

CHARTER
OF
THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
Institute Of Mining and Mechanical Engineers

FOUNDED 1852

INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 28th 1876

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith to all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting Whereas it has been represented to us that Nicholas Wood of Hetton in the County of Durham Esquire since deceased Thomas Emerson Forster of Newcastle upon Tyne Esquire since deceased Sir George Elliot Baronet then George Elliot Esquire of Houghton Hall in the said County of Durham and Edward Fenwick Boyd of Moor House in the said County of Durham Esquire and others of our loving subjects did in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty two form themselves into a Society which is known by the name of The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers having for its objects the Prevention of Accidents in Mines and the Advancement of the Sciences of Mining and Engineering generally of which Society Lindsay Wood of Southill Chester le Street in the County of Durham Esquire is the present President And whereas it has been further represented to us that the Society was not constituted for gain and that neither its projectors nor Members derive nor have derived pecuniary profit from its prosperity that it has during its existence of a period of nearly a quarter of a century steadily devoted itself to the preservation of human life and the safer development of mineral property that it has contributed substantially and beneficially to the prosperity of the country and the welfare and happiness of the working members of the community that the Society has since its establishment diligently pursued its aforesaid objects and in so doing has made costly experiments and researches with a view to the saving of life by improvements in the ventilation of mines by ascertaining the conditions under which the safety lamp may be relied on for security that the experiments conducted by the Society have related to accidents in mines of every description and have not been limited to those proceeding from explosions that the various modes of getting coal whether by mechanical appliances or otherwise have received careful and continuous attention while the improvements in the mode of working and hauling belowground the machinery employed for preventing the disastrous falls of roof underground and the prevention of spontaneous combustion in seams of coal as well as in cargoes and the providing additional security for the miners in ascending and descending the pits the improvements in the cages used for this purpose and in the safeguards against what is technically known as overwinding have been most successful in lessening the dangers of mining and in preserving human life that the Society has held meetings at stated periods at which the results of the said experiments and researches have been considered and discussed and has published a series of Transactions filling many volumes and forming in itself a highly valuable Library of scientific reference by which the same have been made known to the public and has formed a Library of Scientific Works and Collections of Models and Apparatus and

that distinguished persons in foreign countries have availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the Society for communicating important scientific and practical discoveries and thus a useful interchange of valuable information has been effected that in particular with regard to ventilation the experiments and researches of the Society which have involved much pecuniary outlay and personal labour and the details of which are recorded in the successive volumes of the Society's Transactions have led to large and important advances in the practical knowledge of that subject and that the Society's researches have tended largely to increase the security of life that the Members of the Society exceed 800 in number and include a large proportion of the leading Mining Engineers in the United Kingdom And whereas in order to secure the property of the Society and to extend its useful operations and to give it a more permanent establishment among the Scientific Institutions of our Kingdom we have been besought to grant to the said Lindsay Wood and other the present Members of the Society and to those who shall hereafter become Members thereof our Royal Charter of Incorporation Now know ye that we being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary of our especial grace certain knowledge and mere motion have willed granted and declared and do by these presents for us our heirs and successors will grant and declare that the said Lindsay Wood and such others of our loving subjects as are now Members of the said Society and such others as shall from time to time hereafter become Members thereof according to such Bye laws as shall be made as hereinafter mentioned and their successors shall for ever hereafter be by virtue of these presents one body politic and corporate by the name of The North op England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers and by the name aforesaid shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with full power and authority to alter vary break and renew the same at their discretion and by the same name to sue and be sued implead and be impleaded answer and be answered unto in every Court of us our heirs and successors and be for ever able and capable in the law to purchase acquire receive possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors any goods and chattels whatsoever and also be able and capable in the law notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain to purchase acquire possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors a hall or house and any such other lands tenements or hereditaments whatsoever as they may deem requisite for the purposes of the Society the yearly value of which including the site of the said hall or house shall not exceed in the whole the sum of three thousand pounds computing the same respectively at the rack rent which might have been had or gotten for the same respectively at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof And we do hereby grant our especial license and authority unto all and every person and persons and bodies politic and corporate otherwise competent to grant sell alien convey or devise in mortmain unto and to the use of the said Society and their successors any lands tenements or hereditaments not exceeding with the lands tenements or hereditaments so purchased or previously acquired such annual value as aforesaid and also any moneys stocks securities and other personal estate to be laid out and disposed of in the purchase of any lands tenements or hereditaments not exceeding the like annual value And we further will grant and declare that the said Society shall have full power and authority from time to time to sell grant demise exchange and dispose of absolutely or by way of mortgage or otherwise any of the lands tenements hereditaments and possessions wherein they have any estate or interest or which they shall acquire as aforesaid but that no sale mortgage or other disposition of any lands tenements or hereditaments of the Society shall be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a General Meeting And our will and pleasure is and we further grant and declare that for the better rule and government of the Society and the direction and management of the concerns thereof there shall be a Council of the Society to be appointed from among the Members thereof and to include the President and the Vice Presidents and such other office bearers or past office bearers as may be directed by such Bye laws as hereinafter mentioned but so that the Council including all ex officio Members thereof shall consist of not more than forty or less than twelve Members and that

