



CONSTITUTION OF

THE DUBLIN ARGENTINE TANGO SOCIETY

2015

The Name of the Society

The name of the society is formally The Dublin Argentine Tango Society, or in acronym - DATS. The use of the name "Dublin Tango" is also used as a trademark name, business name, and a title or component in other forms of communication and for other uses. In the rest of this Constitution the Dublin Argentine Tango Society is referred to as *the Society*. **This clause may not be amended or deleted, but shall remain a permanent part of this Constitution.**

Aims of the Society

The aim of the Society is to promote and develop Argentine Tango in Dublin. The Society seeks to do this by means of supporting and organising classes, workshops, salons and milongas; by raising awareness through regular communication to members, and through the organisation of events and activities relating to Argentine Tango and the culture out of which it arises. **This clause may not be amended or deleted, but shall remain a permanent part of this Constitution.**

Status of the Society

The Society is a non-profit making unincorporated voluntary body. The full control and ownership of the Society is vested jointly and equally in all the members of the Society, gathered in general meeting. This right may not be changed or curtailed in any way, or for any reason. **This clause may not be amended or deleted, but shall remain a permanent part of this Constitution.**

Constitution

This Constitution is the primary governing legislation of the Society. It takes precedence over any other bye-laws, regulations, rulings or decisions of the Society or its members, of whatever sort. With the exception of the initial, un-numbered, clauses which are designated as permanent and which may not be amended, the remaining clauses of the Constitution may be amended by resolution, passed by the members, at a general meetings of the Society. Such resolutions shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and

entitled to vote, to be carried. **This clause may not be amended or deleted, but shall remain a permanent part of this Constitution.**

Bye-Laws

1. Rules regarding detailed procedures at general meetings, committee procedure, financial management, or any other such matters as may need regulation from time to time, shall be set out in bye-laws and these bye-laws shall be subject to the provisions of the Constitution. In case of conflict, the provisions of the Constitution shall take precedent. Bye-laws should follow good management practice and fair procedures. Bye-laws may be amended by each Committee as it sees fit, but if any modifications are made, the bye-laws, as a whole, must be submitted, by way of motion, to a vote of an AGM for adoption, before the changes come into force. Such motions shall be carried, if supported by a simple majority of the members present and entitled to vote.

Membership

2. Membership is open to anyone interested in Argentine Tango, and who is in agreement with the aims of the Society, as set out in clause 2 above. Membership is gained upon payment of the relevant subscription as deemed appropriate, from time to time, by the Committee.
3. The above Membership clause may only be repealed or amended by a direct resolution, specifically repealing or amending that clause, carried by the members in general meeting by at least a two thirds majority of the members present. Any executive action, motion or constitutional amendment, with the exception of the provisions contained in clauses 39 to 43 on disbandment, which purports to change the membership requirements or infringes the membership clause in any way, without the prior authorisation of such a direct motion, shall be null and void.
4. Membership of the Society shall not be taken as accepting any responsibility for any debts, liabilities or penalties which the Society may incur and members of the Society, either individually or collectively shall have no liability for such matters.
5. A member may terminate his/her membership at any time by submitting a written note of resignation to the Honorary Secretary. Membership will cease on receipt of the note of resignation.
6. The Society does not tolerate bullying.
7. The membership of any member may be terminated, by the Society, on the basis of serious wrong-doing, duly and fairly investigated and verified. It may only be effected by a motion laid before the members in general meeting and duly debated, voted upon and passed. Any member so expelled may not apply at any time for reinstatement or renewal of membership. This exceptional procedure may only be exercised in very serious cases such as fraud, criminal activity, contravention of the provisions of this constitution while holding office in the Society, bullying, or suchlike behaviour.

Committee

8. The Committee shall be responsible for the general management of the Society and its activities.
9. All committee decisions or policy must be in conformity with the Constitution.
10. The Committee shall consist of a maximum of 10 committee members and a minimum of 5 committee members.
11. Nominees for election to the committee shall have been members of the Dublin Argentine Tango Society for a period of not less than one year and their nomination must be supported by two members who have also been members of the Society for a period of not less than one year.
12. The Committee shall serve for one annual term of office, i.e. from one AGM to the next .
13. Subject to election, committee members, may serve up to three consecutive annual terms on the Committee. On completion of the third annual term, the committee member must stand down for one full term. Committee member may continue serving on the basis of 3 terms in office followed by 1 term out of office for as long as they are willing to do so and are elected by the members.
14. To avoid a conflict of interest and because of the voluntary nature of the Society, Committee members shall not benefit financially from the activities of the Society, however, the Committee has a discretion to pay members of the Committee a fee if they carry out teaching on behalf of the Society.
15. Except as outlined in the preceding clause, membership of the committee is entirely voluntary and unpaid. No cash payments or rewards shall be made to any committee member. Committee members, however, may attend at the milongas and balls of the Society without payment. Arrangements for minor benefits in kind may be made in the Bye-laws.
16. In order to be seen to be impartial, members of the committee shall not have any beneficial, financial or executive interest in any other tango group or organisation in Ireland.
17. Special sub-committees may be established from time to time, at the discretion of the General Committee to carry out or report on specific tasks. Non-Committee members from the Dublin Argentine Tango Society may be co-opted to serve on such sub-committees. All sub-committees will report to the General Committee and be subject to the control of the General Committee.
18. Rules regarding committee procedure and operation shall be set out in bye-laws

Election of the Committee

19. Committee members shall be elected at the AGM.
20. The committee shall be elected by open and democratic procedures in which all the members present at the AGM are entitled to vote and all votes cast are of equal value and effect.
21. The rules for electing a committee shall be set out in full in bye-laws.

