

The Tramcar Sponsorship Organisation (TSO) is a Registered Charity and an unincorporated society governed by a constitution known as the "Rules". It is managed by a committee of six Trustees, elected by the members, that includes the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All principal decisions on what the Organisation should do and how it should spend its money are taken by the members, usually at one of the twice-yearly general meetings or occasionally by referendum. Members receive periodic updates, which keep them informed of all the TSO's activities.

History, Achievements and Objectives

The TSO is essentially a supporting body for the Tramway Museum Society (TMS). It exists to sponsor the acquisition, restoration and repair of tramcars and tramway equipment with a view to their inclusion in the TMS collection. Preference has always been given to those projects that otherwise would be unlikely to be undertaken.



Johannesburg 60

The Organisation was formed in 1961 – a time when the many opportunities to buy tramcars for the National Tramway Museum were rapidly disappearing – and was instrumental in securing several notable tramcars – Glasgow 1115, Blackpool 167, Johannesburg 60 and Gateshead 5 – at this time. It acquired and restored Dundee 21 and meanwhile saved the top covers from two Sheffield short-canopy tramcars and a Hull body to which one of these top covers could be fitted. In the

months leading up to the Blackpool centenary celebrations in 1985 it funded the initial restoration of Blackpool 167 in the first of the Job Creation schemes at Bolton. In 1990, it embarked on one of its biggest projects – the restoration of Sheffield 74 at Crich using the then recently-discovered lower saloon from 74, the top cover from 218 and an ex-Leeds Peckham cantilever truck. This was then followed by the equally comprehensive restoration of Chesterfield 7.



Sheffield 74 and Sheffield 510

TSO members have also sought other tramcar acquisitions. Since the 1960s the TSO has attempted to acquire a semi-convertible tramcar for the TMS collection. One such tramcar, Oporto 273, became available in 1995 and was purchased and taken to Crich. This tramcar was restored with funding from a Lottery grant.

The TSO has funded the restoration of Leeds 345, Cardiff 131, Blackpool 'Boat' 236, Sheffield's Last Tram 510 and most recently Newcastle 102.

Join the TSO to support further restorations

We need new members to help us achieve our objectives and secure the future of the TSO. The organisation would like to be able to fund a continuous programme of restoration. There are many other tramcars waiting to be restored and there are still gaps in the national collection. This would enable tramcars to be restored that otherwise might never be tackled.

Without the support of sponsor bodies like the TSO further restorations would not take place.



Leeds 345 prior to restoration

Most of the TSO's income is derived from regular subscriptions paid by its members, supplemented by one-off donations, usually in response to particular appeals. There is no upper fixed subscription level (subject to a £24 annual minimum – only £2 per month) and members pay as much as they want, usually (but not necessarily) by monthly bank standing order. Most members pay their subscriptions having signed a Gift Aid Declaration, which enables the Organisation to recover income tax paid on their subscriptions and donations.



Leeds 345 restored

To : Brent Higham, Treasurer, TSO, 2 Mayflower Cottages Standish, Wigan, Lancashire, WN1 2UR.

From:.....
.....
.....
.....Postcode.....

1. I would like to make a donation of £.....(in words)
2. I would like to join the TSO and subscribe £.....(in words).....each month
3. I have completed the attached standing order form. Please forward it to my bank/building society.
4. I have completed the attached gift aid declaration form. Please reclaim tax paid on my donations.

STANDING ORDER FORM FOR AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO THE TRAMCAR SPONSORSHIP ORGANISATION

To: (Full Name and Postal Address of your Bank/Building Society)
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.....Postcode.....

Please transfer from my account no.....to the credit of Barclays Bank sort code 20-20-50 account number 80329940 the Tramcar Sponsorship Organisation the sum of £..... (in words.....) each month on theday of each month until further notice commencing.....

From: (Name and full address)
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.....Postcode.....

Signed.....
Dated.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION TO THE TRAMCAR SPONSORSHIP ORGANISATION

I, (Full name, please)
.....
(Address).....
.....
.....Postcode.....

declare that in respect of all donations and/or subscriptions which I have made in the current tax year and all donations or subscriptions that I make hereafter, I wish the Tramcar Sponsorship Organisation to treat as Gift Aid donations and reclaim the tax paid.

Signed.....
Dated.....

Notes:

- i) Please do not sign a Gift Aid Declaration if you do not pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.
- ii) Remember to notify the Charity if you no longer pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax which will be reclaimed on your donations to all Charities and CASCs (currently equal to a total of 25p for each £1 you give). I understand that I need to pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations otherwise it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
- lii) Donors are entitled to notify the Charity of the cancellation of their declaration at any time.

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Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow