



## **The Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers**

### **Guidelines and Advice for the use of Social Networking**

#### **Scope**

The widespread availability and use of social networking applications brings opportunities to engage and communicate with friends, other members and wider audiences through the World Wide Web. It is important that we are able to use these technologies. However, it is also important to ensure that we balance this with our responsibilities to all users of the Association's facilities, our legal responsibilities and our reputation. For example, our use of social networking applications has implications to the reputation and standing of the Association.

#### **Definition**

"Social networking," for the purposes of this policy, includes all types of postings on the Internet, including, but not limited to, social networking sites (such as Facebook, MySpace, WhatsApp or LinkedIn); blogs and other on-line journals and diaries; bulletin boards and chat rooms; microblogging, such as Twitter and the posting of video on You Tube and similar media.

#### **Guidelines**

It is clear that in areas such as libel, or the invasion of privacy, publication through electronic media carries the same penalties as through the conventional written word. Individuals may risk prosecution, fines and even prison sentences.

Members who engage in any form of social networking should be mindful that their 'postings' could have an adverse effect on the Association, Traders, or individual mentioned by name or innuendo. To reduce the likelihood that any personal social networking or comments having an adverse effect on the Association the following guidelines are offered:

1. Open social networking sites and other publicly accessible internet forums should not be used to criticise, raise grievances, complaints and problems. These are best dealt with directly with the individual or Trader concerned or the appropriate Director or Officer of the Association.

2. Do not allow others to use your web site to criticise openly or by alluding to members, Traders, or the Association. Individuals are responsible for what is written on their site that can bring disrepute to that Trader, the organisation or cause distress to the individual concerned.

Amendment Record

Approved by the Board 28/1/2017