

LONDON GUILD OF WEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS
(Affiliated to The Association of Weavers Spinners and Dyers)
ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION
(with effect from 13th August 2005)

(amended December 2012 - 3(g); amended March 2015 – 10 (b, c); amended March 2017 – 4 (c, d))

1. NAME

The full name of the Guild is 'London Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers' and the Guild is also known by the short title 'London Guild of Weavers'. Throughout this constitution, it is referred to as 'the Guild'.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Guild are:

- (a) to share interest in handspinning, handweaving, dyeing, design and creative textile crafts in general;
- (b) to help members study and practise all aspects of the crafts;
- (c) to promote awareness of and education in these crafts amongst the public; and
- (d) to co-operate with other organisations with similar interests.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) Membership of the Guild is open to anyone interested in the crafts.
- (b) The annual subscription payable, and joining fee for new members, will be decided by members at the Annual General Meeting following a recommendation by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Subscriptions are due and payable on 1st January of each year. Subscriptions cover membership until 31st December of the year of joining. Any subscription paid on or after 1st September will also cover membership for the following year.
- (d) Membership of the Guild will lapse if a renewal subscription is not paid by 1st April. A lapsed member may re-join within 12 months without being required to pay a further joining fee
- (e) The executive Committee has the power to approve or refuse applications for membership without stating reasons
- (f) The Executive Committee has the power to suspend a member stating reasons. The member in question has the right to appeal to the Annual General Meeting, or to an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (g) That a member shall be disqualified from holding office and shall be removed from office at any time if they neglect, refuse or omit to properly perform and/or discharge their duties and responsibilities to the Guild, or by any act bring the Guild into disrepute.

4. OFFICERS, PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT(S)

- (a) The officers of the Guild will be:
 - Honorary Chair,
 - Honorary General Secretary and
 - Honorary Treasurer.

They will be elected for a term of office of three years at the expiry of which they will not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.

- (b) A President will be elected by the membership for a term of three years following a recommendation by the Executive Committee.
- (c) The officers will normally be elected in rotation, one per year. The Honorary Chair will be elected in years divisible by three. The Honorary General Secretary will be elected one year before the year in which the Honorary Chair is elected. The Honorary Treasurer will be elected one year after the year in which the Honorary Chair is elected. A President will be elected in the same year as the Honorary Treasurer.
- (d) Vice President(s) may be nominated by the Executive Committee.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The management of the Guild is the responsibility of an Executive Committee of ten members in addition to the three officers.
- (b) Members of the Executive Committee are elected to hold office for three years at the expiry of which they will not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.
- (c) Five members to include one of the officers will be considered a quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee.

7. ELECTIONS

- (a) Election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee will take place at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be received by the General Secretary at least four weeks before the date of the meeting.
- (b) Newly elected members will take office from the date of the AGM.

8. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee have the power to take any action not inconsistent with these Articles of Constitution which it deems advisable for the benefit of the Guild, including:

- (a) fill a vacancy among the officers from the membership of the Committee until the next AGM.
- (c) appoint and direct sub-committees
- (d) co-opt members or non-members to the Executive Committee or sub-committees.
- (e) decide the conditions under which a member or non-member may carry on any professional activity or trading in connection with the activities and exhibitions of the Guild

9. USE OF THE NAME OF THE GUILD

- (a) No member may carry on any professional or trading activity in the name of the Guild.
- (b) No member may publish anything in the name of the Guild or make any public statement on behalf of the Guild without prior approval of the Executive Committee.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The date and place of the AGM will be arranged by the Executive Committee.
- (b) A report of the activities of the Guild during the previous year and a financial statement, accompanied by the report of an independent examiner appointed by the Executive Committee, will be presented by the Executive Committee at each AGM.
- (c) The Chair at an AGM will have a casting vote.

11. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- (a) An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called at any time:
 - by the Executive Committee, or
 - within one month of the receipt by the General Secretary of a request signed by at least fifteen members, stating the purpose of the meeting.
- (b) At least twenty one days' notice of such a meeting will be sent to every member. The notice will state the Agenda for consideration at the meeting, and no other business will be decided.
- (c) The Chair at the meeting will have a casting vote.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE GUILD

- (a) If at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting a resolution for dissolution of the Guild is approved by a two-thirds majority of members voting, the Executive Committee will liquidate the assets of the Guild and discharge all known responsibilities.
- (b) A decision regarding the assets of the Guild will be made at the meeting deciding the dissolution, following a recommendation by the Executive Committee.

13. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

- (a) The articles of the Constitution of the Guild will be amended only by resolution at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (b) The amending resolution will not be effective unless it is approved by a two-thirds majority of members voting.

14. COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

Notice by post or by email will be considered equally valid where an email address has been provided.