

The Master Carvers' Association Rules

1. The name of the Association is The Master Carvers' Association.
2. The Association shall consist of employers of stone carvers and/or wood carvers ('Carvers') or self-employed Carvers, or those closely associated with carving, all duly elected in accordance with these Rules.
3. The objects of the Association shall be the promotion, protection and interests of the carving trades and of the Association's members in particular.
4. There are three categories of membership, Member, Honorary Member and Associate Member.
5. Candidates for election to the category of Member shall be duly proposed by a Member and seconded by another Member. All candidates shall have been in business as Carvers in their own right for a minimum of five years and shall have demonstrated proficiency in their specialist crafts. Candidates shall submit a CV and portfolio and shall complete and sign an application form supplied by the Association in which they shall agree to be bound by these Rules if elected (and this Rule in any event) and they shall detail their business name and address (including email and web site if applicable), the categories of Specialist Crafts in respect of which they are applying for membership and such other information as the Committee may require. All applications will be considered by the Committee who, acting by majority vote, are authorized to accept or reject applications in their absolute discretion. A separate vote shall be taken in respect of each Specialist Craft in respect of which application for membership is made. A successful candidate will be listed in each Specialist Craft in respect of which a majority vote in favour is passed. If there are no Specialist Crafts in respect of which a majority vote in favour is passed, the application will be deemed to have failed. A member of the Committee may request that a maximum of two members of the Committee visit a candidate's workshops before any votes are taken. No such visit will take place without the candidate's prior agreement. In agreeing the visit, the candidate will be deemed to have agreed to reimburse the Association the expenses incurred by the members of the Committee in connection with the visit. A successful candidate shall not be registered as a Member until any such expenses are reimbursed and the entrance fee and the first annual subscription are paid.
6. Candidates for election to the category of Honorary Member shall be duly proposed by a Member and seconded by another Member. An Honorary Member shall be a person well known in the sphere of ornamental and/or architectural carving or a retired Member. All proposals will be considered by the Committee who, acting by majority vote, are authorized to accept or reject proposals in their absolute discretion. A person so elected shall become an Honorary Member upon their agreeing to accept such membership and to be bound by these Rules. No entrance fee or annual subscription shall be payable by Honorary Members.
7. Candidates for election to the category of Associate Member shall be duly proposed by a Member and seconded by another Member. An Associate Member is a person whose services to the carving crafts qualify them for such membership. Candidates shall complete and sign an application form supplied by the Association in which they shall agree to be bound by these Rules and shall detail their business name and address (including email and web site if applicable), and such other information as the Committee may require. All applications will be considered by the Committee who, acting by majority vote, are authorized to accept or reject applications in their absolute discretion. A successful applicant shall not be registered as an Associate Member until the entrance fee and the first annual subscription are paid.
8. The Committee may refuse to admit any person as a member without giving reasons for doing so.
9. Subject to Rule 6, an entrance fee of £20.00 shall be paid by every candidate on their election, in addition to the annual subscription. The annual subscription shall be £100.00 and becomes due ~~in two installments on the 1st January and the 1st June in each year~~ **in full on 1 May**, but in the case of a person becoming a member after 1st ~~January~~ **May** in any year, the first annual subscription shall be the proportion of the full annual subscription that the period from the date on which that person became a member until the end of the year bears to the full year. The subscription is to be paid by standing order.
10. The Honorary Secretary shall keep a register of members and enter in it the names and addresses of all persons who become members.
11. If a member commits an act or omission inconsistent with membership of the Association (including but not limited to a failure to pay any subscription within three months of its due date) the Committee may resolve by a majority of three-quarters of the members of the Committee voting on the resolution to suspend the member until the next AGM when the matter shall be referred to the Members who shall have power by a simple majority of the Members present and voting either to continue the suspension for such period and on such other terms as they think fit or to expel the member.
12. A member shall cease to be a member:
 - (a) If he or she gives the Honorary Secretary not less than three months' written notice of resignation and on

or before the expiry of that notice shall have paid all subscriptions and other payments that at such expiry he or she is liable to pay to the Association.

(b) If the Committee have suspended the member from membership of the Association in accordance with Rule 11 and the Members resolve that the member be expelled from the Association in accordance with that Rule.

13. The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee of not more than eleven Members, including the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretary. They shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. No meeting of the Committee shall take place unless a quorum is present. Five members of the Committee, of whom at least one shall be an Officer, shall form a quorum. If the number of members of the Committee is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the members of the Committee may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or convening a General Meeting.
14. No member of the Committee shall be liable (otherwise than as a Member) for any loss (except such loss as arises from their willful default) suffered by the Association as a result of the discharge by the Committee (or any member thereof) of their respective duties on behalf of the Association, and they shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Association for all expenses and other liabilities incurred by them in the discharge of their respective duties provided that such reimbursement is agreed by the Committee.
15. The Officers and the other members of the Committee shall retire annually, and shall be eligible for re-election, save that no person may serve as the President for more than three consecutive years.
16. The Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in its membership by election of some other Member.
17. All General Meetings and meetings of the Committee shall be presided over by the President or in their absence by another Officer elected by the Committee to preside.
18. In the case of an equality of votes at a General Meeting or at a meeting of the Committee, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
19. The Committee shall meet as often as required to conduct the business of the Association.
20. Special General Meetings may be summoned by the Honorary Secretary upon the requisition of the President, or three Members.
21. The Treasurer shall receive all monies and make such payments as are authorised by the Committee and shall submit his accounts to the Committee when requested to do so.
22. The Association's accounting period shall be the calendar year. An Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held in each calendar year when the audited accounts of the Association for the previous year shall be presented. The officers shall then retire and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected.
23. At least twenty one days notice of the Annual General Meeting and of Special General Meetings shall be given to each member. Each member shall be entitled to attend and to speak at the meeting, but only Members shall be entitled to vote.
24. Any member who has a business grievance against another member may take the opinion of the Committee on the matter in question, after giving due notice to the other member concerned.
25. These rules shall not be cancelled or altered, nor any new rule made, except by resolution passed at an Annual General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the Members present at the meeting and voting on the resolution, but no such resolution shall be voted upon at the meeting unless at least twenty eight days before the meeting the Committee shall have received a notice in writing signed by two Members, stating the full terms of the proposed alteration, due notice of which shall be given to members in the circular convening the meeting.
26. The following expressions have the following meanings when used herein:
 - (a) "these Rules" means these Rules as amended from time to time;
 - (b) "Member" means a member of any category.

Signed of behalf of the Association
Paul Ferguson Honorary Secretary 13 February 2009