

Becoming a member of HMS Council

The council of HMS is its governing body. Members are Directors (because the Society is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee) and Trustees (because the Society is a registered charity). Some persons would be ineligible, for example if they have been convicted of fraud. The Charities Commission provides a form for new Trustees that involves making declaration that one is not ineligible. This form also covers the requirements for becoming a company director.

It is expected that every member of HMS Council will have one (or more) specific rôles and responsibilities within the organisation. The existing Council is fully committed to facilitating the process of helping new members to find their niche and one (or more) of the elected officers will be responsible for making sure that new members have access to the best support and advice.

Members are elected at Annual General Meetings. The process for nomination is set out in the *Memorandum and Articles of Association* which is, in effect, our rule book. A candidate for membership of Council must be a paid-up member of HMS and must be proposed and seconded by two other such members. Once proposed the candidate must confirm that they accept nomination. Three separate emails to the Honorary General Secretary will complete this nomination process. His email address is secretary@historicalmetallurgy.org. An informal discussion by 'phone or other means can be arranged easily.

It is expected that HMS Council will continue to meet on-line, even when the Covid-19 problems have been laid to rest. This means that it will be perfectly practicable (and very desirable) for members who live outside the UK to join Council. The existing members of Council are keen to welcome new members who are willing to put in a little time (and as much effort as possible) to this venture. The Society's secretary is more than willing to provide more information to anyone interested. A significant proportion of the present Council members reach the end their terms of office this year.

We are having elections for:

- President
- Chair
- Honorary General Secretary
- Editor of *Historical Metallurgy*
- Managing Editor of *Historical Metallurgy*
- Web Manager
- Up to 10 ordinary members of Council

Four members of the existing Council are standing down completely. HMS is moving into a very promising era of Open Access publishing which will significantly increase the readership and reach of papers published in *Historical Metallurgy*. It also increases the need for active and determined new members of Council.