KINGSTON STITCHERS
CONSTITUTION
Amended 2026, previously amended 2023, original 2021

1. NAME
The name shall be Kingston Stitchers.

2. ADDRESS
The official address of the group shall be that of the Secretary.

3. OBJECTS
The objects of the Group are to support, promote and encourage the art of embroidery and related textile crafts.

The Group will assist in provision of meetings, lectures, exhibitions, workshops, visits and activities as well Young Stitchers.

To raise funds and receive donations for the maintenance of the Group.

4. ADMINISTRATION
Subject to the provision below the Group and its property shall be administered and managed by the Group Committee.

The Group shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or rules for its regulation.

5. POWERS OF THE GROUP COMMITTEE ("GC")
To buy or lease items of equipment
To sell, lease or dispose of the property of the Group
To enter into contracts with speakers, tutors and professional services, providers eg. verifiers
To enter into contracts for software licences, meeting venues, exhibition venues

6. MEMBERSHIP
Application for Membership of the Group shall be made to the committee.

Applications must be accompanied by a remittance for the appropriate annual subscription.

All adult members shall pay the subscription. The subscription shall be a fee towards the running costs of the Group, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the committee. In exceptional cases, Honorary Membership may be awarded at the discretion of the committee.

The Group Committee can by majority vote from the Members amend the annual subscription fee. The change can be implemented with immediate effect after the vote. Members will be given 3 weeks' notice of the proposed change to the annual subscription.

The Group shall collect the annual subscription as soon as possible after the beginning of each financial year.

A member whose subscription unpaid on 30th September shall be deemed to have resigned from the Group.

A limited number of non-members may attend a meeting as visitors by prior booking at a fee, detailed arrangements as agreed by the committee.

The Group committee may, by unanimous vote, serve a Notice of Termination to terminate the membership of an individual provided the individual concerned has been notified in writing at least 7 days before the applicable Group Committee meeting.

This notice may be served by the Group upon any member either personally, by email or by registered post as appropriate, addressed to such member at their registered address/email address as appearing in the register of members. Any notice shall be deemed to have been served two days following the day on which the communication was sent.

The member shall have the right to be heard at that meeting and be accompanied by a friend or representative.

Such a member must be notified in writing within 7 days of any decision of the Group Committee.

7. Equality and Diversity

Kingston Stitchers are committed to encouraging an environment of equality, diversity and inclusion. The aim is for our group to be truly representative of all sections of society among our members and visitors. We oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination

8. THE COMMITTEE

The activities of the Group shall be governed by a committee which shall consist of not less than five people including Officers elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members provided always that the numbers of co-opted members is fewer than the number of the elected members of the committee.

A Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are deemed necessary, shall be elected at the AGM.
The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are subject to annual election, may hold office for a maximum consecutive period of six years or whatever other period the Group may determine. Thereafter for a period of one year up to the start of the Group AGM for the following year the officers will cease to be eligible for re-election.

Nominations for the office of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be invited each year from all ordinary members of the Group. Not less than fourteen days' notice of the candidates for office and the date and place of the general meeting at which the elections will be held shall be given to all members of the Group. The election of Officers and Committee members shall be conducted by a secret ballot where necessary of all ordinary members present at a general meeting.

The committee shall meet at least four times a year and one half of the committee shall comprise a quorum. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

It shall be the duty of the Group Secretary or other appointed officer to keep minutes of all committee meetings as a proper record and account of such meetings.

9. GROUP MEETING

The AGM of the Group shall be held between 1 September and 14 October of each year and every member of the Group shall receive not less than fourteen days' notice of such meeting.

At AGM and at EGMs every member of the Group present shall have a vote, in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.

EGMs of the Group may be convened by the Secretary upon the request by the committee or by at least 25% of the members of the Group upon fourteen days' notice, which shall state the business to be considered at the meeting.

No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present. One quarter of the membership personally present shall be a quorum.

It shall be the duty of the Group Secretary or other appointed officer to keep minutes of all AGMs or EGMs as a proper record and account of such meetings.

10. FINANCES

It is the responsibility of the committee to ensure the proper accounts are maintained.

The financial year of the Group shall end on 31 August of each year. The accounts, prepared in a format specified by the committee and verified by an independent person, shall be presented to the AGM for approval.
The funds of the Group will be maintained in an account specified by the committee and held at a bank authorised under the Banking Act 1987 or Building Society Commission.

Payments whenever possible will be made by Bacs.

All payments will be raised by the Treasurer and be authorised by a second signatory Group Chair or Group Secretary or other committee member so appointed at the discretion of the committee..

Members shall be entitled to recover reasonable out of pocket expenses previously agreed by the committee and incurred by members in connection with Group activity.

11. CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be altered by a resolution supported by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at an AGM/GM

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP

If the GC recommends the dissolution of the Group, it shall call a GM. Members shall have no less than 14days notice that states the applicable facts and gives the reasons behind the recommendation of the GM.

If the resolution is supported by no less than two thirds of members voting by proxy or present and voting in person the GC shall have the authority to realise any assets held by, or on behalf of the Group. Any assets remaining after payment of all liabilities of the Group should be dispersed by agreement with the membership.

Any notice shall be deemed to have been served two days following the day on which the communication was sent.

Signed _____Chairperson

Print Name_____Date_____

Signed _____Secretary

Print Name_____Date_____

Signed _____Treasurer

Print Name_____Date_____

On behalf of the _____

Date _____