

ASHFORD FOLK

MEMBERSHIP RULES



Ashford Folk (“AF”) is a community folk band: like-minded people who get together, usually every week, to play folk music originating from around the world, though predominantly from Britain and Ireland. Membership is open to all, irrespective of musical ability and the instrument played.

Below are the principles by which all Members are required to abide for continued Membership. The Management Committee elected in accordance with the Constitution (the “MC”) is responsible for monitoring Member compliance with these Membership Rules.

1. Fees

- a) An “AF Term” is a length of time determined by the Management Committee (“MC”)
- b) In liaison with the MC the Treasurer will calculate by the beginning of one or more AF Terms the amount of Fees sufficient to discharge anticipated expenses taking account of the anticipated level of Membership during that period
- c) The Fees shall be amended if not approved by a majority of Members.
- d) The amount of the Fees may be amended at any time if the level of expenses or Membership is other than anticipated following the procedure set out in b) and c) above
- e) The “Term Fee” is an amount determined by the Treasurer and approved by Members to be paid in advance in respect of an AF Term
- f) Substantial or repeated non-payment of Fees will (at the discretion of the MC) result in suspension or cancellation of Membership, access may be denied to Sessions and performances, any voting rights may be forfeit and any right to join in the distribution of funds in the event of a dissolution under paragraph 9 b) of the Constitution may be forfeit

2. Young Persons

- a) An individual aged 16 to 18 may become a Member provided that their parent or guardian has given written consent that they may attend AF practices and performances.
- b) A child under the age of 16 may attend AF practices and performances if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who has agreed in writing that the parent or guardian will discharge any Fee or other expenses payable in respect of such attendances

3. Waiver or reduction of Fees

The MC may reduce or waive any Fee payable by any Member for good reason.

4. Trial Membership

A prospective new Member may attend two consecutive Sessions as a “taster”, free of charge, to confirm that AF suits them and that they suit AF. If invited to become a Member, they accept the invitation and wish to pay a Term Fee then the Fee required from them for the remainder of that AF Term will be a pro rata amount

A Trial Member becomes a Member for voting purposes at any meeting held on a day after they have paid their Fee

5. Meeting Voting Rights

- a) Subject to clause 4 hereof all Members, other than Trial or child Members, are entitled to vote at any meeting

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- b) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless the Members present vote for a secret ballot and agree the terms of that ballot. Decisions will be made on a simple majority vote. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson has the casting vote.
- c) At least 50% of Members must be present for a General or Annual General Meeting to take place. If 50% of Members are not present then the meeting shall be postponed to the earliest date that the Members present agree is likely to be quorate. Should a postponed General Meeting not be quorate then the MC will make any necessary decisions.

6. Musical Leader

A Musical Leader may:

- a) be appointed by the MC with or without payment to provide informal musical tuition at weekly practices
- b) be requested to provide leadership at performances, if required
- c) on appointment become a Member whether they pay a Fee or no, subject to the proviso that they will not vote on an issue in which they have a pecuniary interest

7. Musical Instruments

Members are responsible for providing and maintaining their own instruments. They are also responsible for any insurance issues associated with their instruments. AF takes no responsibility for the instruments of Members

8. Performances

- a) Whenever the MC identifies a performance opportunity they will canvass Members to ascertain who would be available for that date/venue.
- b) The MC will only commit to AF performing if there are sufficient Members willing to perform and there is an appropriate musical mix of instruments. Dependent on the nature of the performance the MC may request that a particular Member does not perform at that performance.
- c) The MC will determine whether the performance will be led by the Musical Leader, a Member or a Performance Leader, someone else with appropriate knowledge/experience, whether for payment or not.
- d) Once a Member has confirmed their availability for a performance, and the MC has agreed to their attendance at that performance, they are expected to make every possible effort to attend all Rehearsal Sessions prior to the performance, and to attend the performance. In the event of unforeseen circumstances preventing them from attending a Rehearsal Session or the performance they are to notify the MC as soon as possible.
- e) Members will be responsible for their own expenses in attending the performance, unless notified otherwise by the MC.

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9. Practice, Tuition and Rehearsal Sessions

- a) Usually held weekly on Thursday evenings irrespective of AF Term dates. Sessions generally start at 1900hrs and continue to approximately 2100hrs.
- b) Rehearsals Sessions will be run by a Performance/ Rehearsal Leader appointed by the MC.
- c) In the event that the Leader is not present at a particular Session then the Session shall be managed by temporary Leader. The Temporary Leader will be elected from those present, by those present using a majority voting system (show of hands).
- d) Throughout the Session all present will obey all reasonable instructions, and comply with all reasonable requests, from the Leader, Musical or Temporary
- e) Any person attending a Session who fails to obey a reasonable instruction, or to comply with a reasonable request, from the Leader (Musical or Temporary) may be excluded from that Session and from Membership
- f) Sessions may be held outside of an AF Term and social gatherings may be held during an AF Term in the place of a Session.