THE NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY

Northern Section

Constitution

Revised 2025

Version Control				
Version	**Author**	**Date**	**Changes**	**Approved**
1.1	AC	19/10/24	10.3wording amended 8.1k wording amended 8.1bvice-president removed 7 Time limitation on term of President removed.	AGM 2024
1.2	AC	1/11/26	6.7 wording amended	AGM 2026

Constitution of the Society

1. Name

1.1 The name of the Society shall be The National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section), here-after referred to as the Society.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 To encourage and extend the cultivation, development and exhibition of:

1) The Florist's Auricula, other types of Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus in accordance with the traditional and laid down standards; and
2) Other species, cultivars and hybrids of the genus Primula.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership of the Society shall be open to all.

3.2 Fully paid up members are entitled to:

1) receive a free copy of the annual Yearbook and spring Newsletter,
2) vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM),
3) exhibit free of charge at the annual shows,
4) receive notice of and attend any other meetings of members as may be called,
5) participate in the Seed Exchange Scheme,
6) participate in the various plant sales organised by the Northern Section.

4. Subscription.

4.1 Subscriptions are payable on 1 January each year.

4.2 The subscription rates may be varied by a resolution passed by a majority vote at the AGM. The rights and privileges of membership will cease if an individual's subscription is not paid by the end of February

5. Life Membership

5.1 Life Membership may be granted to those deemed by the Annual General Meeting to have provided exceptional service to the Society. This shall confer on the individual the right to free membership of the Society and to receive the Yearbook and all Society communications without cost but not automatic membership of the Committee.

6. Society Financial Arrangements

6.1 The Society Committee will identify a suitable member and appoint them as Treasurer to manage the financial arrangements of the Society. Any such appointment must then be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting. As set out in para 7.1, the appointment of the Treasurer – and other Officers – will be re-approved at each subsequent AGM. The

Treasurer may be removed from office (and a replacement appointed) at a Committee meeting, at an AGM or at a Special Meeting (see 8.4/8.5).

6.2 The Treasurer is responsible to the Committee and to the membership for the safe and effective management of the financial affairs of the Society and may make recommendations as to the methods and resources to be used. The Treasurer will report to each meeting of the Committee and to the AGM on the financial standing of the Society.

6.3 The Treasurer, with the agreement of the Society Committee, will establish a Bank account or accounts which will permit the safe lodging of Society funds. The Treasurer is authorised to operate the Society Bank accounts via a Bank branch or by establishing on-line access to the accounts. Receipts and payments may be managed via on-line access.

6.4 The Treasurer will establish, and agree with the Society Bank, a panel of members who will be 'Authorised Signatories'. Withdrawals by cheque from the Society's Bank account, in order to make payments, shall bear two signatures, one of which may be the Treasurer, drawn from the panel of Authorised Signatories. Where payments are made by online Bank transfer or debit card, the Treasurer shall provide details to, and seek the prior agreement of, one member of the panel of Authorised Signatories via e- mail. The e-mail of agreement shall be attached to the payment voucher.

6.5 The Treasurer may, with the agreement of the Committee, establish an account with PayPal in order to facilitate payments to the Society. The Treasurer will monitor and record payments made via PayPal and ensure that funds received are transferred and credited to the Society Bank account promptly.

6.6 All funds received shall be lodged, without deduction, to the Society's Bank/Building Society account. All monies raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the object of the Society and for no other purpose.

6.7 The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Society. The Treasurer will devise, design, operate and maintain suitable methods of working. A summary of the annual accounts shall be published to all members via the next available Society Yearbook.

Prior to publication, and within six months of the financial year-end, the annual accounts of the Society shall be audited by any suitable person appointed by the AGM. The AGM may appoint as the auditor any member of the Society. The auditor may fulfill any role within the Section but may not be a member of the Executive Committee, may not be a member of the panel of authorised signatories, may not be related to the elected Treasurer or hold any active role in respect of Society finances.

