



## **Constitution & Rules**

As last amended at a General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

1. The Society shall be called the Thurso and District Dramatic Society ("The Thurso Players" for the sake of brevity and identity).
2. The objects of the Society shall be:
  - a) To provide a means of social, moral and intellectual development through the medium of Dramatic Art to the inhabitants of Thurso and District in the Caithness District without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions \* subject to the provisions of these presents.
  - b) To use the talents of its members both collectively and individually and the resources of the Society for the benefit and betterment of community life and the assistance of other charitable organisations in Thurso and District and for no other purpose.
3. There shall be three classes of membership:
  - a) Full member,
  - b) Junior member, defined as someone in full-time education and under the age of eighteen.
  - c) Associate member, defined as someone who wishes to support the Society but wishes to play no active part in its activities.
4. All members of the Society shall contribute an annual subscription as determined by clause 14 hereof which shall be held in trust solely for the purposes of clause 2. In the event of a member leaving the district or resigning from the Society no part of the subscription is refundable.
5. Every full member of the Society undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Society in the event of the same being wound up whilst being a member, or within one year afterwards, for payment of debts and liabilities of the Society contracted before the time at which membership ceases, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up the same, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributaries amongst themselves such amount as may be required not exceeding five pounds.
6. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any assets whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members but shall be given to or transferred to a recognised charitable body or bodies, having objects similar to the objects of this Society or as near thereto as circumstances will permit or towards such other charitable purposes or objects for the benefit of the inhabitants of Thurso and District as maybe approved by the Secretary of State for Scotland.
7. The governing body of the Society shall be the general meeting of its members, which shall elect a Hon President, Hon Vice President, and a Committee of Management (hereafter called "the Committee") with plenary powers comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and five other members. The Committee shall have powers to co-opt additional members.

8. a) The general management and control of the Society's trust subjects and the arrangements for their use shall be vested in the Committee. The Hon President, the Hon Vice Presidents and members of the Committee shall be elected at the annual general meeting and shall serve for one year. The Hon President, President and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.  
  
b) Nominations for these positions should be submitted, in the prescribed written form, so as to be in the hands of the Secretary at least seven clear days in advance of any General Meeting of the Society. All nominations will be published in advance of said meeting.
9. The Committee shall meet at the discretion of the Chairman and Secretary. Any three Members of the Committee may instruct the Secretary to call a Committee Meeting for the discussion of a specific point by giving two days notice in writing.
10. The Committee may instruct the Secretary to call a General Meeting at its discretion. Any five members of the Society may instruct the Secretary to call a General Meeting for the discussion of a particular point by giving one weeks notice in writing.
11. A General Meeting shall not be deemed a General Meeting unless at least five ordinary members, in addition to the Committee members, are present. A Committee Meeting shall not be deemed a Committee Meeting unless at least four members are present.
12. The Hon Secretary shall, in all cases, give all members concerned adequate notice of the holding of a meeting.
13. There shall be an Annual General Meeting to be convened by the Committee in the month of May in each year by two weeks notice being affixed to some conspicuous place or places in Thurso and District. Those entitled to attend shall be the inhabitants of the age of eighteen years and upwards of either sex in the said Thurso and District. The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee, and to elect members under clause 7 hereof.
14. Annual subscriptions of all members of the Society shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.
15. The Society's Financial Year shall commence on the first day of April in each year.
16. A member shall be deemed a member only provided that his or her subscription is current. The annual subscription is due on a member's joining the Society and on every anniversary of joining. The Committee may remove from the roll of members, any member whose subscription remains unpaid 30 days after its renewal date.

17. No member of the Society shall use the Society's name in any connection without the consent of the Committee.
  
18. No alteration or amendment shall be made to the Constitution without notice of motion given to the Secretary in writing and the matter decided at a General Meeting. The motion shall be deemed to have been carried if there is a two-thirds majority.
  
19. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects and members will not receive any payment, either directly or indirectly except for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in carrying out the work of the Society.