

Stamford Bridge Singers

Constitution

1. Title - The name of the Society shall be STAMFORD BRIDGE SINGERS hereinafter referred to as the Society.

2. Objects - The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) to provide a forum for members to sing together and enjoy the companionship and support of other members;
- b) to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts;
- c) to support the tradition and performance of church music through participation in religious services;
- d) to support other charitable bodies through fund-raising and non-fund-raising performances on behalf of such charitable bodies as shall be decided on by the Committee.

3. Membership

- a) Membership shall be open to those who show ability to contribute to the musical standards expected by the Musical Director, whose judgement regarding eligibility shall be final.
- b) The members of the Society shall be those who pay the annual subscriptions at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee, all subscriptions being payable in advance.
- c) Members shall comply with the Rules from time to time laid down by the Committee.

4. Officers and Committee

- a) The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the following Officers: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and not more than eight other members. No member shall be elected to the Committee under the age of 18.
- b) All elected members of the Committee will also be the Trustees, with the responsibilities as laid down by the Charities Commission.
- c) The Secretary, Treasurer and the other Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting. They shall hold the office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and be eligible for re-election. Any vacancy arising during the year may be filled by the Committee, such person to be eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. Other members of the choir may be co-opted at the request of the Committee to fulfil specific, temporary functions. The Chairperson will be elected by members of the Committee at the first Committee meeting following the AGM.
- d) The Musical Director shall be a member of the Committee "ex officio" with the same powers and voting rights as the other Committee members.
- e) In addition to the members of the Committee, one or more member(s) under the age of 18 years will be eligible to work alongside members of the Committee and play a full part in Committee discussions, but such members will not be eligible to vote at Committee meetings.
- f) One Committee meeting will be held each half-term.

5. Management – All the arrangements for concerts, services and other events and control of finance shall be in the hands of the Committee.

6. Powers – In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) To raise funds and to invite contributions provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
- b) To buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use.
- c) To employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects.
- d) To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- e) To establish or support any charitable trusts, association or institutions formed for all or any of the objects.
- f) To appoint and constitute such advisory sub-committees as the Committee may think fit. Proposals from a sub-committee will be reported back to the full Committee in due course.
- g) To terminate the membership of any individual, provided that the decision of the Committee (with the exception of (1) the individual concerned if he / she is a member of the Committee and (2) any member of the Committee making or connected with the complaint against the individual) is unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being good reason for it, and provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made.
- h) To do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

7. Equal Opportunities – No individual shall be excluded from the membership of the Society or be de-barred from any official capacity on the Committee on the grounds of gender, race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation.

8. Finance

- a) The financial year shall end on 31st March
- b) A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society and the cheques shall be signed by any two of the Treasurer and either of two nominated signatories from the committee.
- c) The Society shall receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. Tickets for any or all of its concerts and other events shall be offered for sale to the public.
- d) The income and property of the Society, from whatever source derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member or members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

9. Dissolution – In the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon dissolution after the payment of proper debts and liabilities and the pro rata refund of unused subscription payments, shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions of the Committee's choosing.

10. Annual General Meeting – Within three months of the end of each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing shall be given. All members are entitled to attend the Annual General

meeting, but only those members aged 18 or over will be entitled to vote. Parents of members aged under 18 shall be invited to attend the AGM.

11. Extraordinary General Meeting – An Extraordinary General Meeting of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing must be given to members may be called for by the Committee or upon written request to the Secretary signed by at least five members of the Society.

12. Quorum - For any meeting of the Committee, at least six Committee members must be present to provide a quorum, including either the Secretary or the Treasurer either of whom may stand as Chairperson if necessary, and decisions must be supported by a majority of those present. In the event of a split vote, the Chairperson's vote will decide. For any full meeting, the quorum shall be more than 50% of members aged 18 or over including either the Secretary or the Treasurer. In the event of a split vote, the Chairperson's vote will decide.

13. Accounts – The financial accounts shall be audited or examined to the extent required by legislation or, if there is no such requirement, scrutinised by a person who is independent of the Committee and then submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

14. Amendments – The constitution may be amended by the two-thirds majority of the members present at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.