

Hardy Orchid Society Constitution
Adopted at the HOS AGM on 17th March 2024

1. NAME: The Society shall be called The Hardy Orchid Society (HOS).
2. OBJECT: The Society's object is to encourage interest in, knowledge of, and conservation of Hardy Orchids.
3. MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to all but may be refused or withdrawn at the discretion of the Committee. Anyone whose membership is so withdrawn shall have the right of appeal to the Society in writing to the Secretary.
4. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscription rates shall be determined at a General Meeting and become due on 1st May each year. Any member whose subscription remains unpaid at 31st October shall immediately cease to be a member of the Society.
5. ENROLMENT FEE: New members joining the Society are required to pay an enrolment fee, which entitles them to an enrolment pack. For those paying by Standing Order, the enrolment fee may be waived. The amount of the fee shall be reviewed by the Committee if they feel it necessary.
6. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: This may be awarded to current or past members for outstanding service either to the Society or to orchids in general. Nominations for Honorary Life Membership must be submitted to the Committee for consideration at least two months before a General Meeting. If approved, the nomination will be put to the Society at a General Meeting for election. A majority of two thirds of members present is required to approve such an award.
7. COMPLIMENTARY ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP: The Committee may award this concession to non-members who have contributed meaningfully to the Society. The recipient will receive free membership of the Society, ending on 30th April following the first anniversary of the award.
8. PRESIDENT: The President may be elected at any General Meeting of the Society by a majority of those present. The President will be a non-voting member of the Committee. Former Presidents who so desire may retain the honorific title of Vice President.
9. OFFICERS: The Officers shall comprise the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Officers shall be elected annually at a General Meeting.
10. COMMITTEE: The Committee shall comprise the Officers and a maximum of 15 Ordinary Members, all of whom must be elected annually. Should an Office become vacant during the year, the Committee may appoint a stand-in until the next Annual General Meeting.
11. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: These may be convened at the request of any four Committee Members. A quorum shall consist of nine Members.
12. COMMITTEE DUTIES: In addition to the powers specifically conferred on the Committee by these rules, the Committee shall be responsible for control of the Society's finances and all administration necessary to carry out the objects of the Society. The Committee may appoint Ordinary Committee Members to fulfil specific roles and define the corresponding duties. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional, non-voting members.
13. AGM: This shall be held on any day in the period March to June within 15 months of the previous AGM as decided by the Committee. The meeting shall transact the following business:
 - 1 Receive the Chair's Report of the Society's activities during the year.
 - 2 Receive and, if approved, adopt a statement of the Society's accounts for the preceding financial year, ending on the last day of December.

- 3 Determine the membership subscription rates and enrolment fee for the year commencing 1st May (Rules 4 and 5).
- 4 Elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee (see Rules 9 and 10). All nominations must be received by the Secretary at least fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting. If insufficient nominations are received, nominations may be accepted from the floor. All nominations must be proposed and seconded and have the nominee's agreement.
- 5 Appoint an Auditor, who may not be an Officer or Committee Member of the Society.
- 6 Consider and, if approved, sanction alterations to these Rules, provided that the notice convening the meeting specifies such proposed alterations (see Rule 15).
- 7 Subject to these Rules, to consider any other business concerning the Society.

14. NOTICE OF A GENERAL MEETING: This shall be sent to all members not less than twenty-eight days before the meeting date, either as an announcement in the Journal of the HOS or by the Secretary. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at the written request of not less than twenty members. It will normally take place within three calendar months and not more than six months of the request being received by the Secretary. The notice convening the EGM shall specify the agenda for the requested meeting.

15. ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES: Rule changes shall be formulated and proposed through the Committee. Proposed alterations may not take effect until confirmed by a majority of those present at a General Meeting. Members of the Society have the right at such a meeting to propose amendments, which must then be referred to the Committee for consideration.

16. DISPOSAL OF ASSETS: In the event of the dissolution of the Society, all assets remaining after meeting the Society's liabilities shall be passed to Plantlife for the express purpose of furthering interest in hardy orchids.