the Vice Presidents shall be not more than six or less than two in number And we do hereby further will and declare that the said Lindsay Wood shall be the first President of the Society and the persons now being the Vice Presidents and the Treasurer and Secretary shall be the first Vice Presidents and the first Treasurer and Secretary and the persons now being the Members of the Council shall be the first Members of the Council of the Society and that they respectively shall continue such until the first election shall be made at a General Meeting in pursuance of these presents And we do hereby further will and declare that subject to the powers by these presents vested in the General Meetings of the Society the Council shall have the management of the Society and of the income and property thereof including the appointment of officers and servants the definition of their duties and the removal of any of such officers and servants and generally may do all such acts and deeds as they shall deem necessary or fitting to be done in order to carry into full operation and effect the objects and purposes of the Society but so always that the same be not inconsistent with or repugnant to any of the provisions of this our Charter or the Laws of our Realm or any Bye law of the Society in force for the time being And we do further will and declare that at any General Meeting of the Society it shall be lawful for the Society subject as hereinafter mentioned to make such Bye laws as to them shall seem necessary or proper for the regulation and good government of the Society and of the Members and affairs thereof and generally for carrying the objects of the Society into full and complete effect and particularly and without its being intended hereby to prejudice the foregoing generality to make Bye laws for all or any of the purposes hereinafter mentioned that is to say for fixing the number of Vice Presidents and the number of Members of which the Council shall consist and the manner of electing the President and Vice Presidents and other Members of the Council and the period of their continuance in office and the manner and time of supplying any vacancy therein and for regulating the times at which General Meetings of the Society and Meetings of the Council shall be held and for convening the same and regulating the proceedings thereat and for regulating the manner of admitting persons to be Members of the Society and of removing or expelling Members from the Society and for imposing reasonable fines or penalties for non performance of any such Bye laws or for disobedience thereto and from time to time to annul alter or change any such Bye laws so always that all Bye laws to be made as aforesaid be not repugnant to these presents or to any of the laws of our Realm And we do further will and declare that the present Rules and Regulations of the Society so far as they are not inconsistent with these presents shall continue in force and be deemed the Bye laws of the Society until the same shall be altered by a General Meeting provided always that the present Rules and Regulations of the Society and any future Bye laws of the Society so to be made as aforesaid shall have no force or effect whatsoever until the same shall have been approved in writing by our Secretary of State for the Home Department In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent Witness Ourself at our Palace at Westminster this 28th day of November in the fortieth year of our reign

By Her Majesty's Command

CARDEW

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF MINING AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

