



Constitution of the Bunts' Association UK (aka Bunts' Sangha UK) (Est.1990)

1. The Name:

Registered name of the organisation shall be Bunts' Association UK or Bunts' Sangha UK, abbreviated as The Association hereafter. This Association is a "not for-profit organisation" that aims to deliver "a public or community benefit or have a special purpose" in line with The Charity Governance Code (The Charity Commission). The official address for correspondence will be that of the current honorary secretary of the Association.

2. Aims and Objectives:

The Association aims to:

- 2a) Promote social, cultural and charitable activities and to maintain regular contacts among the Bunts who are residents of the United Kingdom and abroad.
- 2b) Promote and popularise the history, cultural heritage and legacy of the Bunts Community that originated from Bunts heartland; the surrounding districts of Mangalore City in the South West coast of Karnataka State, India.
- 2c) Encourage and support members to achieve greater heights in education, sports, social, business, employment and other extra-curricular activities in particular, but not exclusively, by providing advice and help, where possible.
- 2d) Maintain contact and reciprocity with Bunts' Associations all over the world
- 2e) Encourage members to take active part in other charitable activities in India and the UK.

3. Eligibility for Membership:

- 3a) Bunts, their spouses and their family members living in the UK and EU (see points 11a, 11b, 11c). Membership in the case of non-Bunt as marital partner shall be considered for honorary membership by the Executive Committee (see points 11a, 11b, 11c) The EC will consider in light of the Equalities and other legal provisions of the UK and EU.
- 3b) All members shall subscribe to the Bunts legacy, value, culture, heritage, language, history and philosophy of life and thrive to uphold the unity and reputation of the BAUK, its members and work towards its social and charitable efforts.

4. Membership Subscription:

- 4a) Individual membership is open to all Bunt residents in the UK & European Union over the age of 18.
- 4b) Family membership for the couple and their children who are in full time education.
- 4c) Honorary membership shall be conferred only on the approval of the Executive Committee with 2/3 majority and the President having the deciding vote in case of tie. The annual subscription fee for honorary members will be the same as other qualified members.
- 4e) Annual membership fee is to be paid preferably by a standing order. Bunts' Association UK bank details for payment of annual subscription fee will be made available to all members during the course of the year as well as at every Annual General Meeting (AGM). Admission to the AGM and to all other events of the day will be subject to valid membership of the Association. Annual Membership will cease the day before the AGM. However, the annual membership fee by bank transfer may be collected preferably during the first week of January each year, unless specified by a member. In case of cash payment, this will be collected at the Annual Gathering, before the AGM begins.



5. Subscription fees and donation:

- 5a) Members are expected to co-operate on this matter as the Budget and Financial Management of the Association will ultimately determine the core activities, continuity, future planning of events and organisational abilities of the Association's honorary office bearers. It is for this reason the Executive Committee (EC) has the authority to establish a "Donor's List" with effect from this AGM. Benevolent Members and non-Members are eligible to donate. Names of the donors will be published in Bunts publications e.g. website, flyers; etc. (details from the President, Secretary or the Treasurer and EC members) unless requested not to do so by the donor.
- 5b) There will be two categories of Annual Membership:-
- [i] Working Individuals.
 - [ii] Couples or families with children.
- 5c) Subscription fees shall be decided by the AGM. Any changes to subscription fees will be intimated to all members via email or post and is subject to approval by 2/3 of attending members at the AGM. If there is no quorum at the AGM, the decision will be deferred to a later date for approval.
- 5d) Subscribing members will receive a discount for the event/s held during the year of subscription.

6. Eligibility to Vote and Contest in the AGM and Elections:

Only subscribing members over the age of 18 are eligible to vote and to contest for the post of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer and for the membership of the Executive Committee (EC).

7. Election Procedures:

- 7a) Nomination Proposal Form signed by two subscribing members to be sent to the secretary three weeks before the AGM so that arrangements for secret ballot if required, could be arranged by the Secretary. The President, Treasurer, Secretary and the committee members will be elected by AGM every two years. If there are more than one candidate for each honorary post, then there will be an election. The election will be a secret ballot voting system.
- 7b) All paid up members are eligible to vote in the election. If there is only one candidate for each post then the candidate will be declared unanimously elected by the Election Officer. The Election Officer will be chosen at the AGM. The Election Officer may be a past President or a senior member of The Association who will take over from the President and chair the election proceedings.

