



The
-CONSTITUTION-
of
THE GUILD OF MERCERS' SCHOLARS

Constitution being the Rules and Regulations of 30th May 1951 as amended by the Court 9th October 1959, 20th March 1964, 19th March 1971, 9th January 1981, 30th September 1983, 12th April 1989, 15th January 1992, 9th January 1996, 25th March 1999, 1st June 2006, and 12th July 2012.

Title

The Guild shall be entitled the “Guild of Mercers’ Scholars”, or such other title as the Court shall decide.

Objects

The objects of the Guild shall be:

- To bring together former members of the Mercers’ cluster of schools, colleges and academies who have an interest in the City of London, its customs, ceremonies and traditions to become Freemen of the City.
- To enable young people from the Mercers’ cluster of schools to become Freemen of the City of London through the Apprentice scheme.
- To assist members to become members of City Livery Companies of their choice;
- To foster a sense of good citizenship by service to the Guild, to one’s own Livery Company and to the Corporation of the City of London
- To support educational activities, both by the organisation of events and through grants to Guildmen and Apprentices from the Guild’s own Charitable Trust.

Constitution

The Guild shall consist of:-

A Guild Master, a Guild Renter Warden, a Guild Junior Warden, an Honorary Clerk, an Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Assistant Clerks, Honorary Assistant Clerk - Membership, Assistants to the Court, and such other officials as the Court may deem necessary, together with Guildmen and Apprentices.

Membership

Membership of the Guild shall be open to all current and former students of the Mercers' cluster of schools, colleges and academies, and to such other persons as may be approved by the Court, who have taken up the Freedom of the City of London or the livery of one of the City Companies, and having been proposed and seconded by two Guildmen and duly elected by the Court.

Honorary Membership of the Guild shall be open to current Principals and School Liaison Officers of the Mercers' cluster of schools, colleges and academies who have taken up the Freedom of the City of London or the livery of one of the City Companies, having been proposed and seconded by two Guildmen and duly elected by the Court.

If in the opinion of the Court, after considering all relevant facts, any act or omission by a member offends against or conflicts with the objects of the Guild it is within the power of the Court to terminate membership of the Guild, without being required to provide any explanation or reason for such a decision.

Apprenticeship

At the discretion of the Court Apprentices may be admitted to the Guild, being not less than 17 years of age and not more than 21 years of age and having been proposed and seconded by two Guildmen. Any applicant for an apprenticeship must be eligible to take the Freedom of the City of London and membership of the Guild on completion of their apprenticeship. Apprenticeship shall be open to any pupils or students of the Mercers' cluster of schools, colleges and academies and to such other persons as may be approved by the Court.

If in the opinion of the Court, after considering all relevant facts, any act or omission by an Apprentice offends against or conflicts with the objects of the Guild it is within the power of the Court to terminate apprenticeship in the Guild, without being required to provide any explanation or reason for such a decision.

Governance

The affairs of the Guild shall be under the absolute control of the Court. The Court shall consist of the Guild Master, the Guild Renter Warden, the Guild Junior Warden, all Past Guild Masters who shall be ex-officio Assistants, the Honorary Clerk, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Assistant Clerk - Membership, Honorary Assistant Clerks, up to two Senior Court Assistants and two further Court Assistants, a Social Court Assistant and one representative Court Assistant from each of the Mercers' cluster of schools, colleges or academies together with such other persons as the Court may direct from time to time.

Any property and investments of the Guild shall be held in the name of the Guild as shall be determined from time to time by the Court.

Election of the Court

The Guild Master, Guild Wardens, Honorary Clerk, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Membership Clerk, Honorary Assistant Clerk and Senior Court Assistants shall be elected annually by the Court at the Midsummer Court Meeting.

The Guild Master shall, if possible, have first served both the Guild Junior Warden's and Guild Renter Warden's Chairs.

The Guild Renter Warden shall, if possible, have first served as the Guild Junior Warden and a Senior Court Assistant.

The Guild Junior Warden shall if possible, have served as a Senior Court Assistant.

The two Senior Court Assistants shall be the two most Senior Guildmen who have not served as Guild Master, Guild Renter Warden or Guild Junior Warden and who wish to progress to the office of Guild Master.

The representative School, Social and Court Assistants shall be elected from the general body of Guildmen at the Annual Meeting.

The Independent Examiner of the Guild's Accounts shall be elected from the general body of Guildmen at the Annual Meeting.

The Guild Master elect, the Guild Wardens elect and the other members of the Court shall assume office at the Michaelmas Day Court.

The Court shall be empowered to fill an interim vacancy on the Court other than that of any Court Assistant elected at the Annual Meeting.

Meetings

The Court shall meet quarterly for the transaction of the affairs of the Guild, and such Courts shall normally be held within twenty eight days of Christmas Day, Lady Day, Midsummer's Day and Michaelmas Day. An Extraordinary meeting of the Court may be called at any time on the instructions of the Guild Master. If the Guild Master is unable or unwilling to act then the meeting may be called by the most senior Past Guild Master who is able and willing to act.

The Guild Master, or if absent the immediate Past Guild Master, shall preside at all Courts and in the absence of the Guild Master and the immediate Past Guild Master, the senior Past Master present shall preside as acting Guild Master. When so presiding the immediate Past Guild Master or senior Past Guild Master shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Guild Master, and shall have the status of the Guild Master.

The Honorary Clerk shall prepare, and send to each member of the Court, not less than twenty one days beforehand, an agenda of the business to be transacted thereat, and, if possible, to include in an Election report the name of any candidate for membership of the Guild, together with the names of the proposers and seconders of such candidates.

There shall be an Annual Meeting, open to all the Guildmen, which shall be held on the same day as, and following on, the Midsummer's Day Court, and such other meetings and functions which shall be open to all Guildmen and Apprentices, as the Court shall from time to time determine.

An Extraordinary meeting of the Court can be requisitioned by not less than ten Court members making a written request to the Clerk and setting out their reasons wherefore.

Upon receipt of such a request the Clerk shall convene a meeting of the Court to be held within 21 days and shall send to each member of the Court a copy of the written request and reasons.

A quorum shall be six members at an ordinary Court meeting and twelve members at an Extraordinary Court meeting and Annual Meeting.

Dues

Each Guildman shall pay annually on 1st July, such fee as the Court may from time to time decide. Payments outstanding for more than three months shall be reported by the Honorary Treasurer to the Court who shall have the power to take such action as it deems appropriate.

The Court shall be able to set a joining fee where considered appropriate.

There shall be paid in respect of each Apprentice to the Guild a fee of such an amount as the Court may from time to time decide.

Any Guildman or Apprentice whose dues are outstanding for more than that three month period shall not be entitled to attend any meetings or functions of the Guild except by authority of the Court.

Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for entering all financial transactions of the Guild in the Guild's Accounts.

The Honorary Treasurer shall arrange for a report as to the financial position of the Guild at each Court Meeting.

The Honorary Treasurer shall arrange for the preparation of Accounts for each year ending 31st October which, after such independent examination, shall normally be presented at the Christmas Day Court Meeting.

The Accounts shall be 'independently examined' by a member of the Guild, not holding office, who shall make a report thereon to the Court. Such nominee as an Independent Examiner will be recommended by the Court for appointment at the Annual Meeting

Honorary Clerk

The Honorary Clerk shall be responsible for summoning all meetings; for the maintenance of full and proper records; and for the safe keeping of the Guild's property.

Alteration to Rules and Regulations

Any alteration to these Rules and Regulations shall be within the powers of the Court, provided that due notice shall have been given to all members thereof at least twenty one days before the Court meeting to which such alteration shall be submitted.

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