

UNIONE TICINESE

CONSTITUTION

- The UNIONE TICINESE (UT) was founded in London on 8 February 1874 by Ticinese immigrants
- Since 1938 the Society has been an autonomous Corporate Member of the Pro Ticino Centrale
- In 1949 the Unione Ticinese became a member of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
- Originally founded as a mutual aid Society, it ceased to exist as such in 1972

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To support the Ticinese community and nurture the Ticinese heritage in the United Kingdom.
- 1.2 To promote interest in Ticino, its traditions, culture and characteristics.
- 1.3 To maintain close ties with the worldwide Ticinese community.
- 1.4 To collaborate with the wider Swiss community in the UK.

2. ORGANISATION

- 2.1 The organs of the UT are the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Committee.
- 2.2 The Annual General Meeting is convened once during the first quarter of the year for acceptance of the Committee's annual report, the accounts and the budget, the election of the Officers and Committee members, the Honorary Auditors, the Graves Trustees and for fixing the annual subscription fee. At least 14 days notice of the convening of an AGM must be given to members. Members can vote either in person or by proxy. Twenty members constitute a quorum. The AGM is responsible for referring the decision to dissolve the Society to an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 2.3 All Officers and Committee members are elected for one year and are eligible for re-election. The President's term of office will be for a maximum of 5 years. All offices are honorary.
- 2.4 The officers are the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary. Each one is elected separately at the AGM.
- 2.5 The Committee consists of the Officers, the Vice-President, the Assistant Secretary, the Communication Coordinator, the Membership Secretary, the Events Coordinator and the Archivist, one Grave Trustee and up to 5 ordinary members without portfolios, some or all of whom can be co-opted.
- 2.6 The Committee meets according to need but at least 3 times a year in addition to the Annual General Meeting.
- 2.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be called by the Committee or at the written request of a group of 20 members, with at least 14 days notice of the convening of the EGM. Twenty members constitute a quorum.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership is open to all people who support the objectives of the Society.
- 3.2 Membership is granted, refused or withdrawn by the AGM or EGM on the motion of the Committee.
- 3.3 Applicants must be sponsored by two members. Admission may be provisionally endorsed by the Committee until their candidature is presented to the AGM.
- 3.4 *Benemeriti* Members are members who have rendered exceptional services to the UT; they are exempt from payment of membership fees.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES AND FINANCE

- 4.1 Membership fees are set at the AGM for the current financial year, running from April to March of the following year.

- 4.2 The annual fee is payable per member.
- 4.3 The Committee has the right to waive fees in exceptional circumstances.
- 4.4 The Treasurer, the President and the Secretary are the signatories of any bank accounts held by the UT.
- 4.5 The two Auditors, who must be members of the UT, are elected at the AGM. They shall submit their report to the Committee at least 30 days prior to the AGM. The accounts are made up to the 31 December. Officers and Committee members cannot be elected as Auditors.
- 4.6 The assets of the UT consist of existing capital to include membership dues, donations and profits from functions, chattels, graves and Income from investments.

5. GRAVES

- 5.1 The AGM elects 3 Trustees to administer the graves owned by the UT in St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green and in the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery in East Finchley.
- 5.2 One Trustee sits on the Committee.
- 5.3 Only Ticinese, their spouses and their descendants may be buried in the UT graves.
- 5.4 The UT is solely responsible for providing the communal tombstone for each grave and inscribing the name and date of death on such tombstone. The deceased member's family or personal representatives are responsible for all remaining funeral expenses.
- 5.5 The 'Vittorio Abate Trust Fund', a dedicated fund, separate from the general fund, is to be used for all expenses associated with the maintenance of the Society's graves.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Each year, the UT will celebrate the anniversary of its foundation in an appropriate manner.
- 6.2 The death of any member is communicated to the membership in an appropriate manner.
An Officer or Committee member will attend the funeral wherever possible.
- 6.3 The duration of the UT is indefinite unless dissolved by an EGM. If dissolved, its assets cannot be divided among the remaining members but disposed of as follows:
 - 6.3.1 Archives: all administrative documents, correspondence, newsletters, photographs and related memorabilia are to be offered to a competent institution, on the understanding that all items are to be kept together by one institution.
 - 6.3.2 Chattels: the banner of 1924, the Meschini Billiard Cup and such costumes as survive are to be offered together to one competent institution.
 - 6.3.3 An institution shall be considered as competent if it is appropriately registered and is recognised as applying international standards in its working practices particularly in the domains of conservation storage and security. The Committee is to choose the institutions and its choice is final.
 - 6.3.4 Graves: In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the responsibilities for the administration and maintenance of these graves are to be transferred to the Trustees of the "Vittorio Abate Trust Fund". The "Vittorio Abate Trust Fund" is to be established as an independent entity in its own right.
 - 6.3.5 Funds: the remaining capital assets are to be transferred to and administered by the Pro Ticino Organisation in Switzerland, on the understanding that the said assets are to be held readily available for the sole use of any democratically elected and London based Ticino society that will hold similar objectives to the UT. Failing that, the Committee will donate the funds to an appropriate institution.

This Constitution, the authoritative version of which is in English, was adopted by the EGM on **26 March 2011**. It cancels and replaces any previous Constitution.

For the President and the acting Secretary at the Extraordinary General Meeting:

President :

Peter Barber

Secretary:

Joe Brogini