

Constitution - Belfast Argentine Tango Society

1. Name.

The name of the society shall be the "Belfast Argentine Tango Society", hereafter referred to as the "Society".

2. Objectives.

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- To promote all forms of Argentine Tango
- To work with teachers and others promoting Argentine Tango
- To organise social and promotional events associated with the practice of Argentine Tango
- To raise funds for the Society, but only for the furtherance of the above objectives and/or for charity causes.

3. Officers.

The Society shall elect three Officer posts from the membership at each Annual General Meeting:

- Chairperson – who will conduct meetings and be responsible for the day to day running of the Society, or may delegate any such activities to any other Officer or General Committee Member of the Society. The Chair may be a shared post, between two members.
- Honorary Secretary – who will keep proper minutes of all meetings of the Society and manage all correspondence of the Society.
- Honorary Treasurer – who will manage all monies in the Society's name and keep a proper book of accounts of all the Society's financial transactions.

There is no restriction to the re-election of Officers in consecutive years.

4. General Committee Members.

The Society shall elect between two and seven General Committee Members from the membership at each Annual General Meeting. The General Committee may at any time co-opt further Committee Members from the membership, subject to the maximum limit of seven General Committee Members. There is no restriction to the re-election of Committee members in consecutive years.

5. General Committee.

The General Committee comprises the Officers and General Committee Members (elected or co-opted) of the Society. It shall meet monthly and be subject to a quorum of five, of which at least two must be Officers of the Society.

6. Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in May of each year. All members will receive at least 14 days notice of the date and location of the meeting, which will include an Agenda of Business. The Agenda items will include, as a minimum, an annual report from both the Chairperson and Honorary Treasurer, and the election of Officers and General Committee Members. A statement of accounts of the Society's transactions and balances for the previous April to March financial year shall also be issued to all members at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Elections and any other votes will be on a simple majority basis. Only members present and eligible to vote may do so. Nominees for all posts must be members and be individually proposed and seconded by bona fide members.

7. Special General Meeting.

Any member may request the Honorary Secretary to call a Special General Meeting, as long as the request is supported and signed by five additional members (or, if less, by one third of the membership). The request must state the issue(s) to be discussed and the precise wording of any resolution(s) being proposed. Within ten days of receipt of a valid request, the Honorary Secretary must notify all members of the date, location and Agenda of the Special General Meeting, giving at least 14 days notice. Only those matters specified in the formal request(s) may be raised at the meeting. The meeting will be subject to a quorum of twenty or, if less, of one-third of the membership. Any resolution voted upon must be passed by at least two-thirds of those members present and entitled to vote.

8. Membership.

Membership shall be open to all who wish to support the objectives of the Society, but applicants must be at least 18 years old. The Society will not discriminate against an applicant for membership on any illegal or unfair basis. The General Committee shall set membership categories and subscriptions. Any member who does not pay their subscription by the date specified by the Committee shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society. The General Committee may revoke/refuse membership to any individual whose membership is deemed contrary to the objectives of the Society or whose behaviour is inappropriate. Any such individual may appeal such a decision by calling a Special General Meeting in the manner prescribed, whereupon those members present and eligible to vote will hear the appeal. No member (including Officers and General Committee Members) may use the Society's name for any purpose, (including but not limited to, entering into financial agreements), that has not been agreed to by the General Committee.

9. Abuse Reporting.

The General Committee shall appoint and make known to the members, at least one male and female person to act as confidential contact points for any member who needs to report any form of physical, psychological or other form of abuse during or as a consequence of any Society event. The General Committee shall investigate any such claim in a confidential manner. They may, or if required, will, involve any relevant law enforcement agencies.

10. Data Protection.

The General Committee shall ensure that any personal information of its members, gathered and held by the Society, is only used for the purposes of the Society and not divulged to outside parties, unless consented to by each individual concerned.

11. Funds.

The Society shall operate as a not for personal profit organisation. However it may accumulate and hold such funds as it considers prudent to ensure the stable operation of the Society. No funds acquired by the Society shall be used for the benefit of any individual or group of individuals, members or non-members, other than on a fair and reasonable basis for services purchased by the Society in support of the objectives of the Society.

12. Dissolution.

The Society will only be dissolved upon the passing, by at least two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote, of a resolution to do so at a Special General Meeting legitimately called for this purpose. After settling any debts and liabilities, any surplus funds must be donated to a registered charity.

13. Constitution.

This Constitution may only be amended at a Special General Meeting legitimately called for this purpose. The Agenda for this meeting must detail the proposed change(s) and which, if any, will be voted on separately. Any vote on changes to the Constitution must be passed by two thirds of the members present and eligible to vote.