

Rules of The George Formby Society™

Sept 2022

Rules of the George Formby Society

Notes in *italics* are guidelines only

1) IDENTITY

- a) The society will be known as "The George Formby Society" hereinafter referred to as the "Society", and will not be of any political, sectarian denomination or bias.
- b) "The George Formby Society" and the lamppost logo is a registered British Trademark and shall not be used by any person or persons, organisations or otherwise without the permission of the Executive Committee.

2) PURPOSE

To perpetuate the memory and music of the outstanding British Comedian and Entertainer, George Formby OBE, by promoting such functions, meetings, publicity and publications as is deemed necessary.

3) MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility

Membership is open to all persons, of any age, who

- a) express a genuine interest in the Society and the furtherance of its aims.
- b) have paid the appropriate membership fees as required.

The Executive Committees decision will be final with regard to the suitability of an application for membership.

Classes of Membership

There are three categories of membership.

a) Honorary Member

Honorary Member shall be the most prestigious award conferred on any member by the Executive Committee and shall be awarded for outstanding and devoted service to the Society and its members. All nominations shall be decided and agreed by the Executive Committee. Honorary Members shall enjoy the same rights as a Full Member.

b) Full Member

Will pay the full annual subscription, receive the Society magazine published throughout the subscribing year and have full member's rights.

c) Nominated Family Member

Will pay a reduced full membership subscription, will have full member's rights but will not receive the Society magazine.

Nominated Family Members under the age of 10 Years will pay a reduced subscription.

Qualification for Nominated Family Membership

Any member of the family legally related to a Full Member

This would include 'in laws' and 'common law/civil' partners and families who do not necessarily reside at the same address or have the same surname.

At Conventions, any other relative, guest, friend or visitor will pay a day membership fee as decided by the Executive Committee.

4) SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) All Membership subscriptions will be set at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- b) Members may only enjoy Society functions, publications and privileges providing their subscriptions are fully paid and on production of a valid membership card where requested.
- c) Subscriptions are renewable annually.

5) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The organisation and administration of the Society will be the responsibility of the duly elected Executive Committee and will consist of the following: -

President, Vice President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Editor and two Committee Members.

- b) The Executive Committee will hold whatever Committee meetings they feel necessary to discharge their duties to the Society. Other than in exceptional circumstances, a minimum of 14 days notice of intention to convene such a meeting must be given to all members of the Executive Committee.

- c) They may co-opt the services of any person or persons, not necessarily a member, on to such a meeting provided such a co-opted person has no voting rights.

- d) Seven members of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum.

- e) The Executive Committee members are elected to serve for a period of one year but shall be eligible for re-election.

- f) In the event of a Committee Member being unable to continue for any reason the position will be vacant until the following AGM. Where this is not possible then person/persons may be co-opted as per Rule 5c. *If the committee does not remain quorate then an Extraordinary General Meeting may be held to elect members to serve until the next AGM dependent upon the timescales.*

- g) Executive Committee members and other persons (See Rule 4c) required to travel in the course of the Society's business shall be entitled to claim expenses up to the current agreed maximum amount. Mileage expenses shall be paid at the agreed rate up to a maximum round trip of 150 miles. Examples of such travel include travel to committee meetings, mileage incurred in arranging/organising Society events. *Expenses will not be paid for travel to or accommodation at conventions unless expenses incurred are over and above normal -for example van hire/extra vehicles to transport society equipment etc.*

6) OFFICERS

The Executive Committee shall engage as many officers as are required.

Such posts may include: -

Musical Advisor, Keyboard Players, Drums / Percussion, Bass player, Master of Ceremonies, Assistant MC, Fund Promoter, Archivist, Video Recording Officer.

7) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will normally be held in September.

