

# **RYTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

## **CONSTITUTION**

(As amended at a Special General Meeting, 17th November 2009)

### **NAME**

The name of the Society shall be Ryton Choral Society.

### **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society shall be to educate the public in the arts and sciences, and in particular the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

### **AREA OF BENEFIT**

The area of benefit will be Ryton and surrounding area.

### **POWERS**

To further the objects, Ryton Choral Society has the power to:

- Recruit volunteers and employ and pay staff
- Work in partnership with other organisations
- Invest funds in any lawful way. Professional advice will be taken when necessary
- Raise funds by any lawful means except permanent trading
- Accept gifts either for the general purposes of Ryton Choral Society or for a specific purpose within or connected to the objects
- Do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the objects

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The members of the Society shall be those persons who support the aims of the Society and pay the annual subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the committee. The committee shall have the power, for good and sufficient reason, to terminate membership where this is clearly in the interests of the Society, provided that the member shall have the right to be heard before a decision is made by the committee.

### **PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS and LIFE MEMBERS**

There shall be a President and a number of Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members, such number to be at the discretion of the executive committee.

### **OFFICERS and COMMITTEE**

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer and between four and eight other members (inclusive); the officers and the other committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. The conductor and deputy conductor shall be ex-officio committee members. The Executive Committee may co-opt members to the committee at its discretion. At committee meetings five shall form a quorum.

### **MANAGEMENT**

The management of the affairs of the Society, including control of finance, appointment of the conductor, deputy conductor and accompanist, shall be in the hands of the committee.

## **FINANCE**

All funds belonging to or raised for Ryton Choral Society must be used in furthering the objects. The treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and shall present examined accounts at the AGM.

An independent examiner, who is not a member of the Society, shall be appointed to examine the accounts.

There shall be one or more bank or building society accounts in the name of the group. Cheques must be signed by two committee members, who must not be related.

Committee members may claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses on terms approved by the committee. No other payment can be made to members of the committee.

The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees and tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events may be offered for sale to the public.

## **GENERAL MEETING**

Within ten weeks of the end of each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least 21 days' notice shall be given.

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

A Special General Meeting shall be held:

- at the request of the Executive Committee,
- at the request, in writing, to the Secretary of at least ten members of the Society. Seven days' notice of such a Special General Meeting shall be given to the members.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided also that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to have charitable aims.

## **DISSOLUTION**

Ryton Choral Society can only be dissolved at a general meeting. The secretary must give 21 days' notice of the meeting to all the members, along with details of the proposed dissolution. For the group to be dissolved over half the members present at the meeting must agree.

If the members agree that the group should be dissolved, any assets remaining after the clearing of all debts and liabilities shall be given to any group with similar objects, or, if this cannot be done, to any charitable purpose.