BYE LAWS

PASSED AT A GENERAL MEETING ON THE 16th JUNE 1877

1. The members of the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers shall consist of four classes viz Original Members Ordinary Members Associate Members and Honorary Members with a class of Students attached
2. Original Members shall be those who were Ordinary Members on the 1st of August 1877
3. Ordinary Members Every candidate for admission into the class of Ordinary Members or for transfer into that class shall come within the following conditions He shall be more than twenty eight years of age have been regularly educated as a Mining or Mechanical Engineer or in some other recognised branch of Engineering according to the usual routine of pupilage and have had subsequent employment for at least five years in some responsible situation as an Engineer or if he has not undergone the usual routine of pupilage he must have practised on his own account in the profession of an Engineer for at least five years and have acquired a considerable degree of eminence in the same
4. Associate Members shall be persons practising as Mining or Mechanical Engineers or in some other recognised branch of Engineering and other persons connected with or interested in Mining or Engineering
5. Honorary Members shall be persons who have distinguished themselves by their literary or scientific attainments or who have made important communications to the Society
6. Students shall be persons who are qualifying themselves for the profession of Mining or Mechanical Engineering or some other of the recognised branches of Engineering and such persons may continue Students until they attain the age of twenty three years
7. The annual subscription of each Original Member and of each Ordinary Member who was a Student on the 1st of August 1877 shall be 2 2s of each Ordinary Member except as last mentioned 3 3s of each Associate Member 2 2s and of each Student 1 1s payable in advance and shall be considered due on election and afterwards on the first Saturday in August of each year
8. Any Member may at any time compound for all future subscriptions by a payment of 25 where the annual subscription is 3 3s and by a payment of 20 where the annual subscription is 2 2s All persons so compounding shall be Original Ordinary or Associate Members for life as the case may be but any Associate Member for life who may afterwards desire to become an Ordinary Member for life may do so after being elected in the manner described in Bye law 13 and on payment of the further sum of 5
9. Owners of Collieries Engineers Manufacturers and Employers of labour generally may subscribe annually to the funds of the Institute and each such subscriber of 2 2s annually shall be entitled to a ticket to admit two persons to the rooms library meetings lectures and public proceedings of the Society and for every additional 2 2s subscribed annually two other persons shall be admissible up to the number of ten persons and each such Subscriber shall also be entitled for each 2 2s subscription to have a copy of the Proceedings of the Institute sent to him
10. In case any Member who has been long distinguished in his professional career becomes unable from ill health advanced age or other sufficient cause to carry on a lucrative practice the Council may on the report of a Sub Committee appointed for that purpose if they find good reason for the remission of the annual subscription so remit it They may also remit any

arrears which are due from a member or they may accept from him a collection of books or drawings or models or other contributions in lieu of the composition mentioned in Bye law 8 and may thereupon constitute him a Life Member or permit him to resume his former rank in the Institute

11. Persons desirous of becoming Ordinary Members shall be proposed and recommended according to the Form A in the Appendix in which form the name usual residence and qualifications of the candidate shall be distinctly specified This form must be signed by the proposer and at least five other Members certifying a personal knowledge of the candidate The proposal so made being delivered to the Secretary shall be submitted to the Council who on approving the qualifications shall determine if the candidate is to be presented for ballot and if it is so determined mined the Chairman of the Council shall sign such approbation The same shall be read at the next Ordinary General Meeting and afterwards be placed in some conspicuous situation until the following Ordinary General Meeting when the candidate shall be balloted for
12. Persons desirous of being admitted into the Institute as Associate Members or Students shall be proposed by three Members Honorary Members shall be proposed by at least five Members and shall in addition be recommended by the Council who shall also have the power of defining the time during which and the circumstances under which they shall be Honorary Members The nomination shall be in writing and signed by the proposers according to the Form B in the Appendix and shall be submitted to the first Ordinary General Meeting after the date thereof The name of the person proposed shall be exhibited in the Society's room until the next Ordinary General Meeting when the candidate shall be balloted for
13. Associate Members or Students desirous of becoming Ordinary Members shall be proposed and recommended according to the Form C in the Appendix in which form the name usual residence and qualifications of the candidate shall be distinctly specified This form must certify a personal knowledge of the candidate and be signed by the proposer and at least two other Members and the proposal shall then be treated in the manner described in Bye law 11 Students may become Associate Members at any time after attaining the age of twenty three on payment of an Associate Member's subscription
14. The balloting shall be conducted in the following manner Each Member attending the Meeting at which a ballot is to take place shall be supplied on demand with a list of the names of the persons to be balloted for according to the Form D in the Appendix and shall strike out the names of such candidates as he desires shall not be elected and return the list to the scrutineers appointed by the presiding Chairman for the purpose and such scrutineers shall examine the lists so returned and inform the meeting what elections have been made No candidate shall be elected unless he secures the votes of two thirds of the Members voting
15. Notice of election shall be sent to every person within one week after his election according to the Form E in the Appendix enclosing at the same time a copy of Form F which shall be returned by the person elected signed and accompanied with the amount of his annual subscription or life composition within two months from the date of such election which otherwise shall become void
16. Every Ordinary Member elected having signed a declaration in the Form F and having likewise made the proper payment shall receive a certificate of his election
17. Any person whose subscription is two years in arrear shall be reported to the Council who shall direct application to be made for it according to the Form G in the Appendix and in the event of its continuing one month in arrear after such application the Council shall have the

