

# **BIRMINGHAM PRESS CLUB RULES**

## **Titles and Objects**

1 The Club shall be called the “Birmingham Press Club”.

2 The objects of the Club shall be to promote social intercourse among journalists and others elected to membership, to provide facilities for meals, refreshments, games, writing, etc., and generally to carry out the functions of a social club.

## **1 Membership – Subscriptions**

### **Class A. – ORDINARY MEMBERS**

These shall be shareholders in the Birmingham Press Club Limited and shall be admitted to membership only after having taken up at least £1.00 share. All new members are also required to pay an appropriate entrance fee as stated on the application form. Candidates shall be proposed and seconded by members, and a form stating their name, address and occupation shall be posted on the Club noticeboard for at least fourteen days. During the period of nomination, objections may be lodged with the Honorary Secretary for private and confidential investigation by the Board of Directors, who shall act at their discretion.

A candidate whose nomination has been thus posted shall be the subject of a ballot of the next meeting of the Board. Candidates shall be elected to membership if they receive two-thirds or more of the votes of those present and voting. No candidate who fails to gain election shall be eligible for further nomination until after twelve months from the date of the failure to secure election.

Ordinary members shall pay a subscription of £35.00 (excluding VAT) from January 1st each year. The Board shall have power to remit the whole, or a portion, of the current year’s subscription of a member elected later than June 30th.

Journalists – those whose principal means of employment is the gathering, preparation of presentation of news; also anyone whose livelihood is principally derived from editing or writing for newspapers and periodicals will not be charged for membership.

## **1 Admission to Membership**

No person shall be admitted to membership, or be admitted as a candidate for membership, or to and of the privileges of membership without an interval of at least two days between nomination or application for membership and admission, nor may any person becoming a member without prior nomination or application be admitted to the privileges of membership without an interval of at least two days between becoming a member and admission.

## **1 Subscriptions – Payment of.**

The annual subscription of the Club is due and payable in advance on January 1st. The first annu-

al subscriptions of new members elected after January 1st are due and payable on notification of election, which shall be sent to them as soon as convenient after election. Thereafter subscriptions are due and payable on January 1st in each year.

The Board shall constantly review the list of unpaid subscriptions and shall instruct the Secretary or other appropriate officer to send out general or particular reminders of arrears as and when considered advisable but failure to receive such reminder(s) shall not be a sufficient or any excuse for failure to pay subscriptions when due. The Board shall have power and discretion to remove from the membership register the name of the member whose subscription or instalment is in arrears.

## **1 Resignation**

Any duly elected members who may wish to withdraw from the Club shall submit their resignation to the Secretary in writing. They shall be liable for all dues incurred up to date of such writing, including the subscription for the current year. On death, resignation or expulsion members' shares in the Company shall be forfeited and revert to the Company (without benefit to them or their legal personal representative).

## **1 Expulsion**

Members (and in the case of Corporate Members, all individuals within the Corporate Membership) will be liable to expulsion from membership if they fail to pay their dues, as hereinbefore provided, or if behaviour which is prejudicial to the good order or good name of the Club is brought to the notice of the Board in writing by not less than two other members at one time; this will be made available to the member concerned for inspection. After due warning the member will be asked to appear at a Board meeting, which will have the power of expulsion at that time, but he/she will retain the right to appeal within 28 days of the board meeting ordering his/her expulsion, to a general meeting at which time the decision shall rest with a majority of those present and voting. No person whose membership has been terminated for any discreditable cause shall be admitted to the Club premises on any pretext. The right of appeal shall not apply in the case of expulsion under Rule 5.

