# CONSTITUTION AND RULES FOR

# THE ARTS SOCIETY’S MEMBER SOCIETIES

1. **Name**

The Society shall be called The Arts Society Arun.

1. **Objects**

As a Member of The Arts Society the Society shall have as its objects the promotion and advancement of the aesthetic education, the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts and the giving of aid to the preservation and development of the national artistic heritage.

1. **Powers**

For the pursuit and fulfilment of the Society’s objects the powers shall include any or all of the following:

1. The arrangement of lectures for Members of the Society.
2. The arrangement of study groups, tours and visits to private houses, museums, exhibitions and other places of interest for Members of the Society.
3. The arrangement of related activities in the local community for the furtherance and appreciation of the decorative and fine arts for fulfilment of the Societies objectives.
4. The arrangement of voluntary preservation and recording work by its Members in relation to the decorative and fine arts.
5. To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property or premises including halls or lecture rooms and any rights, privileges or interests which the Society may think necessary for the promotion of its objects.
6. To subscribe, donate or guarantee money for any purpose connected with and calculated to advance the objects of the Society.
7. By raising and utilising funds for the furtherance of the objectives but without the power to pledge the personal liability of any Member for the repayment of any sums borrowed.
8. **Membership**
9. The Society shall have Ordinary Members and may have Honorary Members if the Committee so decides.
10. The Committee shall decide on the number and admission of Ordinary Members.
11. Persons on the waiting list will be admitted to Membership in strict order of the date of application. Priority may be given to Members from another Society who move into the locality at the discretion of the Committee
12. The Committee may elect Honorary Members who are distinguished in the decorative and fine arts or who have done valuable work for the Society. An Honorary Member may attend all meetings and events of the Society in the same manner as an Ordinary Member but shall not be liable to pay a subscription nor be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Society. An Honorary Member who at the time of election as such was an Ordinary Member may elect to remain an Ordinary Member and, in the event, shall continue to be liable to pay a subscription and be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Society.
13. **The Officers**
14. The Officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary all of whom shall be nominated annually by the Committee for election at the Annual General Meeting. ***The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman*** ***shall not normally*** hold office for more than three consecutive years. The Treasurer and the Secretary shall not normally hold office for more than three years but the Committee may extend this ***as necessary*** to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.
15. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at all General meetings and Committee meetings of the Society. If neither of these is present the Members present shall choose one of their number to preside. The decision of the Chairman of the meeting upon any question of order, voting, adjournment of the meeting or interpretation of the rules of the Society shall be final. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of equality of votes on any matter under consideration by the Society. The Chairman shall attend all The Arts Society General Meetings, Area and National Meetings or appoint a deputy to attend.
16. Honorary Officers. The Committee may appoint Honorary Officers who shall be Patron and/or President and up to two Vice Presidents for a nominated period. These appointments shall be for a period of five years and may be renewed for a further term but no Honorary Officer shall ***normally*** hold that office for more than ten years in total. An Honorary Officer shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Ordinary Members except the right to vote at General Meetings.
17. **The Committee**
18. The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Society and administer its funds.
19. The Committee shall consist of not more than 12 Members including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary ***excepting where there are shared roles.***
20. Any Member of the Society may propose or second Members for election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be given to the Secretary not less than thirty-five days before the Annual General Meeting. Committee Members shall retire each year but be eligible for re-election.
21. Committee ***Members should not normally*** serve more than six years unless elected as an Officer, ***or at the discretion of the Committee***.
22. The Committee may appoint subcommittees for such purposes as it thinks fit, to handle matters of interest to the Society within guidelines of the Committee.
23. The Committee may make byelaws regulating the conduct of meetings, attendance of visitors, charges for visitors and otherwise for the regulation of the Society’s affairs.
24. The Committee shall meet as required and not less than four times each year. A Quorum shall consist of over one half of the number of the elected Members of the Committee.
25. The Committee may authorise reimbursement of expenditure on behalf of the Society. The funds of the Society will be paid into current, deposit or investment accounts in the name of the Society with such banks, building societies or investment institutions as the Committee shall agree. Not less than two Officers or signatories authorised by the Committee shall sign cheques and other instruments provided always that one of the two persons signing cheques or other instruments shall be the Chairman or Treasurer.
26. Payment for outings, study days or other events will be due at the time of booking and will not normally be refundable.
27. **Financial Year**
28. The Society’s financial year shall end on 31st December in every year.
29. An independent examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and duly examine the balance sheets with an account of the income and expenditure for the preceding year and this shall be submitted at each Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall appoint the first examiner.
30. **Subscription**
31. The subscription for 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 by 31st October in every year.
32. A Member whose subscription is not paid in full within fourteen days of the due date shall thereupon cease to be entitled to rights and privileges of Membership but may, at the discretion of the Committee, be reinstated on prompt payment of all arrears.
33. ***Membership subscriptions are non-refundable.***
34. **Annual General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by Committee. Written notice shall be given at least twenty-one days before the meeting. The quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be 25% of the Membership.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. i) To receive the examined accounts of the Society.

