



## Rules

### 1. **Title and Object**

The Society shall be called the "Douglas Choral Union" and its object is the production by amateurs of Operatic and Dramatic Works.

### 2. **Subscription**

The annual subscription amount is payable to the Treasurer within 4 weeks of the commencement of rehearsals.

### 3. **Officers and Committee**

The Society shall be governed by:

- 3.1 a Chairman who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting;
- 3.2 a Treasurer who shall be elected for a three year term; together with
- 3.3 a committee of six members to be elected for three years, two of whom shall retire annually.

The Chairman and Treasurer (the "Officers") and committee, four of whom shall form a quorum, shall have the power to fill vacancies and to co-opt members. Officers and committee on retirement are eligible for re-election.

Any member of the committee who is subsequently appointed to an officially paid position in the Society must relinquish their seat on committee and this person should not return to the committee after the production but the co-opted member(s) should retain the seat until the Annual General Meeting.

It is further recommended that eligibility for membership to Committee should be members who have served two years membership within the Society.

### 4. **Membership**

- 4.1 Any person who wishes to join the society should express their interest through a member of the committee with payment of their annual subs. Any person wishing to be a performing member will first be required to undertake an audition for that forthcoming production. All auditionees will be expected to pay an audition fee which is non-refundable but will be deducted against their annual membership fee due. If a performing member chooses to withdraw from the production after their subscription has been paid they will still remain a member of the society until the following AGM at which they will be eligible to vote.

Annual Fees will be those fees agreed at the last Annual General Meeting

- 4.2 Non-playing Member status will be granted to all persons in receipt of an honorarium for the AGM immediately following the production for which the honorarium was given

**5. President**

The Committee shall have the power to elect a President to run for a term of three years who may when requested to do so act as an advisory body in conjunction with them. The retiring President would not be eligible for immediate re-election for a consecutive term but would be eligible for re-election in the future.

**6. Financial Year**

The Financial year of the Society shall commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April and run to the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the Financial Statement of the Accounts must be presented to the committee no later than thirteen weeks after the last performance of production.

**7. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than thirteen weeks after the conclusion of the production at such time and place as the Committee may decide when an Audited Financial Statement of Accounts must be presented and a notice convening such meeting together with any business to be transacted there from shall be forwarded to the membership at least seven days prior to such meeting. Members being permitted to vote by written and signed proxy vote which should be submitted to the Chairman 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Note: Proxy Vote - Members of the society may delegate their voting power to other members to vote in their absence.

**8. Business of Annual General Meeting**

No resolution except such as may directly arise out of the transaction of ordinary business of the meeting (as provided by these Rules) shall be put at the Annual General Meeting unless due notice in writing thereof, together with a copy of such proposed resolution shall have been given to the Committee at least fourteen days prior to such meeting.

**9. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting**

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting may be called at the discretion of the committee or on the requisition in writing of any twenty members of the Society stating the object of such meeting. Fourteen days notice of all such meetings shall be given to the Committee and Seven days notice to members of the Society.

**10. Casting Vote**

At any meeting the votes being equal, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

**11. Selection and Casting of Production**

Selection of a production shall be made by the Committee. All parts of the selected production will be thrown open for competition to any member desirous of taking part.

The cast is to be selected by the Director with the Chairman and the Musical Director sitting in an advisory non-voting capacity.

The auditions are to take place at the commencement of the Director's first visit or sooner if that is practical. If after the first audition there is no suitable candidate for any part, the Director, advised by the Committee, is free to offer the part to any suitable person, giving preference to members of the Society.

The Director's decision to be final and binding with no reference back to the Committee unless guidance or advice is needed or where finance would be involved (e.g. bringing in a professional or a semi-professional)

**12. Videos re auditions**

This will be allowed provided that the following conditions are adhered to:

a) Filmed and provided by a Committee member and a member of the auditioning panel

- b) For Directors use only
- c) One attempt only as would be on an audition day

**13. Attendance of Members**

No member shall take part in any production who has not in the opinion of the Committee attended sufficient rehearsals from the first practice to a date at last six weeks prior to production.

The register shall be taken at each rehearsal by the Librarian or deputy appointed by him/her.

**14. Grievance**

Any member having a grievance must send written notice to the Chairman who will place the matter before the Committee as soon as conveniently possible.

**15. Property**

All property belonging to the Society must be returned in the time specified to the Official responsible for custody of same or the cost thereof will be debited against the holder.

**16. Alteration of Rules**

No alteration, amendment or addition to these rules shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose. Fourteen days notice shall be given to the committee and 33% of the Society (including proxy votes) will constitute a quorum.

**17. Expulsion**

The Committee shall have the power upon good cause shown to expel any member of the Society.

**18. Dissolution**

The Society shall not be dissolved so long as there are twenty five members desirous that it should continue. But in case of dissolution the affairs of the Society shall be wound up by a duly appointed liquidator and the surplus devoted to insular charities.

**19. Life Membership**

After twenty years of Service within the Society, a member will be duly honoured with Life Membership. The Committee may also, at its discretion, bestow Life Membership upon any member who it feels has made a significant contribution to the Society.

**20. Committee Powers**

The Committee shall have the power to act in any contingency no/and provided for in the rules. It shall also be empowered to engage a Director, Musical Director, Accompanist and Dance Captain at such remuneration as the Committee from time to time decide. Other officers may be appointed as required.

**21. The Rules of Douglas Choral Union will be available on the website**