

Constitution of The Lions Brass 4 Youth

Adopted on 6th September 2024

PART 1

1. Adoption of the constitution

The association and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions in Parts 1 and 2 of this constitution.

2. Name

The Charity's name is The Lions Brass 4 Youth (and in this document it is called the charity or Band).

3. Objects

The charity's objects are:

- (1) To advance the education of young people (aged up to 21) and the general public in the art of brass band music, in particular within the Southwest of the UK, by the provision of the necessary facilities, equipment and training and public performances of a range of works;
- (2) To further such charitable purposes (charitable under English law) as the trustees see fit from time to time.

4. Application of income and property

- (1) The income and property of the charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
 - (a) A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the charity, in line with the charity's financial policy.
 - (b) A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (2) None of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the charity. (see para 8 for member definition)

5. Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No charity trustee or connected person may:

- (a) buy or receive any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
 - (b) sell goods, services or any interest in land to the charity;
 - (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;
 - (d) receive any other financial benefit from the charity unless the payment is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission ('the Commission'). In this clause, a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.
- (2) Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits

- (a) A charity trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- (b) A charity trustee or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 185 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a charity trustee or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the charity by the charity trustee or connected person.
- (d) A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (e) A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the charity. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The charity trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
- (f) A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.

(3) Payment for supply of goods only - controls

The charity and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause 2(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the charity and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods ('the supplier') under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity.
- (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- (c) The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a charity trustee or connected person. In reaching that decision the charity trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a charity trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the charity.
- (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of charity trustees is present at the meeting.
- (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.
- (g) A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 5.

(4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

- (a) 'the charity' includes any company in which the charity:
 - (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
 - (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
 - (iii) has the right to appoint one or more trustees to the board of the company.
- (b) 'connected person' includes any person within the definition set out in clause 34 (Interpretation).

6. Dissolution

- (1) If the members resolve to dissolve the charity the trustees will remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the charity in accordance with this clause.
- (2) The trustees must collect in all the assets of the charity and, from these assets, must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the charity.
- (3) The trustees must apply any remaining property or money:
 - (a) directly for the objects;
 - (b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes the same as or similar to the charity;
 - (c) in such other manner as the Charity Commission for England and Wales ('the Commission') may approve in writing in advance.
- (4) The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the charity specifying the manner in which the trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the charity and the trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraphs (a) - (c) inclusive in sub-clause (3) above.
- (5) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity.
- (6) The trustees must notify the Commission promptly that the charity has been dissolved. If the trustees are obliged to send the charity's accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Commission the charity's final accounts.

7. Amendment of constitution

- (1) The charity may amend any provision contained in Part 1 of this constitution provided that:
 - (a) no amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law;
 - (b) no amendment may be made to alter the objects if the change would undermine or work against the previous objects of the charity;
 - (c) no amendment may be made to clause 3 (Objects), 4 (Application of income and property), clause 5 (Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons), clause 6 (Dissolution) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commission;
 - (d) any resolution to amend a provision of Part 1 of this constitution is passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a trustee meeting.
- (2) Any provision contained in Part 2 of this constitution may be amended, provided that any such amendment is made by resolution passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting at a trustee meeting.
- (3) A copy of any resolution amending this constitution shall be sent to the Commission within twenty one days of it being passed.

Part 2

8. Membership

- (1) The members of the Charity shall be its charity trustees. The only persons eligible to be members of the Charity are its charity trustees. Membership of the Charity cannot be transferred to anyone else.
- (2) Any member and charity trustee who ceases to be a charity trustee automatically ceases to be a member of the Charity.

9. Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

- (1) The charity trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members, the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members. This could include individuals or organisations which could support the charity.
- (2) Other references in this constitution to “members” and “membership” do not apply to non-voting members, and non-voting members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

10. Termination of membership

Membership is terminated if:

- (1) the member dies;
- (2) the member resigns by written notice to the charity unless, after the resignation, there would be fewer than two members.
- (3) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the trustees that it is in the best interests of the charity that his or her membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:
 - (a) the member has been given at least twenty one days’ notice in writing of the meeting of the trustees at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
 - (b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member’s representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

11. Officers and trustees

- (1) The Charity and its property shall be managed and administered by a body of charity trustees and non-trustee members in attendance, collectively called the Management Committee comprising of:

Trustees:

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Band Manager
Any other trustees appointed from time to time

