

The Bristol Masonic Society

BY-LAWS

(January 2020)

I.

NAME

The Society shall be called “The Bristol Masonic Society.”

II.

OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be:

- (a) To increase the interest of the Brethren in the principles of Freemasonry by means of lectures, papers and discussions, on all aspects of its History, Antiquities, Ritual and Symbolism.
- (b) To assist in the dissemination of Masonic knowledge in the Province of Bristol.
- (c) To provide a centre and bond of union for Masonic students in the Province.
- (d) To encourage the growth of the Library and Museum by means of contributions from the funds of the Society, and by the acquisition of archival material and artefacts, relevant to the history of the Province, on behalf of the Provincial Library and Museum.

III.

OFFICERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

- (a) The Officers of the Society shall be seven in number: a President and two Vice-Presidents (who must be Installed Masters); a Treasurer; a Secretary; an Assistant Secretary; and a Transactions Editor.
- (b) The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a General Committee consisting of the Officers; the Past Presidents; the Provincial Grand Master; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; the Provincial Grand Secretary; the Librarian and Archivist to Provincial Grand Lodge; one Representative appointed by each Craft Lodge in the Province; and two other Members appointed to represent the Provinces of Gloucestershire and Somerset. The Officers of the General Committee shall be proposed and elected at the General Committee Meeting preceding the Installation Meeting in September.
- (c) If the Provincial Grand Lodge Librarian and Archivist is not a member of the Society, the Committee may decide to make him an honorary member of the General Committee without the right to vote.
- (d) With the exception of the condition specified in By-Law III (c), all Officers and Committee Members must be Members of the Society.

IV.

STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Standing Sub-Committee shall comprise:

the President; the Immediate Past President; the Senior Vice-President; the Junior Vice-President; the Treasurer; the Secretary; the Assistant Secretary; the Provincial Librarian and Archivist (if he is a member of the Society); the Transactions Editor; and the Society’s Representatives on the Provincial Library Committee.

The Standing Sub-Committee shall meet annually on the first Monday in February and at such additional times as may be deemed necessary.

The Standing Sub-Committee shall act under the authority of the General Committee in matters of reference and general purposes of the Society, and shall further be responsible for:

- (a) The nomination of suitably qualified members for election as Officers of the Society for the following Session.
- (b) The nomination of two Past Presidents (who must be subscribing members of a Craft Lodge within the Province of Bristol), for membership of the Provincial Library Committee.
- (c) Consideration and recommendation for the purchase of Books and Objects of Masonic interest for deposit in the Provincial Library and Museum.
- (d) The Standing Sub-Committee is empowered to co-opt a Past President if that Past President is thought to have specific skills which would be of assistance in some specific task.

V.

PRESIDENT

The President, who shall be installed at the Meeting in September, shall hold office for one year. He shall, however, be eligible for re-election by the General Committee for a further period not exceeding one year.

VI.

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) All Master Masons of Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England, or of Constitutions recognised as “Regular” by the United Grand Lodge of England, are eligible for membership. Application for admission must be made on a form provided for the purpose and proposed by a member of the Society. New members shall be elected by the General Committee and their names announced at the next General Meeting.
- (b) With the view of encouraging new Masons to become members of the Society, every Initiate in the Province, as soon as he is raised to the Third Degree, may, if he so desires, become an *Associate Member* of the Society for the ensuing twelve months, without payment, and he will be entitled to all the privileges of full membership, except the power of voting. If, on the expiration of twelve months, he then decides to become a full member, he may do so on payment of the subscription as specified in By-Law VIII.

VII.

HONORARY MEMBERS

The General Committee may recommend distinguished Masons for election as Honorary Members, who, if elected at a General Meeting of the Society, shall be entitled to all its privileges except the power of voting.

VIII.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Subscriptions shall be due and payable annually at the commencement of the calendar year *viz.* 1st January, except for new members whose subscriptions shall be payable upon election.
- (b) The Annual Subscription, which shall include one copy of the current volume of the Society’s *Transactions*, shall be of such an amount as the Society shall from time to time determine by Resolution at a General Meeting after due notice.
- (c) Any Member falling two years in arrears in payment of subscriptions shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Society and can only become a member again by regular proposition and election according to By-Law VI. The Society may require full payment of the arrears outstanding as a pre-condition to re-election.

IX.

MEETINGS

- (a) Meetings, usually five in number, shall be held between September and May. Additional Meetings may be held at the discretion of the General Committee
- (b) In addition, a Summer Outing may be arranged by the President for the year.
- (c) At least four weeks before the first General Meeting of the Session, a Programme giving details of all General Meetings for the Session, shall be sent to every member, but this shall not prevent the discussion of any additional subject which the President of a General Meeting may consider suitable.
- (d) In the absence of the President, the Chair shall be taken by the Immediate Past President, or another Past President, or a Vice-President as the President may arrange, or, in case no one has been chosen by him to preside for the evening, by a Brother, who must be an Installed Master, nominated by that General Meeting.

X.

ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer's accounts shall be made up for the financial year ending 31st December, and shall be audited by two members duly proposed and elected at the meeting preceding the Installation Meeting in September.

XI.

ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

Alterations in the By-Laws may be made after Notice of Motion is given at a General Meeting, the terms of any proposed alteration must then be sent to each member of the Society prior to the next General Meeting, when it shall be submitted to vote by those present. If approved, the alteration or alterations shall take effect after endorsement by the Provincial Grand Master.

*These By-Laws were approved by the membership
at the Society's General Meeting held on 30th September 2019
and were duly endorsed by
Jonathan Mark Walker DAVIS
Provincial Grand Master
on 1st January 2020*