7. Executive Officers

7.1 The Society's Executive Officers shall consist of:

1) PresidentSecretary
2) Treasurer

7.2 All Executive Officers shall be elected annually at the AGM.

7.3 In the event of death or resignation of any Executive Officer between meetings, any nominated deputy shall assume relevant responsibilities. Should that not be possible the Committee shall co-opt a member to hold office until the next AGM.

8. Committee

8.1 The affairs of the Society shall, subject to these rules, be administered by a Committee which shall consist of:

1) the Executive Officers of the Society,
2) Editor
3) Harrogate show organiser
4) Plant sales representative
5) Show superintendent
6) Seed scheme organiser
7) Librarian
8) Archivist
9) Webmaster
10) Social media manager
11) past Presidents, upon retiring, for a maximum of 5 years. After that time, if they wish to continue on the Committee, they will need to be elected at the AGM.
12) plus a maximum of nine paid-up members who shall be elected annually at the AGM.

8.2 The President shall preside at Committee meetings, or in their absence, any other member approved by the Committee. In the event of a tied vote the chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

8.3 The Secretary shall call meetings of the Committee as he or she thinks necessary. At least ten days notice of any meetings shall be given to all members of the Committee either in writing or by email along with an agenda.

8.4 Special meetings may be called on the written request of not less than three members of the Committee to the Secretary, stating the purpose of the meeting.

8.5 A quorum shall consist of not less than six Committee members.

8.6 No member of the Committee, sub-Committee or any of the ordinary membership shall receive remuneration from the Society in money or in kind with the exception of out of pocket expenses.

8.7 The Committee shall meet at least once a year.

8.8 Any executive officer or Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive Committee meetings without good cause shall be deemed to have resigned their position.

9. Sub-Committees

9.1 The Committee may appoint a Sub-Committee for special purposes.

9.2 When setting up a Sub-Committee the Committee shall determine its terms of reference, compositions and powers.

9.3 Sub-Committees shall have a co-ordinator and a recorder.

9.4 The Secretary shall receive all papers produced by all Sub- Committees.

10. Annual General Meetings (AGM)

10.1 The AGM shall be held not later than 31 October each year.

10.2 The AGM shall be publicised in advance in the Yearbook, Spring Newsletter and on the Society's web site.

10.3 Notifications for appointment to any office, or to the Committee, or notice of any resolution to be put forward at the AGM shall be given to the Secretary in writing no less than seven days in advance. The Secretary or President may at any time appoint any member who volunteers to fill any vacant or new post within the Society. In the event that two or more volunteer for the post it will be filled by mutual agreement or at the discretion of the Secretary or President. The Committee will be notified of the appointment and if any objections to the volunteer are raised, the decision to appoint will go to the Committee for majority vote. The appointment will be ratified at the next available AGM.

10.4 The President shall preside at the AGM, or in their absence any other member approved by the Committee.

10.5 Except in the case of any alterations to this Constitution (see 11 below) all resolutions shall be passed by a majority vote of those members present. In the case of a tied vote the chair of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

11. Alterations to the Constitution

11.1 No changes of any kind shall be made to this Constitution except at the AGM and then only with the consent of not less than two thirds of the members voting.

11.2 Notice of any proposal to alter, rescind or add to this Constitution must be given in writing to the Secretary not less than four weeks before the AGM.

12. Intellectual Property

12.1 All materials submitted to the Society for publication, shall be covered by copyright and remain the property of the creator. Once published by the Society any such material may not be copied, used or altered without the written permission of the Society's Secretary and the creator. Other materials donated to the Society for its use or archival will be deemed to belong to the Society, such material may be borrowed from the Society's Archivist but remain subject to the copyright conditions previously specified.

13. Dissolution

13.1 A decision to wind up the Society shall only be taken at an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting and in this case 28 days notice of the meeting shall be given. The decision to wind up must be approved by 75% of those present and eligible to vote. In the event that the proposal to wind up the Society is agreed the meeting shall appoint a Committee of not less than three and not more than five individuals to oversee the disposal of the Society's assets. The Committee shall appoint its own chairman who shall have a casting vote to resolve any tied decision. The meeting should give a clear direction to that Committee of the use to which remaining funds should be put and the Committee shall abide as closely as possible with the wishes expressed.