

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OUR CONSTITUTION

## EXPLANATORY PAPER

[1] The Committee wishes to align the Society's membership and financial years. This will require amendments to our Constitution.

[2] Our Constitution presently provides that our financial year coincides with the calendar year, whereas our membership years runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June in the following year. This necessitates an apportionment of the members subscription received. The approach taken by our auditor can be seen, for example, at Note 1 to the 2023 Accounts-

<b>1. Membership Subscriptions</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>Brought forward from previous year</i>	6,000	9,275
<i>Membership subscriptions this year</i>	14,650	10,300
<i>Carried forward to next year</i>	<u>(7,899)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>
	12,751	13,575

[3] The present lack of synchronisation creates a lag. In early 2023 to help stem a deficit which was in danger of becoming a regular feature, together with other measures your Committee decided to increase the level of membership subscriptions. In the 2023 calendar year the Society received a total of £14,650 in membership subscriptions but because of the apportionment only £12,751 is shown as received in the Income & Expenditure Account which continued to show a deficit. If the full amount received had been shown there would either have been no, or a much smaller deficit.

[4] This proposal has been discussed with our auditor, who prepares the accounts, and he is in favour commenting that it would make preparation of the accounts easier and the accounts themselves far easier to understand.

[5] Synchronising the two periods would-

- make apportionment unnecessary,
- end the problem of the lag; and
- present a clearer, and easier to understand, picture of the Society's financial position.

[6] Paragraph 12 of our Constitution provides-

"These Rules may be amended by agreement with TAS followed by a written resolution of which due notice has been given in accordance with Rule 9a and 9d passed at a general meeting by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting."

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, The Arts Society gave its formal approval to the amendments.

[7] Accordingly, we invite your approval of the following resolution to be considered at the Society's AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

**It is proposed by Sheila Lister (Chair) and seconded by Kevin Barnett (Treasurer) that-**

**(1) Paragraph 7(c) of the Society's Constitution which is presently "*The society's financial year shall end on 31st December in every year*" be amended to read-**

**"With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025, the Society's financial year will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July and end on 30<sup>th</sup> June of the next following year."**

**(2) The words "*for the avoidance of doubt the membership year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> July until 30<sup>th</sup> June of the next following year*" be added at the end of paragraph 8(a) of the Constitution so that it becomes-**

**"The subscription for ordinary members of the society shall be such a sum as may be determined by the committee from time to time. The first payment shall be due on election to membership and due annually on 30<sup>th</sup> June each year, for the avoidance of doubt the membership year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> July until 30<sup>th</sup> June of the next following year."**

Your Committee firmly believes that the resolution, if passed, would be to the benefit of the Society: it will, for example, make financial planning a lot simpler, but more importantly, you will have a far clearer picture of the Society's financial position.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer Kevin Barnett by email to: [tandktas@icloud.com](mailto:tandktas@icloud.com)

The Committee

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024