power after remonstrance by letter according to the Form H in the Appendix of declaring that the defaulter has ceased to be a member

18. In case the expulsion of any person shall be judged expedient by ten or more Members and they think fit to draw up and sign a proposal requiring such expulsion the same being delivered to the Secretary shall be by him laid before the Council for consideration If the Council after due inquiry do not find reason to concur in the proposal no entry thereof shall be made in any minutes nor shall any public discussion thereon be permitted unless by requisition signed by one half the Members of the Institute but if the Council do find good reason for the proposed expulsion they shall direct the Secretary to address a letter according to the Form I in the Appendix to the person proposed to be expelled advising him to withdraw from the Institute If that advice be followed no entry on the minutes nor any public discussion on the subject shall be permitted but if that advice be not followed nor an explanation given which is satisfactory to the Council they shall call a General Meeting for the purpose of deciding on the question of expulsion and if a majority of the persons present at such Meeting provided the number so present be not less than forty vote that such person be expelled the Chairman of that Meeting shall declare the same accordingly and the Secretary shall communicate the same to the person according to the Form J in the Appendix
19. The Officers of the Institute other than the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be elected from the Original Ordinary and Associate Members and shall consist of a President six Vice Presidents and eighteen Councillors who with the Treasurer and the Secretary if Members of the Institute shall constitute the Council The President Vice Presidents and Councillors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in August except in cases of vacancies and shall be eligible for re election with the exception of any President or Vice President who may have held office for the three immediately preceding years and such six Councillors as may have attended the fewest Council Meetings during the past year but such Members shall be eligible for re election after being one year out of office
20. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be appointed by the Council and shall be removable by the Council subject to appeal to a General Meeting One and the same person may hold both these offices
21. Each Original Ordinary and Associate Member shall be at liberty to nominate in writing and send to the Secretary not less than eight days prior to the Ordinary General Meeting in June a list duly signed of Members suitable to fill the offices of President Vice Presidents and Members of Council for the ensuing year The Council shall prepare a list of the persons so nominated together with the names of the Officers for the current year eligible for re election and of such other Members as they deem suitable for the various offices Such list shall comprise the names of not less than thirty The list so prepared by the Council shall be submitted to the General Meeting in June and shall be the balloting list for the annual election in August See Form K in the Appendix A copy of this list shall be posted at least seven days previous to the Annual Meeting to every Original Ordinary and Associate Member who may erase any name or names from the list and substitute the name or names of any other person or persons eligible for each respective office but the number of persons on the list after such erasure or substitution must not exceed the number to be elected to the respective offices Papers which do not accord with these directions shall be rejected by the Scrutineers The votes for any Members who may not be elected President or Vice Presidents shall count for them as Members of the Council The Chairman shall appoint four Scrutineers who shall receive the balloting papers and after making the necessary scrutiny destroy the same and sign and hand to the Chairman a list of the elected Officers The

balloting papers may be returned through the post addressed to the Secretary or be handed to him or to the Chairman of the Meeting so as to be received before the appointment of the scrutineers for the election of Officers

