

Keld Mutual Intellectual Improvement Society

Rules & Order

18th May 1854

Rule 1: That Wednesday night in each week be the time to receive Members, when any Member present may propose candidates that shall be received by consent of a majority of Members present.

Rule 2: That an entrance fee of two shillings and six pence be paid at the time of admittance, and a monthly subscription of sixpence be paid in advance on the second Wednesday in each month. All monthly subscriptions to be paid within a week of the time when due or forfeit the privilege of the Room fees paid.

Rule 3: That all fees, subscriptions and fines go into a general fund to be used only for the purchasing of Books, Newspapers and Periodicals, Paying Postage for the Society, Cleaning, Heating and Lighting the Room.

Rule 4: That on the second Wednesday night in each month any Member can propose any Book, Paper or Periodical they wish to be purchased. Such notice to be given in writing and to be enlisted in a book department for the purpose at least one month before the purchase, and no purchases shall be made but by the consent of a majority of Members present.

Rule 5: That once in every quarter a meeting be appointed for the disposing of Books, Papers, etc, when any Book or Paper may by the consent of the majority of Members present be sold to the best advantage, all proceeds of such sales to go to the general fund. A notice of this meeting to be put up in the Room for three weeks previous.

Rule 6: That the Room be open for the use of Members from two o'clock till half past nine p.m. excepting Sundays.

Rule 7: That proper order and becoming behaviour be observed in the Room and nothing be allowed offensive to Members present or contrary to the rules of propriety; the following acts to be avoided: - argument, swearing, bad language, evil speaking, smoking tobacco or the use of intoxicating liquors in any way, no Member to be allowed to remain in the Room under the influence of strong drink. For offending in any of the above, a fine of six pence to be imposed, to be paid immediately, or the offending party to leave the room and bring his fine the first time he returns.

Rule 8: That at proper times free discussion may be introduced, avoiding Religious Controversy, except in defence of the principles of the Christian faith, that all discussions be drafted at the request of a majority of Members present, that no one read aloud but by general consent, that when desired by a majority one be requested to read aloud for the benefit of others.

Rule 9: That the Society be presided over by a President, Treasurer and Secretary to be chosen by the Society and re-elected annually when each Member shall have a vote, three weeks notice to be given of the meeting for the Election of Officers by a notice to be put up in the Room, at which meeting all accounts shall be examined.

Rule 10: That the quarterly sum of two shillings and sixpence be allowed for cleaning of the Room, lighting fires, etc. All coals, candles etc to be provided by the Society. That all disputes and transactions of all business be settled by a majority of Members present.

Rule 11: That any Members withdrawing shall forfeit all claims on the Society's books or funds.

Rule 12: That all the Books belonging to the Society (except the Dictionary and the books used in classes) along with those obtained from the Berkshire Union Village Library, constitute or lending library, free for the use of Members. That Saturday night in each week between eight and half past eight p.m. be the time to change the Books. That no Book shall be out of the Room more than one week at a time; the rule to be one week out of, and one week in the Room, alternatively a fine of three pence per week to be imposed for keeping the Book longer than the time specified. And should any Member permit a Book to be hurt while in his possession, the Librarians shall charge the said person with a fine equal to the damages they think the Book may have sustained

Also that no Member be allowed to lend the book to any other person during the time he has it out of the Library, for such offences a fine of six pence to be imposed. And should any Member be legally charged with any of the above fines and refuse to pay the same, the offending party to forfeit the use of the Library until paid.

(As written in the original Keld Mutual Intellectual Improvement Society Minute Book 18th May 1854)