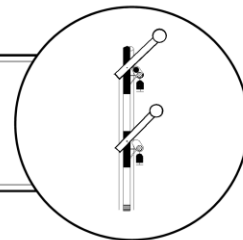


THE GERMAN RAILWAY SOCIETY

For Enthusiasts and Modellers of German and Austrian Railways



MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

The German Railway Society was founded in 1981. Membership has now increased to approximately 500 throughout the world and this number is growing steadily each year. Our aim is to encourage interest in all aspects of German railways and, to a lesser extent, Austrian railways. Whilst we do not intend to duplicate the worthy work done by other societies, it is impossible to separate many of the aspects of the German and Austrian systems. We welcome all interests, prototype enthusiasts and modellers irrespective of scale, period, and make of model railway.

The key aspects of our society are as follows:

- Merkur** Our predominant form of contact with most members is through our quarterly journal *Merkur*. It includes articles on prototype and modelling subjects as well as information about the society, exhibitions that will be attended, recent and planned events on the prototype scene, current happenings in the model trade and a 'sales and wants' section which is free to our members. Being a 'self-help' magazine, contributors are unpaid but do so just to pass on to others what they have researched or seen.
- Exhibitions** The society organises the 'European Model Railway Exhibition' held annually in September. In addition to many high-quality layouts there is good representation from the trade as well as from other European railway societies. Date and venue are announced in *Merkur* and the model railway press. Throughout the year the society attends many exhibitions around the country with layouts belonging to, and operated by, individual members or a group. In addition to this, the **Members' Sales** and/or **Society Stand** will also often attend. Assistance from members at these events is always appreciated.
- Society year** The society's year runs from 1 April. Membership renewals are due on or by 31 March. Renewal forms are sent, only to members who need to renew, with the spring issue of *Merkur*. Prompt renewal is appreciated.
- A.G.M.** The Annual General Meeting is usually held around May or June, but October or November in 2010; details of the exact date, time and venue are published in *Merkur*.
- Membership** The society offers membership world-wide, for one- or three-year terms. Further information about joining the society late in its year can be found on the back of the membership application form. The committee reserves the right to refuse membership at their absolute discretion.
- Subscription rates** The current rates are shown on the membership application form.
- Trade discounts** Some retailers may offer members a discount on certain items upon request. Proof of membership is required.

Members' services

Local groups The society has a number of local groups in the UK. There is also a contact group in North America. Local groups exist where we have a sufficient number of interested members living within a reasonable distance of each other. Meetings are organised by the members of the group and cover all interests. Some local groups are forming 'twinning' links with railway/model railway clubs in Germany.

Should you decide to join the society and wish to join a local group, (if one exists in your area); you will be advised of its leader's contact details when you receive your membership pack. If, however, a group does not exist in your area, the situation will be re-examined regularly by the Membership Secretary. If it is possible subsequently to set up a group all the potential members of the new group will be advised. This is subject to one of the potential members being prepared to act as a group leader.

E-mail group	The society has established an E-mail contact group, this is in the form of a closed-user E-group on Yahoo.com. Membership is open only to society members. Normal courtesies are expected and it is a requirement for membership of this group that the information supplied is strictly confidential and must not be used for commercial purposes.
Help service	This is a write-in help service, aimed mainly at our new members. It is intended as a way of quickly answering those small but important early questions.
Library	The Society has a large library of books available for loan to members. This is supplemented by some members' personal collections. Lists are available to members, on request, from the book librarian.
Society products	The society sells an expanding range of products. These include binders for <i>Merkur</i> , DVDs and items for the modeller. They are sold from the society's stand, which attends many exhibitions, or by mail order from the Society Products Officer. Back issues of <i>Merkur</i> may be purchased from the Society Products Officer subject to availability.
Members' Sales	At some exhibitions, etc., Members' Sales has a stand where they sell surplus items of model railway equipment, which are in good condition, on behalf of the members. Owners choose their own selling price (advice is usually available). The society charges a commission of 10% for this service once the item has been sold.

About members' information

The German Railway Society will store your membership information on a database (membership information system), with due regard to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. This information is maintained and managed so as to be accurate and secure, by the elected Membership Secretary. Below is listed how the GRS uses the information.

1. Officers of the society will have access to the membership information system only for the purposes of managing the society and for contacting members about society business.
2. Under no circumstances will a member's information be disclosed to non-members of the society without the member's express written consent.
3. The society will not produce or distribute a list of members' names and/or addresses for distribution to the whole membership without the consent of the membership at an Annual General Meeting and having due regard to the wishes of individual members.
4. The society will supply to Local Group leaders the names and addresses of members who have given their written consent and wish to take part in local group activities. Members who have not consented to this will have their details remain confidential to the appropriate officers of the society. Internet Forum (E-mail contact) members will have their contact information distributed electronically only to members of the said group.
5. The society will also use the membership information system to produce members' address labels so that the quarterly journal, *Merkur*, and other correspondence can be distributed speedily and efficiently.

