

BLARNEY BRASS AND REED BAND CONSTITUTION

Name: The name of the band shall be The Blarney Brass and Reed Band

Objectives: To practice and perform music which conforms with the aspirations of the members of the band or with the musical briefs undertaken by the band and which is within the performing capabilities of the band.

Members: There shall be three categories of members in the band.

- (a) Junior Members: Junior members shall be those members who have not attained the age of 14 years on the date of the most recent annual general meeting.
- (b) Non-playing members: These shall be those members who do not play a musical instrument with the band.
- (c) Playing members: shall be those members other than members who fall into the category of junior members and who play a musical instrument in the band. It will be band policy that each member shall be given fair and equitable treatment.

Entry to Membership: A person becomes a member by being proposed subsequently approved by the committee.

New members shall be deemed to be non-playing until the conductor confirms their adequacy as musicians for the needs of the band.

Termination of membership: A person ceases to become a member by (a) resigning or (b) failing to comply with the requirements in relation to paying of subscription or (c) by removal. If a member has been found in breach of any rules of the band or has acted in a manner detrimental to the interest of the band, that member may be removed from the membership list by a minimum of two-thirds majority vote of the committee at a meeting where at least three committee members will have voted in favour of the removal. This removal shall only be valid provided that the committee has previously given the opportunity to the member to give explanation in relation to the offence for which the member is being removed from the membership list. That removal may be set aside by resolution of an annual meeting of the band or a special members meeting. A special meeting may set aside such a removal only if the appropriate resolution is (a) submitted in writing at least one week before the meeting and (b) the written notification is signed by at least 20% of the current membership of the band who are entitled to vote.

Membership Fees: The membership fees shall be determined each year by the annual general meeting. They shall be payable each year by the annual general meeting. They shall be payable (a) in one annual instalment within three months of the annual general meeting, (b) periodic instalments over the year following the annual general meeting. At the end of each month the cumulative amount paid shall be at least $x/12$ ths of the annual subscription where x represents the number of the months since the date of the annual general meeting.

Payment option (a) only shall apply to non-playing members. Where payment of the membership fee creates acute difficulty for a member, the committee may waive all or part of the fee.

Requirements of members: All members shall be required to (a) comply with all reasonable requests made of them by the committee or the band conductor. (b) Wear the appropriate band uniform on the occasions requested by the committee. (c) treat with care and be responsible for any instruments, sheet music or other band property which comes under use by them. (d) attend an average of (i) 75% of all band and sectional practices and (ii) an average of 75% of all band performances. Members with special difficulties may be granted a reduced commitment with the agreement of the committee who will consult with the conductor on the question.

Management of the band: The band shall be managed by a committee elected from the members other than junior members at an annual general meeting of the members. The committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 7 members. Regardless of the maximum limit of 7 the committee may co-opt up to two additional members in any one year. For the purpose of reaching decisions each members of the committee shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Committee Meetings: The committee shall convene for at least three formal meetings during term of office: one meeting one month after AGM; one meeting one month before AGM; and one meeting which is flexible.

Powers of the committee: The committee shall have power to make decisions and arrangements necessary for the day to day management of the band including the creation of special purpose sub-committees. Decisions which have a fundamental bearing on the band policy shall be referred to a members meeting.

Officerships: The membership of the committee shall include the following officerships:

Chairperson: who shall (a) be responsible for the orderly conduct of the committee and members meetings and (b) in general act as spokesperson in regard to decisions reached by the committee.

Vice-chairperson: who shall act as chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

Secretary: who shall be responsible (a) for taking minutes of the meetings and (b) in general dealing with incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Treasurer: who shall be responsible for (a) the receipt and custody of funds, and (b) the making of payments as approved by the committee.

Public Relations Officer: who shall be responsible for (a) promotion of all band events and fundraising activities (b) To Actively strive to enhance the public image of the band.

Rotation of Officers The following time limits shall apply to any one tenure of office:

- (a) Chairperson and Vice-chairperson – 2 years
- (b) Secretary and Treasurer - 5 years

Members Meetings: These shall consist of an annual general meeting held approximately once per year or a special members meeting convened at the request of the committee or in accordance with the procedure laid down in the section relating to the termination of membership.

The members' annual general meeting shall deal with

- (a) minutes of the previous meetings
- (b) secretary's report for the year
- (c) Treasurer's report
- (d) Other reports
- (e) Election of officers and committee members
- (f) Other business

All members shall be entitled to attend and vote. In event of a tie, the chairperson shall have a casting vote in regard to the motion in question.

Election of Committee members:

The procedure shall be as follows:

Elections shall take place in the following order:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Secretary
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Vice-Chairperson
- (e) PRO
- (f) Quartermaster / librarian
- (g) Other committee members

When it is necessary to have a vote this shall be by secret ballot simple majority.

Where a tie arises the outcome shall be decided by the placing names in a hat.

Two members who are not in the contest shall be appointed by the meeting to supervise the voting. In giving the result they will convey the names of the successful candidate without giving the exact count of the vote.

The management committee at any one time shall have a representation of at least three playing members. The election process shall take account of this.

Not more than one member of any family shall be represented on the management committee at any one time. For the purpose of this rule, family shall be defined as parents and children under 18 years of age. Nominations for the various positions on the committee shall be handed in a sealed envelope to the secretary by any member entitled to vote prior to or at the meeting. The proposer's name is not required. The nominee's consent must be obtained beforehand. A committee member must have reached the age of 16 years on or before the date of the election or co-option.

Conductor: The conductor shall be appointed or removed from office by the committee. The same appeal procedure shall be open to the conductor as to any other member in regard to termination of office.

Youth Educational Officer/Junior Band Conductor: The Youth Education officer/Junior band conductor shall be appointed or removed from office by the committee. The same appeal procedure shall be open to the Youth Educational Officer/ Junior Band Conductor as to any other member in regard to termination of office.

The Conductor shall be given a musical brief by the committee as outlined in the objectives of the band. Once the brief is defined and agreed as attainable the Conductor shall have full discretion and power as to the implementation of the brief in the event of it not being technically attainable.

Youth Educational Officer or Junior Band Conductor shall be given a musical brief by the committee as outlined in the objectives of the band. Once the brief is defined and agreed as attainable the Conductor shall have full discretion and power as to the implementation of the brief in the event of it not being technically attainable.

During musical performances and rehearsals the Conductor or Junior Band Conductor shall be in sole control of the band and shall make whatever reasonable arrangements that are appropriate in connection with the performances. If necessary the Conductor or Junior Band Conductor may request a member or junior member to change position within his or her section, to desist from playing or to withdraw from a performance or may refer the conduct of any member to the committee for consideration.

Members/Junior members or their parents/guardians shall be entitled to discuss any matter affecting their role as musical performers with the Conductor/Junior Conductor or Youth Educational Officer. If aggrieved they refer to the committee provided that they have firstly put the dissatisfaction before the Conductor/Junior Band Conductor or Youth Educational Officer.

Amendment of Constitution: This constitution may be amended at a members' meeting by resolution of a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present who are entitled to vote.