- (2) Non-trustees – in attendance. A number of other people or organisations may be invited by the trustees to attend the Management Committee, which may include;
 - Librarian
 - Musical Director
 - Operations manager
 - Publicity manager
 - Representative of organisations, such as the Lion’s club, which support the charity
- (3) The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Band Manager are also officers of the Charity and appointed to those roles.
- (4) Committee members should be members of the local community, known to the Charity, sympathetic to the aims of the Band, with appropriate management experience, knowledge and skills, and with the ability to commit the time necessary to manage a youth band and fully understand their responsibilities as a charity trustee.
- (5) Non-trustee members of the Management Committee will not have a vote on areas of business which are reserved for trustees under charity law.
- (6) At the discretion of the chair, or the Committee, any non-trustee member must be excluded from discussions and/or from the receipt of information where the chair or the Committee does not consider that it is in the interests of the Charity for them to be present and/or to receive that information.
- (7) The committee may co-opt at their formal meetings additional Committee members to act between trustee meetings. Provided that the total number of co-opted committee members at any one time does not exceed one third of total number of committee members at any one time.
- (8) Committee members, however appointed, are individually and collectively responsible for the general management and administration of the Charity and for all its financial, legal, regulatory and charity aspects. In conducting its business, the Committee are required to act in accordance with English law and to have regard to any regulations and guidance issued by the Charity Commission. Key responsibilities of the Committee are detailed in the Committee’s Terms of Reference.
- (9) The trustees alone retain responsibility for the management of those areas defined in Charity Law as specific responsibilities for trustees.
- (10) The Committee should seek to obtain the correct mix of skills and have a clear succession strategy for all Committee members including the chairmanship.
- (11) The committee shall meet at least three times a year.
- (12) Four members of the Committee shall form a quorum, which must include a minimum of three trustees.
- (13) Vacancies on the Committee occurring during the year may be filled at the discretion of the Committee or held until the next trustee meeting.

12. Appointment of trustees

- (1) The number of trustees shall be not less than three but (unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the charity in trustee meeting) shall not be subject to any maximum.
- (2) The charity in a trustee meeting shall elect the officers and the other trustees.
- (3) The trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee. Subject to sub-clause 5(b) of this clause, they may also appoint trustees to act as officers.
- (4) Only persons entitled to act as a charity trustee under charity law may be appointed.
- (5) Trustees should be appointed for a term of four years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. Each of the trustees shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the next trustee meeting after his or her term of office, but shall be eligible for re-election at that trustee meeting.
- (6) No-one may be elected a trustee at any trustee meeting unless prior to the meeting the charity is given a notice that:
 - (a) is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;

- (b) states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a trustee or as an officer;
 - (c) is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.
- (7) The trustees may not appoint a person to be an officer if a person has already been elected or appointed to that office and has not vacated the office.
- (8) A trustee may not appoint anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the trustees.

13. Powers of trustees

- (1) The trustees must manage the business of the charity and have the following powers in order to further the objects (but not for any other purpose):
- (a) to raise funds. In doing so, the trustees must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
 - (b) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
 - (c) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the trustees must comply as appropriate with sections 117 - 122 of the Charities Act 2011;
 - (d) to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed. The trustees must comply as appropriate with sections 124 - 126 of the Charities Act 2011, if they intend to mortgage land;
 - (e) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
 - (f) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the objects, subject to a majority vote at a trustees meeting.
 - (g) to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity formed for any of the objects;
 - (h) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
 - (i) to obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity;
 - (j) to open and operate such bank and other accounts as the trustees consider necessary and to invest funds and to delegate the management of funds in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;
 - (k) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.
- (2) No alteration of this constitution or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the trustees.
- (3) Any meeting of trustees at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the trustees.

14. Disqualification and removal of trustees

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

- (1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 and 179 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- (2) ceases to be a member of the charity;
- (3) in the written opinion, given to the charity, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a trustee and may remain so for more than three months;

- (4) resigns as a trustee by notice to the charity (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
- (5) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of twelve consecutive months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.

15. Proceedings of trustees

- (1) The trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of this constitution.
- (2) Any trustee may call a meeting of the trustees.
- (3) The secretary must call a meeting of the trustees if requested to do so by a trustee.
- (4) Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes.
- (5) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (6) No decision may be made by a meeting of the trustees unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made.
- (7) The quorum shall be three or the number nearest to one-third of the total number of trustees, whichever is the greater or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the trustees.
- (8) A trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that trustee is not entitled to vote.
- (9) If the number of trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing trustees or trustee may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a trustee meeting.
- (10) The person elected as the Chair shall chair meetings of the trustees.
- (11) If the Chair is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
- (12) The person appointed to chair meetings of the trustees shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by this constitution or delegated to him or her in writing by the trustees.
- (13) A resolution in writing signed by all the trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting of trustees or of a committee of trustees and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of trustees duly convened and held.
- (14) The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form each signed by one or more trustees.

16. Notice

- (1) The minimum period of notice required to hold any trustee meeting of the charity is seven clear days from the date on which the notice is deemed to have been given.
- (2) A meeting may be called by shorter notice, if it is so agreed by all the trustees entitled to attend and vote.
- (3) The notice must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted.
- (4) The notice must be given to all the trustees.