Officers

22. The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after its election, appoint from among its number, the following officers:
 - i. **President/Chairperson:** The President/Chairperson shall be responsible for the coordination and guidance of the activities of the Dublin Argentine Tango Society. The President/Chairperson shall act as coordinator and chair of the Committee, shall chair general meetings and represent the Society at functions and public events.
 - ii. **Honorary Treasurer:** the Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the accurate maintenance of the financial records of the Society; the monitoring of all approved financial transactions; the submission of regular financial reports to the Committee; and the preparation and presentation of the audited accounts to the AGM. The detailed rules for managing the finances of the Society may be set out in bye-laws.

The Honorary Treasurer has no authority to make expenditure, or to commit to expenditure, over and above the funds available as cash in hand or in the Society's current bank account.

No loans, mortgages or other forms of credit may be taken out in the name of the Society.

Assets of the Society, other than cash used in the day to day running of the Society, may not be disposed of, except by way of motion passed at a general meeting.

- iii. **Honorary Secretary:** the Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence on behalf of the Society and shall ensure that members are kept informed and consulted on decisions and policy of the Society. The Honorary Secretary shall also be responsible for publicising the Society and its activities and co-ordinating advertising and promotion. The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for issuing all notices in relation to general meetings and shall prepare and present a report of the activities of the Society for the relevant term of office to the AGM. The Honorary Secretary shall also be responsible for minute taking and their circulation at committee meetings and general meetings.

23. The Committee may, from time to time, at its discretion, redistribute the above responsibilities between the available committee members, as need and available personnel requires, either by splitting responsibilities between more than one committee member, appointing assistants to particular officers or combining more than one function in the same person. However, at all times, the offices, though not necessarily the functions, of President/Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary must reside in three separate persons.
24. In addition to the 3 key appointments of President/Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, the committee may appoint, from among its number, other officers required for the effective running of the Society.

Annual General Meetings

25. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society shall take place at least once every calendar year.
26. All members of the Society shall be entitled to attend the AGM.
27. All members of the Society shall be entitled to speak, put forward motions or resolutions, vote on motions or resolutions, nominate or be nominated for office on the Committee and vote for candidates for office.
28. The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for notifying the membership of the date and venue of an AGM at least 21 clear days before the date of the AGM.
29. All notifications in connection with an AGM shall be made in accordance with the rules set out in the bye-laws.
30. Resolutions or motions which propose changes to this Constitution, or the adoption of revised bye-laws, shall be notified in writing to the members at least 7 clear days before the date of an AGM at which they are to be presented.
31. Resolutions or motions must be proposed and seconded by members with a minimum of 12 months membership of the Society.
32. Nominations for the committee, received in accordance with the bye-laws, shall be notified to the members at least 7 clear days prior to the date of the AGM.
33. The quorum for an AGM is 15 members present, who are entitled to vote. In the absence of a quorum an AGM may not take place.

Extraordinary General Meetings

34. An EGM may be called by the President/Chairperson or the Honorary Secretary on their own authority.
35. An EGM shall be called if notice is served in writing to the Honorary Secretary signed by a minimum of 30 members each with a minimum of one year's membership of the Society. Such an EGM must be held within one month of the date of service of notice.
36. Those requesting an EGM must state the resolutions or motions which they wish debated and voted on, and no other resolutions or motions may be introduced at the EGM.
37. Notifications in connection with an EGM shall be made in accordance with the rules set out in the bye-laws.
38. The quorum for an EGM shall be the same as for an AGM.

Disbandment of the Society

39. The Society may be disbanded at any time by the presentation of a resolution requesting disbandment, duly notified, fully discussed, voted on and passed in accordance with the rules for general meetings set out in the bye-laws, at an extraordinary general meeting of the Society. This resolution shall have the following specific wording:

"It is resolved that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Dublin Argentine Tango Society, that the members of the Society, gathered here in general meeting have formally decided to dissolve and disband the said Society and the Dublin Argentine Tango Society will cease to exist and its assets will be distributed in accordance with the terms of the Constitution"
40. A resolution for disbandment takes precedence over all other provisions of this constitution.
41. If a resolution for disbandment is carried, the Society will cease to exist immediately upon the checking and certification of the ballot and its announcement to the general meeting.
42. A two thirds majority of the members voting at an EGM, called for the purpose of dissolving the Society, shall be required for a resolution of dissolution to pass.
43. In the event of disbandment, all property and assets in the ownership of the Society shall be liquidated at the best reasonable price achievable and the cash proceeds combined with cash on hand, cash in bank accounts and any other liquid assets. Each member at the EGM shall nominate one Irish charity of choice and the money shall be donated in equal portion to the five most popular charities based on these nominations.