8. Executive Committee (EC):

Executive Committee consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 committee members preferably 1 member from Scotland, 1 member from Wales, 2 from middle England which includes Midland and north of England and 2 members from the Southern England (PS: For ease of meeting, the committee could comprise of members from the south in case of no takers from other regions). The President and the EC may co-opt two members to oversee entertainment and other arrangements for the annual meet and two members to oversee sporting and or other activities. The EC can co-opt additional members at any time, if required. Co-opted members will have no Voting Rights in the Committee. The EC may also co-opt one member of this association to manage the web-site, ideally on a long-term basis. Term of office for all Honorary Officers is TWO years.

- 8a) President-** President holds the highest position in the organisation. She/he chairs all official meetings including the Annual General Meeting and encourages a democratic discussion on all matters regarding the upholding of the Bunts' Association UK. She/he will have a casting vote in the event of tied situations in any meetings of the executive committee and the AGM. The



President will have the power to set up a sub-committee, whenever deemed necessary. Ultimately, the President will be responsible to the entire Association.

8b) Secretary- The secretary shall prepare agenda and minutes of the meeting and in communication with the committee in all matters relating to the organisation. The Secretary shall be responsible for running the day to day business of the association and communicating with all the members. The subscription matters will be handled by the Secretary only when Treasurer is absent.

8c) Treasurer- The Treasurer shall manage funds of the Association. She/he will be responsible to produce an annual Financial Statement on income and expenditure. The Treasurer will then present a brief summary of the Annual Accounts and get approved by 2/3rd of the AGM. The Executive Committee members will share the work and support the Treasurer especially, where subscription work is involved. The subscription matters will be handled by the Treasurer and the questions will be responded to at the AGM. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary will take over the responsibility and conduct the business as usual.

8d) Executive Committee members- The EC shall work and assist the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer in planning, arranging and execution of the annual gathering, social activities/events and day-to-day running of the Association.

9. Finance:

Treasurer will be in charge of the financial management of the Association. Treasurer or Secretary will be responsible for online banking/transactions. The Treasurer or Secretary will prepare and present a brief update of annual finance at the AGM for members' perusal.

10. Annual General Meeting (AGM):

AGM will take place on the day of the Annual Gathering. Agenda and the Annual Financial Statement shall be circulated to the members, whenever possible, before the AGM. Constitutional amendments will need 2/3 majority approval and all other proposals can be decided with simple majority at the AGM. The Association must hold an AGM every 12 to 14 months, but not more than 15 months. Members who have queries about the Budget/Accounts submission may ask for clarification from the Treasurer/Secretary in writing, well before the AGM.

11. Legal Requirements:

11a) The Companies Act 1985 & 1989 is the legal document to consult. The Association will endeavour to follow the spirit of this Act. However, the Bunts' Association UK is a non-registered, friendly, community association and as such it is not required to fulfil its obligations towards The Companies Act in its entirety.

11b) The Data Protection Act (UK) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, European Union with effect from 25th May 2018): Our Privacy Policy is to adhere to legal requirements. The President and the Executive Committee are responsible for overseeing that this policy is strictly followed and all members' personal/confidential details are protected including website and members' contact details. Additionally, it is expected that all members of the Association take due diligence and cooperate with the Executive Committee in protecting the members' personal data.^{54/}

11c) Eligibility for membership of The Bunts' Association UK: All Bunts are eligible for membership provided they are not in violation of Article 8 of the ECHR (European Court of Human Rights (1998) and the provisions of NIAA (Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002) and they agree



to uphold and respect the provisions of the Equalities legislations that are currently in force in the UK & EU.

12. Health & Safety:

Health & Safety issues shall be discussed with the Parties/Venues in advance and agreed by the executive committee. All Members are expected to take care of themselves & their family, especially children, on matters concerning Health & Safety, at all times during the annual gatherings or events.

13. Recommended Practice:

Maintaining the association's reputation is paramount for all members. The Governance Code recommends the adoption and adherence to a suitable code of conduct that sets out expected standards of Probity and Behaviour. The association shall subscribe to this clause at all times.

14. Dissolution Clause:

14a) Insolvency Act 1986, see point 214 for further clarity.

14b) If the Association members wish to dissolve the Bunts' Association UK for any reason; the decision to do so shall be taken ideally during the AGM. However, if the matter is urgent, then the President and the Executive Committee will have the power to make an Executive Decision and the Funds & Assets of the Association shall be donated preferably to a registered charity for purposes of similar objective and of their choice, in India or the United Kingdom. Details regarding this must be communicated to all members of the association via email or post.

15. Hand-over to new Executive Committee:

For purposes of handover during change of office bearers, further notes regarding the AGM, EC, Subscription, Communication procedures, Finances, Sponsors' List, etc.; must be provided in a supplementary section to this document.

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