ii) To receive the Chairman’s report on the activities of the past year.

iii) To elect Officers and Committee of the Society.

iv) To elect a financial examiner of the accounts of the Society.

v) To consider any items of special business including Members’ resolutions proposed.

vi) To transact any other business with the permission of the Chairman.

1. The election of Officers and of the Committee shall be by a show of hands unless there are more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, in which case the relevant election shall be by ballot of those present at the meeting.
2. The quorum for such a meeting to be 25% of the Membership.
3. An extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at the request of the Committee or of at least twenty Members of the Society. Resolutions to be considered must be given in writing to the Secretary who will give all Members not less than twenty-one days written notice of the meeting and the resolutions to be tabled. The Quorum for such a meeting to be 25% of the membership.
4. **Members’ Resolutions**

Any Member desirous of moving any resolution shall give notice in writing thereof to the Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting. Any such resolution shall have been duly seconded and shall be set forth in the Agenda with the name of the proposer and seconder. Save with the consent of the Committee a resolution that does not comply with the foregoing may not be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

1. **Members’ Addresses and Data Protection Act**
2. Members shall notify any change of address to the Membership Secretary.
3. Where the names and addresses of Members are held in a computer, Members must consent to the disclosure of such information to The Arts Society or to other societies affiliated to The Arts Society or the Society or for any other purpose of the Society or Association which may be deemed necessary by the Committee.
4. **Amendment of Rules**

These Rules may be amended by a written resolution passed at a General Meeting by at least two thirds of the Members present voting.

1. **Expulsion from the Society**

If the conduct or action of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious to or inconsistent with the character, objects, or interests of the Society, the Committee may request in writing such a Member to resign, but only after granting the Member a hearing before it. Any Member so requested who does not resign within one month from the date of such a written request shall be liable to expulsion from the Society.

1. **Winding Up the Society**

If a resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and carried at a General Meeting (at which a representative of the The Arts Society Trustee Board is present) by at least two thirds of those present so much of the assets shall be realised as may be necessary to discharge liabilities of the Society and all the remaining assets shall be made over to such one or more charitable institutions or other associations having charitable status similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide.

1. **Withdrawal from the Association**
2. According to the Constitution and Rules of The Arts Society, six months previous written notice must be given to The Arts Society before a Member Society withdraws from the Society.
3. On withdrawal or termination of Membership by The Arts Society, the Society shall cease to be entitled to the use of the The Arts Society name and shall cease to be called The Arts Society Arun. The Society shall return to The Arts Society all confidential documentation issued by The Arts Society.
4. **Interpretation**

In these Rules where the context admits the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. The decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation of these Rules shall be final and binding on all Members and guests of the Society. AGM OCT 2023