

Constitution of The Exmouth Choral Society

The following are Rules setting out the Constitution of the Exmouth Choral Society (as last amended at the AGM of 25th September 2023):

1. THE CHOIR

1.1 The Choir shall be known as The Exmouth Choral Society.

1.2 It shall be non-political and non-sectarian.

2. OBJECT

The object of the Society shall be the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance.

3. OFFICERS

The officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer.

4. COMMITTEE

4.1 The management of the Society shall be conducted by a "Committee" consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and three other elected members.

4.2 There shall be an honorary President who may attend committee meetings

4.3 The committee shall engage the services of a Musical Director who shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee who may attend all meetings of the committee except when his/her position is being discussed.

4.4 The Officers and the other members of the committee shall be elected by the majority of the members voting by ballot, if necessary, at the Annual General Meeting which shall be held within *20 weeks* of the end of the financial year or at a properly called Special General Meeting and shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Three weeks' notice in writing shall be given of the meeting. Nominations for office shall close one week before the meeting, the consent of the nominees having been first obtained. The Officers and members of the committee shall not normally hold office for more than four years. However, this may be extended by ballot of the members at an AGM to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities

4.5 The Committee may from time to time, for a specific requirement or on resignation of a committee member, co-opt another choir member to the Committee to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. The Committee may elect sub-committees for specific purposes.

4.6 The Committee shall normally meet every two months or at other times when business warrants. A quorum shall be formed by 3 members of the Committee including any two of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

4.7 Other than the choice of soloists and orchestral players, which shall be at the sole discretion of the Musical Director subject to financial control by the committee, all arrangements for the concerts and other events shall be in the hands of the Committee.

4.8 In furtherance of the object of the society but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the power to buy, take on lease or in exchange or hire any property necessary for the achievement of the object and equip it for use.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 A member shall be a person who is approved for membership by the Musical Director.

5.2 Prospective members shall be auditioned by the Musical Director at his discretion.

5.3 Former members wishing to re-join shall make application to the secretary and may be required to take a further voice test.

5.4 Members of the Society shall pay an annual subscription at such rates as shall be determined by the Committee. All subscriptions being payable by due date stated by the Committee. Membership may be terminated by the Committee for non-payment of subscription.

5.5 Members are normally expected to attend 75% of the rehearsals in order to participate in concerts.

5.6 For good and sufficient reason any member may be required to re-audition, and/or the membership of any individual may be terminated, by the decision of the Committee PROVIDED that the individual shall have the right to be heard by the Committee before the decision is final.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The financial year shall terminate on 31st May. The financial position shall be reviewed regularly by the Committee.

6.2 The books of account shall be subject to independent examination between the end of the Society's financial year and the date of the Annual General Meeting.

6.3 The Independent Examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

6.4 Suitable bank accounts shall be maintained in the name of the Society and operated under the signatures of any two of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.

6.5 Reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by any member of the Committee or of the Society on the authorised business of the Society will be reimbursed at the discretion of the Committee.

6.6 An allowance shall be made for the Musical Director and the Accompanist.

7. MUSIC

The choice of music and programme selection for concerts shall be in the hands of the Musical Director and shall be brought to the Committee for discussion and approval or otherwise.

8. GENERAL

8.1 A Special General Meeting may be called with 14 days' notice, at the request of at least 25% of the members or at the request of the Committee.

8.2 The rules of the Society shall only be altered at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting duly called; no alteration shall be made to the rules that would cause the Society at any time to cease to be a charity at law and no alteration shall be made to rule 2, Rule 8.3 or this rule without the prior written approval of the Charity Commission.

8.3 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains any property whatsoever, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the same shall not be distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to some Charitable Institution or Institutions to be determined by the members of the Society at or before the time of dissolution and in so far as effect cannot be given to such provision then to some charitable object connected with the performance of music.

9. A copy of these rules shall be given to each member of the Society.

25 September 2023

One change made at the 2023 AGM:

(i) *"That sections 4.4 of the Constitution be amended by changing the period for the AGM to be held from 8 weeks to 20 weeks after the financial year end.."*

Approval was proposed by Val Lambirth, seconded by Jean Quinn and carried nem con.