

**CONSTITUTION OF
“The South Devon Players Supporters Trust”.**

1. Name

The name of the group shall be “The South Devon Players Supporters Trust”.

2. The aims of the group shall be

2.1 To advance the arts by providing financial, physical, logistic, and general support support to the South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company, in their endeavours, in the following manners:

2.2 Relief of poverty

In that supporting The South Devon Players, The South Devon Players Supporters Trust provides otherwise non-existent opportunities for actors to create paid work in the field, developing skills, and furthering professional development. The skills so gained tend to be transferable ones that can also be used in external employment, eg literacy, technical skills, self presentation communication, public speaking, as stated in studies available on our website.

2.3 Relief of financial hardship

2.4 Grants of money to allow for the costs of rehearsals space; -the provision of items (outright) -payment for services

2.5 The provision of facilities such as the supply of tools or books, payments of fees for instruction, examination or other expenses connected with vocational training, language, literacy, numerical or technical skills, travelling expenses to help the recipients to earn their living, equipment and funds for recreational pursuits or training intended to bring the quality of life of the beneficiaries to a reasonable standard

2.6 The provision of training (including vocational training) and life-long learning research and adding to collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study and expertise, through involvement in theatre and film productions.

2.7 The provision of opportunities to develop individual capabilities, competences, skills and understanding . Ultimately the aim will be to provide classes and workshops, though currently due to shortage of person-power, and funds, the training happens very much “on the job” with theatre productions.

2.8 * The promotion of rural regeneration (through creating work and training opportunities, and creating art & cultural events centred within the South Devon area, including but not limited to providing opportunities for people who would not otherwise be able to access such opportunities. It should be noted that the nearest places of training in the performing arts for teens and adults, are now in Plymouth and Exeter, which are not easy to reach on public transport for people on low incomes.)

2.9 The advancement of art, inclusive including promoting various forms of art at a national/professional and local level, the provision of arts facilities and encouraging high standards of art. As a nationally and internationally award-winning theatre company, we adhere strictly to the high-quality of output expected of such an organisation.

2.10 Promoting and encouraging equal access to participation in the performing arts, by being open equally to people of all ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation, disabilities, ages.

2.11 The promotion of environmentally friendly practices such as creating costumes/ sets/ props from repurposed and second-hand items wherever possible. To advance public benefit through providing a local place to engage in high quality creative activities, providing access to visit high quality local shows, and to frequently support local arts & community venues by prioritising them for our shows and events.

3. Powers

In order to achieve its aims, The South Devon Players Supporters Trust may:

- Raise money
- Open bank accounts
- Take out insurance as necessary
- Obtain and pay for goods and services necessary to run the group (but is not permitted to create debts).
- Hire, rent or lease premises to run the group's activities and manage its business.
- Organise activities and events
- Work with similar groups and exchange information and advice with them
- Do anything that is lawful, ethical and in line with The South Devon Players official policies, as available from the official South Devon Players website; which will help it to fulfil its aims.

4. Membership

4.1 Membership of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust is open to individuals over the age of 18 who are interested in furthering the work of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust and who have paid any annual subscription agreed by the Management Committee. Members will be known as "supporters". These supporters will be afforded membership benefits as described in the Members Benefits supporters documents.

4.2 Every member will have one vote.

4.3 The Management Committee may end the membership of any member for any good reason, by a majority vote at a committee meeting, as long as that person has the opportunity to make their case to the committee before they make their decision.

4.4 It should be noted that membership of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust does not confer any priority for being cast in shows, or gaining material benefits from involvement with the South Devon Players, who do not permit "pay to play".

5. Management

5.1 The South Devon Players Supporters Trust will be administered by a Management Committee of not less than three members and not more than five elected at the Annual General Meeting.

5.2 The members of the management committee will apply by nomination, and will be elected at the AGM. Nominations must be received 21 days before the AGM, to be included in the invitation to the meeting.

5.3 The Officers of the Management Committee shall be the Chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer who will be elected at their first meeting after the AGM.

5.4 Decisions will be made by a majority of Committee Members present and voting. In the case of a tie, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

5.5 The Management Committee may appoint not more than two co-opted members. All co-opted committee members may serve until the next AGM when they may stand for election by the members.

5.6 The Management Committee will meet at least three times a year, either in person or online. Minutes will be recorded.

5.7 At least three members of the committee must be present for a Management Committee to take place.

5.8 No member of the Management Committee, or anyone connected to them, shall receive any payment (other than reimbursement of out of pocket expenses)

6. Finances

6.1 The funds of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust will be paid into an account in the name of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust operated by the Management Committee. All cheques and transactions must be signed by at least two members of the Management Committee and must be approved by the Management Committee.

6.2 The funds belonging to The South Devon Players Supporters Trust shall be used only to further the aims of The South Devon Players Theatre & Film Company.

7. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

7.1 There shall be an AGM as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

7.2 Members will be given at least two weeks' notice of the date, time and venue of the Annual General Meeting.

7.3 Minutes must be made of the AGM.

7.4 The Management Committee will present the report and accounts of the preceding year at the Annual General Meeting.

7.5 Nominations for election to the Management Committee must be made in writing and handed to the secretary at least three days before the Annual General Meeting.

7.6 Any member may stand for election to the Management Committee.

7.7 The Management Committee will resign at each AGM but may stand for re-election.

8. Special general meeting

The Management Committee may call a Special Meeting at any time with seven days' notice given to all members.

9. Quorum

The quorum for any general meeting will be three members or one tenth of the membership at the time of the meeting, whichever is the greater.

10. Alterations to the constitution

Alterations to the Constitution of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust can only be made at a General Meeting after a proposal has been circulated to all members with notification (as in clause 7.2 above) of the proposed change, and the date, time and place of the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be discussed and voted on. Alterations to the constitution will require approval of two thirds of members present and voting at the meeting.

11. Winding up

The South Devon Players Supporters Trust can be wound up at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

The proposal to wind up The South Devon Players Supporters Trust must be advertised 14 days before the meeting.

The decision to wind up will require the approval of two thirds of members present and voting at the meeting.

Surplus funds of The South Devon Players Supporters Trust if it is dissolved, will be made over to The South Devon Players where possible. If this is not possible any funds left over will be donated to a not-for-profit organisation with similar aims following approval by two thirds of members present and voting at the meeting.

12. Constitution adopted

This constitution was adopted by the members of at a meeting held on

Name	Signature	Position
		Chairperson
		Secretary
		Treasurer

Dated
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