

Changes to The NSBB Constitution in support of the AGM 2020

September 2020

Dear members,

This document is supplied in support of the recommended changes being made to the Band Constitution in order to explain why the changes have been made:

1. The wording changes in Clause 1 are there at the behest of the new Insurance provider 'Making Music' who, as a prerequisite of us being members of their organisation, demand that assets of the band are not to be distributed to the band members should the band decide to be wound up. Your Band Committee feel that this is a reasonable request. A little more on Making Music from their wiki entry follows:-

Making Music (formerly the National Federation of Music Societies) is a UK membership organisation for leisure-time music groups of all musical genres, representing over 200,000 musicians and promoters of all levels and experience. Making Music provides them with practical services, guidance, artistic development opportunities and a collective voice for advocacy.

This practical info as far as NSBB is concerned includes help with PRS returns and we have recently made use of their Covid advice. There are also facilities for finding new members for the band. Our old Insurance was aimed more at brass bands that loan out their instruments so it does not do much for us where each member owns their own instrument insured by their own insurance.

2. Changes to Clause 5a vi is to clarify the wording, which if followed, would have insisted that only when 25% of members were present would business be carried out. Clearly the intention is that 25% is the least amount of band members present and that greater percentages than this are acceptable and to be encouraged.
3. New Clause 8 has been suggested by a band member and indeed has previously been discussed in the Band Committee. The Welcome Pack also contains more details on these matters. Prompted by the band member suggestion and the fact that the Welcome Pack will contain information related to this The Committee felt that The Constitution should be amended to cover rescinding of membership. The hope must be that rescinding membership it is never used but, in our aims to become more professional, we feel it should be included.
4. New Section 10 b (old section 9 b). This wording has been amended to help the Treasurer authorise payments. The current system involves cheques and signatures from committee members in order that payments can be made. The Covid situation has highlighted how difficult this is when physical presence of parties concerned is not possible. The Constitution wording change should help the treasurer manage payments easier. The possibility of using non-committee members to take part in electronic authorisations is being considered for the sake of transparency of band finances hence the addition of 'members' to the text.
5. New section 12 (old section 11) has been changed, similar to item 1 above, to comply with requirements for membership of Making Music and to benefit from the cheaper insurance and other helpful information and advice that are offered to The Band.

Graham Frampton

Chairperson