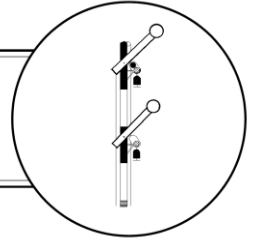
Rules of The German Railway Society

1. All membership subscriptions will be paid by or on 31 March for the following year.
2. The German Railway Society committee will be comprised of the duly elected members currently consisting of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Journal Editor, Exhibitions Officer, Members' Sales Officer and Society Products Officer. Only elected committee members have the right to vote on committee decisions; co-opted committee members have no voting rights but aid the elected committee on specific issues.
3. The Society will hold an Annual General Meeting during each Calendar year, at which Society Officers will present reports to members. The Secretary will ensure that all members are given appropriate advance notice of the AGM. The Treasurer will present before the membership a Statement of Accounts each year, no later than 30 November. The Secretary will also present an Annual Report each year, no later than 30 November.
4. The committee will be empowered to decide all matters not specifically covered by these rules.
5. The German Railway Society will not be held responsible for the actions of individual members.

And finally...

We hope that the information contained within this prospectus has whetted your appetite and that you will join our society. If so, please complete the attached membership application form carefully, remembering to sign it. Return it to our Membership Secretary with the appropriate remittance and retain this sheet as a guide to the society.

THE GERMAN RAILWAY SOCIETY



For Enthusiasts and Modellers of German and Austrian Railways

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Membership number: _____ (For G.R.S. use only)

Please print clearly

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other: _____ Forename: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Postcode: _____

County: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Railway interests

Is your interest in German/Austrian railways: Prototype/Model/Both? _____ Which era(s)? _____

Please state any other railway interests: _____

Do you own an exhibitable model railway? **YES / NO.**

If yes please indicate:

Scale Z/N/TT/H0/H0e/H0m/0/1/G/Other: _____ German/Austrian/Other: _____

Which era does it mainly depict? _____ Would you be interested in exhibiting your layout? **YES / NO**

Contact group interests

I agree to my data being used within the Society for establishing and maintaining contact groups. **YES / NO**

I'm happy to help the Members' Sales Teams occasionally at exhibitions in my area. **YES / NO**

I wish to join the society's e-mail contact group. **YES / NO**

I wish to join a Local Group in my area (if one exists). **YES / NO**

If YES to above, would you be prepared to act as a local group leader if necessary? **YES / NO**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ANNUAL UNITED KINGDOM	£12.75	THREE-YEAR UNITED KINGDOM	£37.25
ANNUAL EUROPEAN UNION	£13.75 or €20.60	THREE-YEAR EUROPEAN UNION	£40.25 or €60.40
ANNUAL OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL	£16.25	THREE-YEAR OVERSEAS SURFACE MAIL	£47.75
AIRMAIL	£18.25	AIRMAIL	£53.75

PRO-RATA RATES - Flat rate for the period 1 January to 31 March UK & EU **£3.00** Overseas **£4.00**
Just add to next year's subscription rate.

Our society year runs from 1 April to 31 March. New members will receive issues of *Merkur* for the year covered by their subscription year, i.e., Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. However, new members joining after 1 January can elect to be charged pro rata for the current year, but will not receive back issues of *Merkur* (unless the full current year's subscription is paid). Memberships received after the publication of the Spring issue of *Merkur* will have their membership made valid for the next full society year unless specified otherwise (i.e.: their first *Merkur* will be the Summer issue). Back issues of *Merkur* may be purchased additionally from our Society Products Officer.

P.T.O.

To:- The German Railway Society

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Eurocard (delete as required) credit card account with the sum of £....., being my subscription to the GRS for 1 or 3 year(s) (delete as required).

I understand that this charge will carry a surcharge of 4% (to be added by the GRS).

Credit card number:

Security number (last 3 digits of the number on signature strip on the reverse of card):

Expiry date:

Name on card (please print):.....

Signature:

Date:

Please accept my application to join The German Railway Society

I enclose my subscription for the year(s) ending 31 March _____

AND (only if you want to join between 1 January and 31 March)

I wish to opt for the additional January to March pro-rata rate to receive the Spring issue of *Merkur*.

YES / NO (please circle)

(Please see 'Subscription rates' for details)

I agree to accept the rules of the Society. I understand that the above information will be stored on a computer database.

For payments in Euros – please make a bank transfer to:

German Railway Society, IBAN GB55 NWBK 6072 0965 0070 85,
Bigswift (BIC) NWBK GB2L at NatWest plc, Spalding Branch

Non-European-Union members' payments can be accepted only by sterling draft or by credit card. Credit card payments carry a 4% surcharge. For subscription rates, see overleaf.

I enclose a cheque/postal/money order or please debit my credit card.
(see top of page for credit card mandate)

for the sum of: £ _____.

Signed _____

Date _____

Notes on completion

- Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The German Railway Society.
- Please ensure that you have completed the declaration regarding Local Groups.
- Please ensure you include your Email address if you want to be enrolled in the Email contact group.
- Please remember to sign your application and to sign the credit card mandate.

Please return this form when completed to the Membership Secretary:

Mr Kevin Patching, 3 Reynolds Street, Elvetham Heath, Fleet, Hampshire. GU51 1LG.

Email: memsec@grs-uk.org