

Devon Twinning Circle Constitution, 2012

Name:

The name of the Association is the Devon Twinning Circle (DTC)

Objects:

The objects of the Circle are to bring together for the purposes of discussion, mutual help and cooperation any such Twinning Associations in the county of Devon *and neighbouring areas* as become members and to maintain contact with the Local Authority Administration on matters of Twinning.

Officers:

The officers shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer, the Insurance Officer and the Secretary. The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Committee and all general meetings and shall have a second or casting vote. In the absence of the Chairman, or as necessary through any other absence, the Chair shall be taken by the next officer available in the sequence listed above.

Committee:

(a) The management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the five officers, six other persons, each of whom shall belong to a member Association of the Circle, the immediate past Chairman and the County Twinning Officer or one such similar officer representing Devon. Seven members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

(b) No member Association shall have more than one person serving as its representative on the Committee but in the event of that person being an Officer an additional member from his/her Association may serve on the Committee.

© Whenever possible, the nomination and election of Officers and members of the Committee shall reflect a fair representation of all areas of the county of Devon.

(d) At least four Committee meetings shall be held in each calendar year. Not less than 28 days notice shall be given to each Committee member.

(e) The editor of the DTC Newsletter, if *he/she* is not a Committee member, shall be invited to attend Committee meetings.

(f) The Committee shall be authorised to pay agreed out-of-pocket expenses for services rendered to the DTC.

Elections:

(a) The Annual General Meeting shall elect the Officers, who shall hold office until the next A.G.M., and three other members of the Committee who shall hold office for two years in such a way that three members shall retire annually in rotation.

(b) Any casual vacancy may be filled by election at the next General Meeting. Not less than 28 days notice of the election shall be given to all members, requesting nominations.

Attendance:

Any member failing to attend three consecutive meetings shall cease to be a member of the Committee. Absence from a meeting may be excused by application to the Committee. A casual vacancy shall otherwise arise.

General Meetings:

At least four General meetings, including the A.G.M., shall be held in each calendar year. Not less than 28 days notice of any general meeting, whether Ordinary, Special or General, shall be given to each member of the Circle. Fifteen members shall form a quorum.

Special General Meetings:

A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Committee, or, on written request, by not less than ten member Associations. In the same manner a planned Ordinary General Meeting may be called as a Special General Meeting. Notice of a Special General Meeting, specifying the business to be transacted therein, shall be given to each member of the Circle.

The Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held no earlier than July in any year

Subscription:

The annual subscription shall be agreed each year at the A.G.M.

Constitution:

The Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Not less than 28 days notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to each member of the Circle.

Account report:

A competent person, independent of the Committee, shall review the annual accounts and report

as to whether they are in accordance with the records and explanations given to him/her.

Monica Saunders Trophy:

The Monica Saunders Trophy shall be awarded to the Association or member who in the opinion of the Committee, has made the most notable contribution to Twinning in Devon and neighbouring areas during the past year.

Besides the trophy there will be a prize of £150 awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

The cut-off date for event content for entries to be from January 1st to December 31st.

The deadline for entries to be sent to the secretary shall be March 31st.

A three-person sub-committee shall consider the entries. This sub-committee to be appointed at the April meeting.

The DTC shall be responsible for engraving the Cup and the winners' name shall be on it when presented.

The Cup shall be presented at the AGM in October.

The cup shall be returned to the secretary by July 31st each year

Past winners include:-

2003	Ashburton
2004	Bideford
2005	Dolton and District
2006	Ipplepen
2007	Kingsteington
2008	Exeter/ Chittlehampton (jointly)
2009	Ottery St. Mary
2010	Exeter Twinning Circle
2011	Bow

Dissolution:

In the event of the dissolution of the Devon Twinning Circle any amounts of money remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be distributed equally among member Associations who have paid a subscription in the financial year preceding dissolution.

NB. The four passages in italics show the revised wording to be ratified at the Special General Meeting on April 21st 2012.

A query has also been raised as to whether the required quorum for General Meetings may be too high and should be reduced.