



Whittlesey Saxophone Choir Constitution

Whittlesey Saxophone Choir is a community group for saxophone players of all ages to get together and have fun playing. This document sets out the goals of the group, how the group is currently organised and what is expected of the members.

1. Interpretation

In this document the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

- **the Group:** Whittlesey Saxophone Choir
- **the Organiser:** the person in charge of organising the Group named in section 3
- **Member:** an individual who has joined the Group in accordance with section 4.1
- **Lapsed member:** a Member who has not attended any rehearsal for six months

References to words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa.

2. Group objectives

Whittlesey Saxophone Choir was created for the benefit of saxophone players in the local area and with the following goals:

- Have fun playing and learning new saxophone music
- Improve our individual and ensemble playing skills
- Encourage other players and help them improve, no matter their current age or ability
- Enjoy the rich sound of a full saxophone choir in action

3. Organisation

The Group is a relatively new and small group and does not yet have a standing committee. The Group is currently organised by a single group organiser.

The current Organiser is **Ben Tordoff**.

Rehearsal dates, venue bookings, music selection, and other details are determined by the Organiser in consultation with Members.

The Group is an unincorporated association with non-voting members. In this context “unincorporated” means that the Group is not a legal entity in its own right and any

responsibilities or liabilities remain with individual members. In future the Group is likely to switch to having a small elected committee and this constitution will be updated accordingly.

3.1 Other roles

The Group also recognises the following additional roles:

1. **Conductor:** runs the rehearsals and works with the Organiser to choose music that is enjoyable but also challenges the players to improve. The Conductor is automatically a Member. Our current conductor is **Jamie Wilson**.
2. **Safeguarding Lead:** the Member who should be contacted for any safeguarding concerns. See our Safeguarding Policy for details. Where possible the Safeguarding Lead will have received local authority approved safeguarding training.

4. Membership

4.1 Joining the Group

Saxophone players from the local area who are willing to attend rehearsals on a regular basis can become a Member of the Group by -

- i. asking the Organiser or a Member if they can join,
- ii. being invited to join the Group by the Organiser and
- iii. attending at least one rehearsal.

Whilst there is no minimum musical qualification for joining the Group, to get the most from the experience new members will need to be playing saxophone at the equivalent of grade 4 standard or higher.

Invitations to join the Group will take into account the capacity of the rehearsal venue, and the need to maintain a balance of instruments in the choir, without other bias or prejudice.

Saxophone players under the age of 18 may only join the Group with the consent of their parent or legal guardian. Please see our safeguarding policy for more details.

4.2 Membership fees

The Group does not currently collect a membership fee.

4.3 Member conduct

All Members are expected to act in accordance with the objectives of the Group outlined in section 2 above and to act in accordance with the Group's Safeguarding Policy.

4.4 Leaving the Group

A Member may leave the Group at any time without notice.

The Organiser will ask a Member to leave the Group if the Member -

- i. does anything which is contrary to the Group's Safeguarding Policy, or

- ii. acts in a manner that discourages others or hinders the ability of others to improve and enjoy playing.

4.5 Lapsed members

Lapsed members should notify the Organiser before rejoining the Group to ensure there is still space. Lapsed members are welcome to remain on the WhatsApp group to keep up to date with our plans, but will not be consulted about rehearsal dates, music choices, etc.

5. Communication

The Group has a WhatsApp group that acts as the primary mode of communication with Members. Members who cannot or do not wish to use WhatsApp must provide the Organiser with either a mobile phone number or email address where they can be reached to receive updates on rehearsals. New members that have attended at least one rehearsal will be invited to join the WhatsApp group.

The Group's WhatsApp group should only be used for discussions about the Group and related news, events, or information.

When a Member leaves the Group that Member can remove themselves from the WhatsApp group. No other Member should re-add someone to the WhatsApp group without the person's explicit consent.

6. Music

The Group does not own any music. The music we play is brought along by Members and remains the property of the Member who brings it. It is up to each Member providing music to ensure the copies they have are legally licensed for use by the Group and for performance if used in a concert.

Parts may only be taken away with the express permission of the Member that provided the music. Copies (which includes paper copies and electronic copies) may only be made where allowed by the copyright of the music.

7. Equipment

The Group does not own any equipment. Members are expected to bring any equipment they require including their instrument, a music stand, and any associated consumables. The rehearsal venues we use provide seating and drinking water.

8. Amendments to the constitution

This document can be amended by the Organiser at any time. Any amendments will be communicated to Members within 10 days.

9. Dissolution

The Group may be closed down by the Organiser at their sole discretion.