## **1 Visitors**

All members shall have the privilege of introducing a visitor or visitors to the Club under the following proviso:

- a) The name of each visitor, together with the name of their introducer and the date of the visit, shall be entered in a book provided for the purpose.
- b) Each member shall be responsible for the conduct of their visitor(s) while in the Club.
- c) No visitor shall be introduced within a shorter period than one month since a previous visit, except under special circumstances and by authority of the Chairman, the Secretary or to the official to who authority in the matter may be delegated by the Board.
- d) No visitor shall order or pay for any refreshment in the club.

e) No visitor shall be introduced after 10pm except on special occasions, by authority of the Board.

f) For the avoidance of doubt no member shall introduce more than three guests on any one day and any such guest who will have put his/her name in the Visitors Book shall not be permitted to visit the premises on more than ten occasions in any calendar year.

## **1 Management**

The business of the Club shall be managed as provided in the Articles of Association of the Birmingham Press Club Limited, by a Board of not fewer than ten and not more than fifteen Directors, at least two-thirds of whom shall be journalists, or persons professionally engaged or employed in the fields of newspaper, television, radio or public relations work. In the event of a vacancy, either on the Board or amongst the officers, the Board shall have the power to fill it until the next annual general meeting. The function of the Board shall be to authorise the payment of accounts, to take cognisance of any breach of the rules, to prepare and lay before the members at the annual general meeting a report of the affairs of the Club, and generally to transact the business of the company and the Club. A register of the attendance of members of the Board shall be kept and shall be read at the annual general meeting.

The Board at the first meeting after election, shall appoint from among its members a Club Committee who shall be responsible for the day to day details of Club management and shall report to the full Board at each meeting. Such other committees as may be desirable shall be appointed from time to time by the Board from among its members and given exact terms of reference.

The principal Honorary officer of the Club shall be the Honorary Secretary, who shall be ex-officio a member of the Board, in addition to the fifteen already designated in this rule, and shall be elected at the annual general meeting. The duties of the Secretary shall include the summoning of, and attendance at, all meetings of members; the keeping of minutes; the direction and control of the club staff; the receiving of subscriptions and the performance of other functions proper to the office.

An Assistant Honorary Secretary may be appointed by the Board from amongst its own members.

Neither the Club nor the Directors for the time being shall be liable in any respect for the loss of any coats, hats, articles of clothing or valuables of any kind from the Club premises, feloniously or otherwise, which are not deposited by the owner, whether a member of the club or not, with the Club Steward for safe custody. The Board will, however, make every endeavour to secure the safety of such articles.

## **1 Meetings**

The annual general meeting referred to shall be held as early as is convenient in each financial year, provided always that such annual general meeting shall not take place more than 15 months after the previous annual general meeting. Its purpose shall be to receive and adopt (with or without amendment) or reject the report, accounts and balance sheet submitted by the Board, to appoint an Honorary Secretary and an Auditor, to elect a President and Directors, to consider motions of which 21 days notice shall have been duly given in writing to the Honorary Secretary, and to transact any other business of which specific notice is not necessary.

No new rule or alteration of a rule shall be made except at an annual general meeting, or a special meeting called for such purpose, and the details of the proposed new rule or amendment of a rule

shall be posted on the notice-board of the Club for 14 days previous to the day of the meeting.

## **1 Retiring of Director**

At the annual general meeting of the Company in every year one third of the Directors for the time being, or if their number be not a multiple of three, then a number nearest to, but not exceeding, one third shall retire from office. The Directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election but as between persons who became Directors on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election and shall act as a Director throughout the meeting at which he retires and at any adjournment thereof. The Company at the meeting at which a Director retires in manner aforesaid may fill the vacated office by electing a person thereto and in default the retiring Director shall, if offering himself for re-election, be deemed to have been re-elected, unless at such meeting it is expressly resolved not to fill such vacated office, or unless a resolution for the re-election of such Director shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

## **1 Conclusion**

Acceptance of membership of the Club shall be understood to imply adherence to the foregoing rules and to any regulations made from time to time by the Board in the legitimate exercise of its functions. Every member, on election, shall receive a copy of the rules in force, and shall be deemed to be cognisant of them in taking up the privileges and responsibilities of membership.