

The National Accordion Organisation of the United Kingdom

Registered Charity No. 1051419

CONSTITUTION

1. The NAME of the organisation shall be THE NATIONAL ACCORDION ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. (hereinafter referred to as “the Organisation”)

2. The OBJECT of the Organisation shall be to advance the education of the public in the Arts, and in particular the Art of Music in relation to the Accordion. In furtherance of the object of the Organisation, but not further or otherwise, the Organisation shall have the following powers:

- i) To hold or promote annual Festivals.
- ii) To present and promote public performances, concerts and recitals.
- iii) To affiliate to “The British Federation Festivals”, and to further the charitable objects of the said Federation.
- iv) To do all such lawful things as are necessary to the attainment of the object of the Organisation.

3. The INCOME AND PROPERTY of the organisation shall be applied solely toward the promotion of its objects as set forth in the constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid, or transferred directly or indirectly, to members of the Organisation. Provided nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith by the Organisation to any member of the Executive Committee, Member, Officer, or servant of the Organisation.

a) Of reasonable and proper remuneration for services actually rendered, including reasonable and proper fees and usual charges for any professional services

b) Of reasonable interest on money lent to the Organisation;

c) Of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to the Organisation;

d) Of expenses properly incurred on behalf the Organisation on condition that:

i) No person shall be entitled to vote on a resolution, nor attend any meeting, concerning his/her own appointment to a paid office of the Organisation, or any payment made or to be made to him/her by the organisation.

ii) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution of the Organisation, no resolution relating to the payment of any member of the Executive Committee shall be effective unless it is passed at an Executive Committee meeting at which there is present a quorum which comprises not less than one third of the multiple of three next above the total of those entitled to attend the meeting, and a majority of persons who are not remunerated for services being rendered to the Organisation.

4. ORDINARY (Governing) MEMBERSHIP of the Organisation shall be open to any person who is interested in the object of the Organisation, is 18 years of age or over, and wishes to participate in the running of the Organisation.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP of the Organisation shall be open to any person regardless of age, who is interested in the object of the Organisation. This class of membership has no voting rights.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP of the Organisation shall be open to any person (upto a max of 6) elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Organisation to the position of Honorary President or Honorary Vice Presidents. This class of membership would not pay a subscription, but may participate in the running of the Organisation.

5. The OFFICIALS of the Organisation shall be:

- (i) A Chairperson
- (ii) A Deputy Chairperson
- (iii) A Secretary, or Honorary Secretary
- (iv) An Honorary Treasurer

6. The OFFICIALS of the Organisation shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation, from Ordinary Members of the Organisation. The Closing date for any nomination shall be 28 days before the Annual General Meeting, and a list of nominees with be circulated to all Ordinary Members, together with a Curriculum Vitae offered by each nominee.

7. The ROUTINE MANAGEMENT of the Organisation shall be vested in the Executive Committee, and the final authority of the Organisation in all matters shall be the Ordinary membership, which shall meet at least twice a year.

8. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consist of the Officials of the Organisation, and six Ordinary Members, at be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The provisions herein before set out in the relation to nominations for Officials shall apply to the six other members of the Executive Committee.

9. ALL THE POWERS of the Organisation shall be vested in the Executive Committee, save in so far as the same are hereby expressly required to be exercised by the Organisation in General Meeting, and save that the Executive Committee shall not be empowered to wind up the Organisation, but such winding up can be decided upon only by a General Meeting of the Organisation's Ordinary Membership.

10. (i) ALL MONEYS belonging to the Organisation shall be paid into such Bank as may be specified by the Executive Committee, to the account of the Organisation.

(ii) ALL CHEQUES drawn on the account of the Organisation shall be signed by two Officials of the Organisation.

(iii) The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS for the various classes of membership shall be determined from time to time by the Ordinary Member, and shall be payable in advance.

11. The PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS of the Organisation (other than money at the Bank) shall be held in the name of the Organisation by the Chairperson, Secretary, or Honorary Treasurer for the time being.

12. (I) the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be held in the months of April or May in every year, and at such meeting the Officials of the Organisation and the Executive Committee shall retire, but shall be eligible for re-election save that the consecutive period of office for the Chairperson is limited to a maximum of three years, though he or she shall become eligible for re-election after one year out of office.

(ii) The Annual General Meeting shall be convened by the Secretary by not Less than 21 days notice in writing given to Ordinary Members.

(iii) At the Annual General Meeting, a full account, duly audited, of all receipts expenditure and property of the Organisation, together with a balance sheet for the year ended 31st August previous to the meeting shall be presented by the Executive Committee. At such meeting, the Auditors for the ensuing year shall be appointed, and the Officials and Committee shall be elected.

(iv) An EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING shall be convened by the Secretary upon request by the Executive Committee, or by any thirty Ordinary Members, upon not less than fourteen days notice of such meeting being given to every Ordinary Member, which shall state the business to be conducted at the meeting.

(v) Any twenty Ordinary Members, or 25% of the total number of Ordinary Members, whichever is the less, personally present, shall be a quorum at any General Meeting. Any Ordinary Member who is unable to attend a meeting may (in writing) appoint a proxy to represent him at the meeting, and the proxy shall have the power to vote on behalf of the member he represents in accordance with any written instructions received from that member.

(vi) At every General Meeting, the chair shall be taken by the Chairperson of the Organisation, or in his absence by the Deputy Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, a Chairperson shall be elected by the members present.

(vii) The VOTING at a General Meeting shall be by show of hands, but the Chairperson or any three Ordinary Members may demand a poll, which shall be immediately taken and the result thereof declared by the Chairperson. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

13. At a General Meeting every member shall, subject as hereinafter provided have one vote. Provided that he/she is duly shown on the Register of Members, shall have paid every subscription and any sum (if any) which shall be due and payable to the Organisation in respect of his/her membership.

14. (i) The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall meet as often as circumstances demand.

(ii) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the Secretary of the Organisation by giving at least seven days notice to each member of the Executive Committee, or such other shorter notice as the Chairperson of the Organisation may decide.

(iii) Any four members of the Executive Committee personally present shall form a quorum.

(iv) The provision hereinbefore set out in relation to voting, and the taking of the chair at General Meetings shall apply to meetings of the Executive Committee.

(v) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies on the Committee from Ordinary Members of the Organisation and to co-opt persons as members of the Executive Committee. Co-opted persons need not be Ordinary Members of the Organisation.

15. A RESOLUTION TO WIND UP the affairs of the Organisation may only be moved at a General Meeting convened for the purpose. Such resolution will become effective only if 75% of Ordinary Members attending the meeting vote in favour. If upon winding up, or dissolution of the Organisation, there remains any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to, or distributed among the Members of the Organisation, but shall be given to, or transferred to, the British Federation of Festivals for its general charitable purposes, or some other institution or institutions having object similar to the object of the Organisation, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its, or their, income and property among its, or their, members.

16. Subject as hereinafter provided, the Constitution of the Organisation as set out in this schedule may be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution at any General Meeting, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it be passed by majority of at least two thirds of the ordinary members present at the meeting and entitled the vote. Provided that no amendment shall be made to the OBJECT clause 2, the DISSOLUTION clause 15, and THIS clause, and provided also that no amendment shall be made that would cause the Organisation to cease to be a Charity in law.

The National Accordion Organisation of the United Kingdom

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