the Month" Competition, for identification and interest.
- h) Finds outside Pembrokeshire can only be entered in the category of the same name. Similarly finds made on a club search should only be entered in the club search category. The only exception to this rule is for the finding and entry of a Hoard.
- i) The finders of the winning entries in each category will receive a printable certificate via email.

15) Annual Awards

- a) The Find of the Year Competition to be judged at the November meeting by a person unconnected with the PPS, but who has connections with the hobby of metal detecting. This could be the FLO who will have their HCC membership paid by the PPS.
- b) Any entry in the Find of the Year Competition can be substituted by a line drawing or a Photograph.
- c) An Annual Cup to be awarded at the Find of the Year Presentation Evening for the Member who has won the most Find of the Month winning Certificates.
- d) Finds of the Year Trophies to be awarded at the December Social Evening, along with a high quality printed certificate to the winners.
- e) Silver Cups for Presentation Evening to be replaced with Perpetual Trophies for each Category, to be held by the Winner for 12 months and then returned for the next presentation.
- f) To Have a Christmas Meal and Quiz at the December Annual Presentation Evening

16) An Attendance Record to be kept of monthly Club meetings and club searches.

17) A Hospitality Fund held by the Treasurer should be available for the Chairman to entertain visiting Guests.

18) All Procedural matters agreed at A.G.M.s should be recorded on a separate list to be handed to new Officers on Election.

19) The default methods of transmitting textual club information are via Facebook and Email to ensure that the maximum number of people can access it at the minimum cost to the PPS.

20) The domain www.pembrokeshireprospectors.org.uk was recognised as the official domain for the PPS and that website administration would be taught to at least 3 members to ensure continuity of use.

21) Procedure to deal with assets or liabilities if the club ceases to exist

- a) If Pembrokeshire Prospectors Society ceases to exist, after any debts are paid off, any money left should be divided between the local charities that the club currently supports. The club should not

close with a deficit because of the proposed amendment that more than one signature be required on Society's cheques. Any perpetual cups or trophies should be offered to Haverfordwest Museum on permanent loan until such time that the Club should be reformed.

APPENDIX

FIND OF THE MONTH COMPETITION CATEGORIES.

1. Ancient Artefacts:
2. Coins pre 1066.
3. Coins 1066 to 1685.
4. Coins 1685 onwards.
5. Modern Finds (Victoria) onwards
6. Finds Outside Pembrokeshire
7. Club Search
8. Hoards - must comprise of three or more pre decimal coins or two or more artefacts.

The member who receives the most votes in each category will receive recognition for the Find of the Month Winner, and so be eligible to enter into The Find of the Year competition.

PEMBROKESHIRE PROSPECTORS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Do not trespass.
2. Remember it is illegal to use a detector on any protected site, unless permission has been obtained from the appropriate Secretary of State or designated Authority. A protected place is defined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
3. Help to keep the area tidy, take away all junk that you dig and place in a litterbin.
4. Do not leave a mess, do not leave any holes, and replace any divots.
5. Report any finds to the landowner.
6. If you find any live ammunition, mark the spot carefully, and report at once to the police.
7. Learn the laws of the Treasure Act.
8. Respect the Country Code, close all gates, avoid damage to crops, do not disturb any animals.
9. Remember when you are out detecting you are an ambassador for the P.P.S. and the hobby, do nothing that may give the Society a bad name.
10. Be friendly to those who show an interest in detecting, tell them about the Society and the Hobby.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Acceptance of previous minutes
- 2) Matters Arising
- 3) Find of the month competitions
- 4) Raffle
- 5) Any Other Business
- 6) Q&A session