



Asociación Latinoamericana de Swansea ~ Associação Latino-americana de Swansea  
Swansea Latin American Association ~ Cymdeithas America Ladin Abertawe



WWW.ALAS.ORG.UK

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. NAME & FOUNDATION

- The group's name is: **ALAS**, which stands for  
Asociación Latinoamericana de Swansea (in Spanish)  
Associação Latino-americana de Swansea (in Portuguese)  
Swansea Latin American Association (in English)  
Cymdeithas Lladin-Americanaidd Abertawe (in Welsh)
- The Foundation meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2003 at 12 Gwydr Crescent, Uplands, Swansea

### 2. MISSION STATEMENT

ALAS is an association, which will endeavour to bring together all Latin Americans and all those in Swansea and surrounding areas who are interested in Latin American affairs. The main mission of the group is to provide mutual support and to raise awareness of Latin America's cultural richness.

### 3. SPECIFIC AIMS OF THE GROUP

- To meet informally to develop friendships and provide each other with mutual support
- To meet periodically as a group and share cultural activities
- To provide the opportunity to practise Spanish and Portuguese in both formal meetings and informal gatherings
- To organise cultural events, for example:
  - A Music workshop with a professional group from the Andes
  - A Salsa party with a Latin American Band
  - A Tango Workshop with professional dancers
  - A Poetry Recital with a Latin American Poet working in the UK
  - A Latin American Film Festival
- To support other Latin American Events in the area, for example
  - Cardiff Latino Film Festival with Latin American film-makers working in the UK (Sept - Oct, 2003, 2004 & 2005)
  - Samba Tawe Summer Carnival (Mid-August every year)
  - Latin Night - Every month in the Monkey Café
  - Latin American Films in Swansea University's Taliesin and The Dylan Thomas Centre & Theatre

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of ALAS is open to any individual interested in Latin America. Members will pay a membership fee each year at a rate agreed by the Committee.

#### 5. MANAGEMENT

- ALAS will be managed by a Committee elected from the membership each year at an Annual General Meeting.
- The Committee will be made up of 8 officers being Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Membership Secretary and Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Liaison Officer, Brazilian Affairs Officer and another officer whose areas of responsibility shall be determined annually by the Committee.
- The Chairperson will retire annually but other officers of the Committee can be re-appointed on election, if willing to stand.
- In the event of the retirement or death of an elected officer the vacancy will be filled by nomination by the Committee.
- Proper minutes will be kept of decisions made by the Committee. To this end, the officers present at any meeting of the Committee shall appoint someone to act as a Secretary to prepare the Minutes of the meeting, which shall be submitted for approval to the Committee.
- The Committee can co-op members to assist them, and such members shall have the right to speak in the meetings of the Committee but shall not have a vote in the decisions of the Committee.

#### 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) normally will be held on the First Saturday in **May** each year. Seven days notice will be given of the exact date and time of the meeting and of the agenda.

At each AGM the Committee will:

- Report on the previous year's activities
- Give a financial report for the previous year
- Conduct an election of Committee members
- Put forward any proposed amendments to this Constitution and/or any other properly notified business.
- **All decision-making will be by a simple majority. In the case of equality of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.**
- The **quorum** for an AGM shall be **one quarter** of current members

## **7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Committee may call a special general meeting at any time. Seven days notice will be given to members of the date, time and venue of the meeting and business to be discussed. The Committee will call a Special General Meeting if requested to do so by any group of five members or more.

## **8. FINANCE**

- All funds raised by or on behalf of ALAS will be used to further the aims of the Association and for no other purpose.
- The Treasurer will keep a proper record of the finances of the group and allow independent checking of these records, if requested.
- ALAS will hold its funds in an account with Halifax Bank or with such other bank/building society as the Committee shall from time to time decide. This account will be in the Association's name with at least two signatories. The signatures of the Treasurer and either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson will be required to authorise expenditure.
- A report of the year's income and expenses will be prepared up to the end of **January** (or April, if possible) each year for presentation to members at the AGM.
- No individual member will make any personal financial or material gain from ALAS's funds. Legitimate expenses only will be met on presentation of the relevant receipts.

## **9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This **Constitution** may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a properly notified and quorate General Meeting. The notice must include details of the proposed changes, if possible. Last minute resolutions may be presented to the AGM, if deemed urgent.

## **10. DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP**

If the **Committee** consider that, on the grounds of finance or otherwise, it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the association, it will call a meeting of all Committee members giving not less than seven days notice of the resolution to be considered. If the meeting is quorate, and such decision is approved, ALAS will be dissolved, and members will be notified. In this event, any assets remaining after the payment of proper debts will be transferred to Charities working in Latin America, such as Children of the Andes and ACAIA or any other charity or voluntary organisation with similar aims, deemed suitable by the Committee.