

# **RULES OF THE HASLEMERE PLAYERS**

**Registered Charity No. 1172917**

**Company No 10433813 Limited by Guarantee**

The Haslemere Players is governed by its Articles of Association. Within those Articles the directors have the authority to establish different classes of membership. The Haslemere Players has two Classes of Membership:

- a) Ordinary Members of the Society (who are not Members of the charitable company)
- b) Subscribing Members (who are both Members of the charitable company and Ordinary Members of the Society)

The Subscribing Members will consist of the Life Members of the Society and the elected Management Committee.

## **1. INTERPRETATION**

In these Rules:

the "Society" means the charity regulated by these rules

the "Managing Committee" are the Trustees of the charity

the "Committee" means the "Managing Committee"

the "Trustees" are the Directors of the Company (and "Trustee" has a corresponding meaning)

"Patrons" are individuals who have given financial or other support to the Society

## **2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society are to educate the public in the dramatic and operatic arts and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts, and in furtherance of these objects but not otherwise the Society through its Managing Committee shall have the following powers:

- a) To promote plays, drama, comedies, operas, operettas and other dramatic and operatic works of educational value.
- b) To purchase, acquire and obtain interests in the copyright of or the right to perform or show any such dramatic or operatic works.
- c) To purchase or otherwise acquire plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, fittings, scenery and all other necessary effects.
- d) To do all such other things as shall further the objects of the Society.

## **4. MEMBERS**

Ordinary membership shall be open to all those over the age of sixteen years who have sympathy with the objects of the society and desire actively to further them and to pay the annual subscription prescribed by the Managing Committee. Patrons are also ordinary members of the Society.

At the Annual General Meeting the ordinary members will elect a Managing Committee who will become Subscribing Members of the Company (and will be both the Directors and Trustees). All Life Members will become Subscribing Members if they so wish (but they will not be not Trustees unless they are on the Management Committee).

5 **MANAGING COMMITTEE**

The Managing Committee of the Society shall consist of President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and up to seven other members of the Society.

6 **APPLICATION FOR ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP**

Applications for acting and non-acting membership shall be made to the Treasurer, either in writing accompanied by the relevant membership fee or by paying the current membership fee and auditioning for a part in a current production. All applications for membership will be submitted by the Treasurer to the Committee for its decision.

Temporary membership may, upon the invitation of the Committee, be offered to any person whose services are required for a particular production.

7 **CAPABILITIES OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Prior to election all candidates for acting membership may be required to satisfy the Committee as to their dramatic and/or musical ability.

9 **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

i) Annual

a) Acting and non-acting members

The annual subscription to the Society shall be such amount as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. The first subscription shall be payable on notification of acceptance as a member. Subsequent annual subscriptions shall become due for payment immediately following the Annual General Meeting and in any event not later than 30th September.

b) Patrons

Any person may be a Patron member of the Society on the payment of such annual subscription as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

ii) Performance

All Acting and Temporary members shall pay an additional Performance subscription of such amount as the Committee may from time to time decide. Such subscription shall be payable not later than one month following the selection of the cast.

10 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The first meeting of the Managing Committee shall be as soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting. All subsequent meetings shall be called by the Secretary as decided by the Committee or when so requested by notice in writing to the Chairman signed by any six of its members.

The Committee, at its first meeting, shall elect from among its members a Vice Chairman to stand in for the Chairman on any occasion that he/she is not available. The Committee shall also delegate Members to represent the Society on any outside body that it feels necessary.

Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

11 **COMMITTEE'S POWERS**

The Committee shall have power to:

a) Co-opt up to two additional members as may be necessary (who will not become Subscribing Members)

b) Appoint such sub-committees as may be required and to delegate to such committees such powers as it thinks fit

- c) Select works to be performed by the Society for the calendar year subsequent to its term of office
- d) Select the Director and Musical Director for such works
- e) Decide any question arising out these Rules and all other matters connected with the Society (other than and except those which can only be dealt with by the Society in General Meeting) and make and maintain and publish all necessary orders, regulations and bye-laws in connection therewith.

**12 SELECTION OF THE CAST**

The principals and chorus for any production shall be selected by an audition committee consisting of the Director, Musical Director and three other people selected by the Committee. The decision of the majority of such members shall be final except where the Director and Musical Director are in agreement when their decision shall prevail.

**13 CONTROL OF REHEARSALS**

The Musical Director shall conduct and control all music rehearsals and the Director shall control all stage rehearsals.

**14 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year of the Society shall commence on the 1st May and an annual profit and loss account and balance sheet shall be prepared within two months after 30th April in each year.

**15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within four months of the year-end when the report of the Committee and the accounts for the past year, duly audited, shall be presented. The officers, other members of the Committee, an Auditor for the ensuing year and Life Members (as recommended by the Committee) shall be elected and all general business transacted.

**16 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time at the discretion of the Committee and shall be called within twenty-one days after receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing to that effect signed by at least twenty acting or non-acting members. Every such requisition shall specify the business for which the meeting is to be convened and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.

**17 GENERAL MEETING**

No business other than the formal adjournment of the Meeting shall be transacted unless a quorum of not less than twenty Members (of whom at least seven must be Subscribing Members) in person or by proxy are present and entitled to vote. Unless otherwise provided by these Rules all resolutions brought forward at a General Meeting shall be decided by a majority vote. In the case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting (or during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present) the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the Trustees shall determine. The Trustees must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting. If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present in person or by proxy at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

18 **FORM OF MEETINGS**

A meeting of the Trustees or Members may be held either in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Trustees in which all participants may communicate with all the other participants.

19 **RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

The Committee (including Officers) and Auditor shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. The names of willing candidates for the posts of President, Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Auditor and seven other members of the Committee duly proposed and seconded, shall be sent to the Secretary in writing and shall be accepted by the Secretary up to the start of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of more names being proposed than the number required to fill the vacancies the election may be by ballot.

If any of the aforementioned positions shall not be filled at such Meeting or any casual vacancy occur, it may be filled by the remaining members of the Committee.

20 **NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING**

A notice of every General Meeting shall be sent to each member at least twenty-one days prior to the date of the Meeting. The Statement of Accounts for the past year, the particulars of nominations for the Committee (including the Officers and Auditors) and any proposal for the election of Life Members shall be sent to each member at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.

These rules were approved the Annual General Meeting on 20th June 2017. Rules 15, 18 and 20 were revised at the AGM on 19th August 2020.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hamish Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Hamish Donaldson  
President