



THE GUILD OF MOTORING WRITERS LIMITED

RULES

Registered Office:
The Royal Automobile Club
Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HS

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THE GUILD OF MOTORING WRITERS LIMITED

Founded 1944

President: Nick Mason

Vice-Presidents: John Blauth, Edouard Seidler, Graham Macbeth

OBJECTIVES

- * To strive constantly by whatever means in its power to raise the standards of motoring journalism*
- * To encourage motoring, road safety and motor sport*
- * To safeguard the interests of all its members in relation to the aims of The Guild and to make representations where necessary for facilities to enable them better to pursue their vocation*
- * To provide a link with fellow members all over the world*
- * To promote social events for members and those interested in motoring*

RULES

1. The name shall be The Guild of Motoring Writers Limited.
2. The objectives shall be set out in The Guild's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and summarised above, provided always that no Rules shall be inconsistent with or shall effect or repeal anything contained in the Memorandum or Articles of Association of The Guild.
3. Qualification for Membership:
 - (a) **FULL MEMBERS** – may be persons of either sex and any nationality whose occupation has been for at least one year that of journalist, author, artist, photographer, broadcaster (radio/tv) or film-maker who presents his/her own work which is either wholly concerned with motoring subjects or is, in the opinion of the Committee, concerned to a significant degree with motoring subjects. If a person ceases to fulfil any requirements of membership, he/she shall cease to be a member.
 - (b) **PROVISIONAL MEMBERS** – may be persons who, on taking up one of the above occupations (whether wholly or partially) fulfil, at the time of their application, conditions that in the opinion of the Committee, merit their election. Such Provisional Members must at the end of one year apply for Full Membership or withdraw from The Guild.
 - (c) **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** – may be persons who, on taking up one of the above occupations (whether wholly or partially), are either existing members of recognised regional motoring groups or who do not earn a majority of their income from motoring journalism. Such Associate Members shall not be eligible for the Benefits of Full Members, as set out in the Guild Year Book, other than receipt of the Year Book and monthly Newsletter.
 - (d) **HONORARY MEMBERS** – shall be limited to six and shall be elected by the Committee as a mark of the Guild's appreciation of services rendered either to the Guild or to motoring journalism generally.

- (e) **LIFE MEMBERS** – shall be limited to those who have performed a special service to The Guild and who shall be elected by the Committee.
- (f) **RETIRED MEMBERS** – any member who, on retirement from employment, has reached the age of 65 or over, and has been a fully paid-up Guild Member for at least 15 years, may apply to the Committee for waiver of the annual subscription. He/she shall not be eligible for the Benefits of Full Members, as set out in the Guild Year Book, other than receipt of the Guild Year Book itself and the monthly Newsletter. The Committee shall have authority to waive the subscriptions in other cases.

4. Method of Election

All applications for membership of The Guild must be supported by two referees who can be either Guild Members or active members of the motoring press, or editors who regularly publish the candidate's work and who are acceptable to the Committee. Referees must have personal knowledge of the applicant and may be contacted by The Guild. Proposals for membership of The Guild must be considered by at least nine members of the Committee sitting together, and for such proposals to be accepted it is necessary for two-thirds of those present to vote in favour. The names and qualifications of the candidates, duly proposed and seconded, shall be placed before the Committee at a meeting, but not voted upon until the following meeting. Nominees who are approved by the Committee shall be invited to join The Guild. The Committee shall be under no obligation to take further action after deciding against a candidate's admission.

The Committee shall, at its September meeting each year, review the membership, and may remove any person as a member whose occupation no longer qualifies him/her as a member under Rule 3, hereof, or who has, in its opinion, brought The Guild into disrepute. The Committee shall not be required to give its reasons and any member so removed shall cease to be a member of The Guild.

5. Fees and Subscriptions

The Committee may from time to time decide the rates of subscriptions and entry fees and may decide for what periods such payments shall refer.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 31st of March in the year shall be deemed to have allowed their membership to lapse. Should they wish to continue as members they may be required to re-apply for election, and to pay an entry fee if the Committee so decides.

6. Conduct of Members

The Guild requires a high standard of professional conduct from its members. No member will put his/her name to any PR work undertaken for any company within the motor trade or industry.

No officer or other member of the Guild may make or publish a policy statement on behalf of The Guild without prior approval and clearance of the text by the Committee, and through the office of the Chief Executive/General Secretary.

Members who accept work outside the strict confines of motoring journalism as specified in Rule 3, particularly if concerned with the motor industry or motor trade, and who are in doubt as to how it might affect their standing as members of The Guild, should write to the Committee asking for its ruling. In such cases the Committee will be guided by the effect such employment might have on the credibility of The Guild and its members; and it will be mindful, particularly in the case of freelancers, of members' needs to widen the scope of their earnings.

Any member not having previously consulted the Committee, whose activities are brought to the notice of the Committee as being prejudicial to the interests of The Guild, may be called before the Committee and, failing a satisfactory explanation, may be cautioned, suspended, required to resign or expelled as the Committee shall determine. The decision of the Committee in this respect shall be within the Committee's absolute discretion and the Committee shall not be required to explain or give reasons for any decision reached.

7. General Meetings

A General Meeting shall be held annually in accordance with the Articles. For the purposes of electing a President, Vice-Presidents and Committee, members may exercise their votes by proxy. Proxy votes must reach the Chief Executive/General Secretary not later than 48 hours prior to the AGM.

8. Committee

The Guild shall be governed by a Committee of 14 members (from among whom a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman shall be elected) and the following ex-officio

members: President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. Only Full Members of The Guild are eligible to serve on the Committee.

One-third of the elected members of the Committee – except the Chairman and deputy Chairman during their respective terms of office – shall retire each year and, with the exception of those who at that time shall have served six consecutive years on the Committee, shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM. Nominations, duly signed by the nominee and a proposer, for membership of the Committee, must be received by the Chief Executive/General Secretary at least 28 days before the date fixed for the AGM.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt members to serve on the Committee for a specific purpose and they shall cease to be members of the Committee when that purpose has been fulfilled.

The Annual General Meeting shall be asked to confirm the Committee's election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and confirm in office the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. Should there be more than one nomination for any office, or more nominations for the Committee than the number of vacancies, a ballot or ballots shall be held to decide the elections.

The President and Vice-Presidents may be elected at the Annual General Meeting on the proposal of the Committee. Such proposal must be circulated at least 28 days before the date fixed for the meeting. Once elected, the President and Vice-Presidents shall serve for life, or until resignation, provided only that they may be removed from office by resolution duly passed at a General Meeting of The Guild, but are not permitted to vote.

Vice-Presidents are elected as a mark of honour, and are invited to attend Committee meetings and give the Committee the benefit of their advice.

8. Friends of The Guild.

The Committee shall award the honour of Friend of The Guild to anyone considered to have given outstanding service to The Guild or Guild members. At any time the number of Friends of The Guild shall not exceed 20.

9. Guild Insignia

The Guild's badges and emblems of various types as supplied to members on payment of the appropriate charge must not be used after termination of membership.

10. Amendments of Rules

The Committee may alter the Rules of The Guild and add thereto as may from time to time be considered desirable. Such alterations or additions shall be ratified by the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.