17. Adjournments

- (1) The trustees present at a meeting may resolve that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- (2) The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date time and place at which meeting is to be re-convened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- (3) No business shall be conducted at an adjourned meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- (4) If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the trustees for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given of the re-convened meeting stating the date time and place of the meeting.

18. Participation in meetings by electronic means

- (1) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
- (2) Any charity trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.
- (3) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

19. Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties

A charity trustee must:

- (1) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not been previously declared; and
- (2) absent himself or herself from any discussions of the charity trustees in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).

Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

20. Saving provisions

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the charity trustees, or of a committee of the charity trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a charity trustee:
 - (a) who is disqualified from holding office;
 - (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by this constitution to vacate office;
 - (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;if, without the vote of that charity trustee and that charity trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the charity trustees at a quorate meeting.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a charity trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees if, but for sub-clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 19 (Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties).

21. Delegation

- (1) The trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more trustees but the terms of any such delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
- (2) The trustees may delegate powers to spend funds on behalf of the charity to the Band Manager, subject to limits set by the trustees at a trustee meeting.
- (3) The trustees may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
 - (a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee or person to whom they delegate;
 - (b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the trustees.
- (4) The trustees may revoke or alter a delegation.
- (5) All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the trustees.

22. Irregularities in proceedings

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a trustee:
 - (a) who was disqualified from holding office;
 - (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
 - (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;if, without:
 - (d) the vote of that trustee; and
 - (e) that trustee being counted in the quorum,

the decision has been made by a majority of the trustees at a quorate meeting.

- (2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the trustees or of a committee of trustees if the resolution would otherwise have been void.
- (3) No resolution or act of
 - (a) the trustees
 - (b) any committee of the trusteesshall be invalidated by reason of the failure to give notice to any trustee or member or by reason of any procedural defect in the meeting unless it is shown that the failure or defect has materially prejudiced a member or the beneficiaries of the charity.

23. Minutes

The trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers and trustees made by the trustees;
- (2) proceedings at meetings of the charity;
- (3) meetings of the trustees and committees of trustees including:
 - (a) the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
 - (b) the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - (c) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

24. Accounts, Annual Report, Annual Return

- (1) The trustees must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 with regard to:
 - (a) the keeping of accounting records for the charity;
 - (b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the charity;
 - (c) the transmission of the statements of account to the Commission;
 - (d) the preparation of an Annual Report and its transmission to the Commission;
 - (e) the preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.

- (2) Accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Commission, unless the trustees are required to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions of such a Statement prepared by another body.

25. Registered particulars

The trustees must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

26. Property

- (1) The trustees must ensure the title to:
 - (a) all land held by or in trust for the charity that is not vested in the Official Custodian of Charities; and
 - (b) all investments held by or on behalf of the charity, is vested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee or in not less than three individuals appointed by them as holding trustees.
- (2) The terms of the appointment of any holding trustees must provide that they may act only in accordance with lawful directions of the trustees and that if they do so they will not be liable for the acts and defaults of the trustees or of the members of the charity.
- (3) The trustees may remove the holding trustees at any time.

27. Repair and insurance

The trustees must keep in repair and insure to their full value against fire and other usual risks all the buildings of the charity (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant). They must also insure suitably in respect of public liability and employer's liability.

28. Notices

- (1) Any notice required by this constitution to be given to or by any person must be:
 - (a) in writing; or
 - (b) given using electronic communications.
- (2) The charity may give any notice to a member either:
 - (a) personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
 - (c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or
 - (d) by giving it using electronic communications to the member's address.
- (3) A member who does not register an address with the charity or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the charity.
- (4) A member present in person at any meeting of the charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

- (5) (a) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- (b) Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- (c) A notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of an electronic communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

29. Rules

- (1) The trustees may from time to time make rules or bye-laws for the conduct of their business.
- (2) The bye-laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
 - (a) the admission of associate members of the charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and if appropriate the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
 - (b) the keeping and authenticating of records. (If regulations made under this clause permit records of the charity to be kept in electronic form and requires a trustee to sign the record, the regulations must specify a method of recording the signature that enables it to be properly authenticated.)
 - (c) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the rules of an unincorporated association.
- (3) The charity in a trustee meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye-laws.
- (4) The trustees must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye-laws to the notice of members of the charity.
- (5) The rules or bye-laws shall be binding on all members or non-members appointed to specific posts of the charity. No rule or bye-law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this constitution.

30. Disputes

If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

31. Interpretation

In this constitution 'connected person' means:

- (1) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the trustee;
- (2) the spouse or civil partner of the trustee or of any person falling within sub-clause (1) above;
- (3) a person carrying on business in partnership with the trustee or with any person falling within sub-clause (1) or (2) above;
- (4) an institution which is controlled -
 - (a) by the trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or
 - (b) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (4)(a), when taken together
- (5) a body corporate in which -
- (6) the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or
- (7) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (5)(a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.
- (8) Sections 350 - 352 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this clause.