22. In case of the decease or resignation of any Officer or Officers the Council if they deem it requisite that the vacancy shall be filled up shall present to the next Ordinary General Meeting a list of persons whom they nominate as suitable for the vacant offices and a new Officer or Officers shall be elected at the succeeding Ordinary General Meeting
23. The President shall take the chair at all meetings of the Institute the Council and Committees at which he is present he being ex officio a member of all and shall regulate and keep order in the proceedings
24. In the absence of the President it shall be the duty of the senior Vice President present to preside at the meetings of the Institute to keep order and to regulate the proceedings In case of the absence of the President and of all the Vice Presidents the meeting may elect any Member of Council or in case of their absence any Member present to take the chair at the meeting
25. The Council may appoint Committees for the purpose of transacting any particular business or of investigating specific subjects connected with the objects of the Institute Such Committees shall report to the Council who shall act thereon as they see occasion
26. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall act under the direction and control of the Council by which body their duties shall from time to time be defined
27. The Funds of the Society shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer and shall be disbursed or invested by him according to the direction of the Council
28. The Copyright of all papers communicated to and accepted for printing by the Council and printed within twelve months shall become vested in the Institute and such communications shall not be published for sale or otherwise without the written permission of the Council
29. An Ordinary General Meeting shall be held on the first Saturday of every month except January and July at two o'clock unless otherwise determined by the Council and the Ordinary General Meeting in the month of August shall be the Annual Meeting at which a report of the proceedings and an abstract of the accounts of the previous year shall be presented by the Council A Special General Meeting shall be called whenever the Council may think fit and also on a requisition to the Council signed by ten or more Members The business of a Special Meeting shall be confined to that specified in the notice convening it
30. At meetings of the Council five shall be a quorum The minutes of the Council's proceedings shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Members
31. All Past Presidents shall be ex officio Members of the Council so long as they continue Members of the Institute and Vice Presidents who have not been re-elected or have become ineligible from having held office for three consecutive years shall be ex officio Members of the Council for the following year
32. Every question not otherwise provided for which shall come before any Meeting shall be decided by the votes of the majority of the Original Ordinary and Associate Members then present
33. All papers shall be sent for the approval of the Council at least twelve days before a General Meeting and after approval shall be read before the Institute The Council shall also direct whether any paper read before the Institute shall be printed in the Transactions and notice shall be given to the writer within one month after it has been read whether it is to be printed or not

34. All proofs of reports of discussions forwarded to Members for correction must be returned to the Secretary within seven days from the date of their receipt otherwise they will be considered correct and be printed off
35. The Institute is not as a body responsible for the statements and opinions advanced in the papers which may be read nor in the discussions which may take place at the meetings of the Institute
36. Twelve copies of each paper printed by the Institute shall be presented to the author for private use
37. Members elected at any meeting between the Annual Meetings shall be entitled to all papers issued in that year so soon as they have signed and returned Form F and paid their subscriptions
38. The Transactions of the Institute shall not be forwarded to Members whose subscriptions are more than one year in arrear
39. No duplicate copies of any portion of the Transactions shall be issued to any of the Members unless by written order from the Council
40. Invitations shall be forwarded to any person whose presence at the discussions the Council may think advisable and strangers so invited shall be permitted to take part in the proceedings but not to vote Any Member of the Institute shall also have power to introduce two strangers see Form L to any General Meeting but they shall not take part in the proceedings except by permission of the Meeting
41. No alteration shall be made in the Bye laws of the Institute except at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting for that purpose and the particulars of every such alteration shall be announced at a previous Ordinary Meeting and inserted in its minutes and shall be exhibited in the room of the Institute fourteen days previous to such Annual or Special Meeting and such Meeting shall have power to adopt any modification of such proposed alteration of the Bye laws

Approved

R ASSHETON CROSS

Whitehall

2nd July 1877