



The Rules of the Bancroft Players

Revised December 2023

1. The Society shall be called the Bancroft Players.
2. The object of the Society shall be to educate the public in the arts, particularly the dramatic arts and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts.
3. In furtherance of the above object but not further or otherwise the Society through its management committee shall have the following powers:
 - a. To promote plays, drama, comedies, and other dramatic works of educative value.
 - b. To purchase, acquire and obtain interests in the copyright of, or the right to perform any such dramatic work.
 - c. To establish, maintain and manage a theatre in Hitchin.
 - d. To purchase or otherwise acquire plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, fittings, scenery, and all other necessary effects.
 - e. To raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions, donation and otherwise, provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities.
 - f. To arrange public meetings, lectures, and conferences.
 - g. To do all such other things as will further the above objects.
4. The Society shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Members and Patrons. Membership shall be open to all those interested in furthering the objects of the Society. The Executive Committee shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate membership if anyone so affected shall have the right to attend and be heard by the Executive Committee before a final decision is made. If a member does not attend and will not resign within one calendar month of being so informed the Executive Committee may by resolution terminate the membership.
5. Categories of membership are as follows.
 - a. Full Member & Full Member Concession
 - i. Allows you to take part in theatrical events, both on stage and behind the scenes in our Technical, Stage Management, Props, Set and Wardrobe Teams.
 - ii. Full Member Concession is reserved for students and the unwaged
 - b. Club Member
 - i. Allows you to be part of our Front of House team and support the running of the theatre as part of the Bar, Front of House, Steward or any non-production related role.
 - c. Big Spirit Member (Youth Theatre)
 - d. Bancroft Junior Member
 - e. Patron (Friend of The QMT)
6. Since the AGM of 2022 membership subscriptions run for a period of 12 months, from the time of paying (except Big Spirit and Bancroft Juniors)
 - a. Members under the age of 18 are not entitled to vote at meetings nor to be voting members of any Committee.
 - b. Patrons shall not be entitled to act in nor direct any production or be entitled to vote at General Meetings. They shall be asked for a donation at their discretion.
 - c. Members shall pay an annual subscription which will be fixed by the Society at the Annual General Meeting.
 - d. There is an expectation that each member carries out 4 voluntary duties during each annual subscription. These duties can include, but are not limited to; the bar, front of house manager, front of house steward, supporting backstage or technical teams with props costumes, lighting, sound or supporting with marketing of the theatre or productions, and are in addition to any regular position or post an officer of the society may hold.
 - e. From the AGM of 2023 all members are expected to abide by these rules and any governing policies of the theatre and society, as published, including.
 - i. Finance & Expense Policy
 - ii. Safeguarding Policy
 - iii. Grievance Policy
 - iv. The QMT Code of Conduct
7. The officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Theatre Manager, Business Manager, Production Manager and Artistic Director, all to be elected annually.
8. The general management of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers and six other members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Such six other members shall be elected for a term of two years and one half will retire annually. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once every two months.
9. The Production Committee shall consist of the Artistic Director, the Production Manager and at least two other members to be notified annually to the Executive Committee.
10. At Executive Committee meetings a quorum shall consist of six elected Committee members or Officers.
11. The Executive Committee have the power to co-opt, but such co-opted members shall not have the right to vote. The President and Vice-President may attend meetings of the Executive Committee and shall have the right to vote.
12. The Trustees of the Society shall be the Officers and elected members of the Executive Committee for the time being. Disposal of the leasehold property can only be by agreement of the membership at a General Meeting. Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Society's property.
13. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to borrow money if the Society in general meeting pass such a resolution. All members of the Society whether voting on such resolution or not, and all persons becoming members of the Society after the passing of such a resolution shall be deemed to have assented to the same as if they had voted in favour of the resolution.
14. Members shall not receive payment either direct or indirect for taking part in a production.
15. The Director for each production shall be selected by the Production Committee.
16. A casting panel for each public production shall consist of the Director and two members appointed by the Production Committee. The provisional cast shall not be declared until submitted to the Production Committee for their approval. Thereafter no changes in the cast shall be made by the

Director without the approval of the Production Committee. Readings for casting shall be notified to all members. Any person who attends such readings and is subsequently cast in the production must be a paid-up member of the Society before the rehearsal period commences.

17. A proper account of the Society's monies shall be kept by the Treasurer and these Accounts shall be available for scrutiny by any member of the Society.
18. Members shall not commit the Society to any expense nor use the name of the Society in any connection with activities of any kind except at the direction of the Executive Committee. (See Finance & Expense Policy for more information)
19. Accounts for the year ended June 30 shall be available to members before December 31.
20. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of the Annual General Meeting.
21. A Special General Meeting may be called at the direction of the Executive Committee or at the request of any twelve members who shall state the object of such a Meeting. Seven days' notice shall be given to all members.
22. The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide on any contingencies or matters not provided for or dealt with in the foregoing rules.
23. Changes in the rules shall only take place at a General Meeting for which fourteen days' notice has been given specifying the proposed changes. No amendment can be made to Rules 2, 19 or 20 without the prior approval of the Charity Commission. No amendment can be made which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law.
24. In the event of the dissolution of the Society the remaining funds will be devoted to charitable objects similar to those of the Society or to other charitable purposes approved by the Trustees.