



1. The Society shall be called 'The Coleshill Operatic Society'.
2. The objects of the Society shall be to foster the knowledge and appreciation of Operatic and Dramatic Art by all means which may be considered appropriate and in particular, by:
 - 2.1. The production and performance of operas and other musical works under expert tuition.
 - 2.2. The organisation of collective visits to Operatic and Musical productions.
3. The Officers of the Society shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year term of office. They will form a Committee consisting of a Chairman (who shall be ex-officio chairman of that Committee, in which capacity he shall have a second or casting vote), a Vice-chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and five other members. All such Officers and Committee Members will have the power to vote on all issues.
4. A President will be invited by the Committee to serve for a period of two years.
5. The Musical Director and Producer will be appointed annually and will carry full voting rights.
6. The Committee shall be directly responsible for the good conduct and well being of the society as laid down by these rules and shall be empowered to co-opt members or appoint Sub-Committees as may be required. Such members will not carry voting rights.
7. The Committee is empowered to suspend any member who is deemed to have violated the rules of the Society. An appeal against such suspension can be made to the Committee through the Chairman until such times as an EGM may be called to determine the outcome.
8. The Society shall be asked to submit in writing any number of shows for consideration by the Committee, who shall submit a shortlist to the Society before making a final choice, taking into account costs of production, staging and possibilities of casting. The reasons for such choice will be outlined to the general members.
- 9a. The funds of the Society shall be administered by the Committee for the benefit of the Society and other causes as the Committee thinks fit.

9b. Each financial year, at the Committee's discretion, a sum of money will be transferred to the Coleshill Operatic Society Benevolent Fund.

10a. Full membership of the Society shall be open to any person over the age of 16 years, subject to the approval of the Committee and to due payment of the current membership subscription. Full-time students will only be required to pay half of the current subscription. Applications for membership shall be made on the appropriate printed form which must be sent to the Secretary.

10b. Life membership shall carry full voting rights. No subscriptions shall be payable.

10c. Honorary membership shall be at the discretion of the Committee and shall not carry voting rights. It will be for a period of one year and no subscriptions shall be payable.

10d. Associate membership is open to anyone, subject to the approval of the Committee and payment of half the current subscription. Such Associate Members shall not carry voting rights.

11. All members taking part in productions shall make at least 75% attendance at rehearsals, absence through illness or bad travelling conditions being excused. Any member absent from rehearsals and/or production of a show shall be deemed to have resigned, unless a reason can be given for their absence to satisfy the Committee. Such members wishing to rejoin shall make a fresh application on the required form.

12. Each member, upon joining the Society, shall be supplied with a copy of these rules, signed and dated by the Secretary in office at the time.

13. Subscriptions shall be paid by the 1st January.

14. The Committee shall be authorized to cast the principal parts for each work after audition, any member wishing to take a part being at liberty to apply to the Secretary in writing. Such intimation will be considered by the Committee.

15. The financial year shall commence on 1st September and end on 31st August.

16. Each year the Treasurer's account shall be audited by some competent person who is not a member of the Society and the audited account shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

17. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary (two signatures) shall be empowered to sign cheques on behalf of the Society, one of which must be the Treasurer.

18. Members of the Society shall not receive payment, either directly or indirectly, for their service or for other than legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

19. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the remaining funds, together with any proceeds from the sale of remaining assets, shall be donated to a nominated charity or institution as the Committee directs.

20. The Standing Orders of the Society shall be:

a. A quorum at the Annual General Meeting shall be 50% members.

b. A quorum for Committee or Sub-Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.

- c. Voting on all issues, either General or Committee shall be a simple majority of the members present when the voting takes place.
- d. Full members only are entitled to vote on all matters.
- e. Musical Director and Producer will be considered as full members for voting purposes.

21. Any alteration of these rules shall only be made at a General Meeting and not unless 21 days' prior notice of the proposed alteration has been given to the Secretary, who shall give 14 days' notice to the members. Resolutions embodying such proposed alterations shall be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the votes recorded at **the meeting.**