

The Northern Audio-Visual Group

CONSTITUTION 2021

*1. The title of the Group shall be The Northern Audio-Visual Group. This group is a not- for-profit organisation and all monies collected or held by the group will be used for the benefit of the group

2. The Objectives for which the Group is established are: The promotion, pursuit, furtherance and encouragement of audio-visual presentations in an organised environment with competitions, presentations, practical demonstrations and activities in all its forms, together with the improvement, benefit and recreation of its members in a social and mutually supportive environment.

3. Men and women from eighteen years of age shall be eligible for membership without qualification or discrimination. Children may also join and may attend suitable meetings if accompanied by a responsible adult. The organisation has a Child Protection Policy but neither the committee nor members are CRB (now DBS) checked for Group purposes.

4. A Member whose actions are deemed to be contrary to the best interests of the Group and/or Photography in general may be expelled from the Group by a three-quarter majority of the Committee.

5. The affairs of the Group shall be managed by a General Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other office holders as shall be determined at an Annual General or Extraordinary Meeting and not more than four elected members. A Quorum at Committee Meetings shall consist of not less than four members. In the event of a tied vote, the chairman shall, if further discussion does not generate a majority, have a casting vote. Decisions may be taken by email provided that there is a majority and all available committee members have cast a vote. The Committee has power to co-opt members for specific purposes if they deem it necessary. The retiring Chairman is to serve on the committee ex-officio for one year, unless elected to another office. The Chairmen of any sub-committees will also serve on the main Committee to which they will report for the duration of the subcommittee.

6. Officers and Committee Members shall serve from one Annual General Meeting to the next, which shall be held in October of each year. The exception is the Chairman who will be elected at the inaugural meeting on a rolling basis until the membership or Chairman decides otherwise. Nominations may be made at the Annual General Meeting providing the nominee's written consent has been obtained beforehand. If there are more nominations than vacancies then election will be held by ballot.

7. The General Committee shall have the power to appoint such sub-committees as it considers desirable. All activities of sub-committees will be subject to General Committee approval.

*8. All persons who have paid an entry fee to a meeting of the Group shall be deemed to be members at that time and will therefore have voting rights until such time as a further paid entry meeting at the same or substitute venue is held. The Secretary and Treasurer will hold a list of those persons who have opted-in to receiving information about the activities of the

group. Those persons will be invited to each meeting. New attendees will be offered the opportunity to opt –in to receiving information about the group activities. Any person who has opted in and supplied personal data has the right to see, amend or request deletion of all or any of their own personal data held by the group. Such requests should be made to the Secretary who may require proof of identity before granting access to any personal data.

9. An Extraordinary Meeting may be called at the written request of a minimum of five members. Both Annual General and Extraordinary Meetings require a minimum of fourteen days prior notice to the Membership. A Quorum at both General and Extraordinary Meetings shall consist of not less than seven members which includes two committee members.

10. The Accounts of the Group shall be subject to independent review by a suitably qualified person prior to submission to the Annual General Meeting. The financial year shall end on the 31st of August. Any separate accounts of Subcommittees shall be subject to similar review and statements shall be submitted to the General Committee and the Group Treasurer prior to August 31st.

11. A Vice Chairman may be sanctioned by the Committee from time to time or for the purpose of succession.

12. Attendances shall be recorded at all ordinary and Committee Meetings.

*13 If the committee decide that the running of the club is no longer tenable, an EGM will be called, and the members asked to vote for or against the winding up of the club. If the club is to be closed, all debts and liabilities shall be discharged forthwith.

All assets remaining will be sold, firstly to existing members, then past members, then the public. Any remaining assets will be given free of charge to similar ‘not for profit’ organisations as approved by the members. Any remaining capital following the sale of assets will be disposed of to a charity or similar as advised by a vote of remaining members.

14. In the event of any ambiguity or conflict between the constitution and any other document produced by the group, the constitution will always take precedence.

15. Amendment to the Constitution or any change in membership subscriptions can only be made at an Annual General or Extraordinary Meetings of the Group.

****Clauses 1 and 8 amended at the 6th AGM of The Northern Audio-Visual Group on Saturday 20th October 2018 at St John’s Church Hall, Snod’s Edge***

****Clause 13 amended at the 8th AGM of The Northern Audio-Visual Group on Saturday 23rd October 2021 using a Zoom platform.***