At all General Meetings, fifty members shall form a quorum without which no meeting shall be held. The membership shall be given **28 days clear** notice of the intention to hold an AGM for the following purposes: -

- a) To receive reports from the President and Secretary.
 - b) To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report which shall include an 'Examining Accountants Report'.
 - c) To elect a Chairman and the Members of the Executive Committee to serve for one year. (as per Rule 5)
 - d) To receive and vote on propositions.
 - e) To transact, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, any other business of which intention to raise has been given to the Secretary in writing not less than **14 days** prior to the AGM.
- Entrance to AGM
- f) Honorary Members, fully paid up Members and Nominated Family Members are allowed to attend the AGM on production of a valid membership card.
 - g) Once the meeting has begun there will be no further admittance to the AGM.

8) ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a) The resignation of the Committee members will be automatic at the AGM at the end of their term of office. Before standing down, the Secretary will conduct the election of a new Chairman who will then conduct the rest of the election/meeting.

b) Only Honorary Members, fully Paid-up Members and Nominated Family Members can nominate or serve as a Committee Member.

c) Election of contested Committee Member positions will be by majority and will include a total of the following methods:

1. A closed ballot within the AGM, together with
2. A postal ballot which will be returned to the Chairman no later than 7 days prior to the AGM.

d) Non contested positions will be approved by a show of hands at the AGM.

e) In the event of a committee member seeking re-election to the previously held position and being unsuccessful via a ballot to that position, he or she will be eligible to be elected via a show of hands vote to any vacant position. This eligibility can only take place once proposed and seconded positions have been filled.

f) Any further vacant positions following any enactment of 8e can then be filled by co-opting persons present as per 8b. This will be approved by a show of hands vote.

g) Notices will be displayed on the website prior to the AGM listing the nominees seeking election with proposers and seconders. Similar notices will be displayed at the AGM.

h) Members can request a postal ballot by writing to the Membership Secretary. Their request for a postal vote should be submitted 6 weeks before the AGM. Members must include a self-addressed envelope with their request.

- i) In the days following the nominations deadline, postal ballot forms, together with a list of the nominees, seconders, and proposers, will be sent out in the SAE's by the Membership Secretary.
- j) Members should ensure that they have paid their subscription fee for the upcoming year at the point of submitting their postal ballot. Votes from unpaid members will not be counted.
- k) If the nominations deadline passes and there are no contested positions, the SAE's will be returned to members in their Winter Vellum.
- l) A system will be in place to ensure that anyone who casts a vote remotely, will not be permitted to cast a second vote in person on the day at the AGM.
- m) Ballot papers will be distributed, where necessary, on the morning of the AGM on production of a membership card.
- n) Votes will be counted during the meeting by independent tellers and added to the postal votes received by the Chairman. In the event of a tie the standing Chairman will have the casting vote.

9) NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSITIONS

- a) All nominees, proposers and seconders shall be Honorary Members, Full Members or Nominated Family Members.
- b) Nominations will only be accepted for one position per nominee.
- c) Nominations supported by a Secunder for positions on the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary no later than 6 weeks before the AGM.
- d) All nominated candidates must be present at the AGM unless there are mitigating circumstances.
- e) The consent of the Member must be obtained before his/her nomination for a position on the Committee.
- f) Propositions supported by a Secunder shall be made in writing to the Secretary not less than 7 days before the AGM.
- g) Propositions will be disposed of by open ballot and open majority.
- h) The members shall approve additions, deletions or amendment to Rules by two thirds of those voting being in favour.

10) GENERAL CONDUCT OF GENERAL and COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a) All meetings called to enact the official business of the George Formby Society will at all times be conducted by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or in their absence, by any other Executive Committee member.
- b) All formal business will be recorded and an electronic copy and backup held by the Secretary.
- c) Any disagreement between Executive Committee Members concerning Society business shall be settled within the confines of Committee Meetings.
- d) Sensitive and confidential information discussed within the meeting shall be done so on the understanding that it remains confidential.

11) CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

- a) Members should not bring the Society into disrepute and are required to conduct themselves in an orderly manner during the course of the Society's business or whilst representing the Society and observe the rules.
- b) The Executive Committee will be responsible for any disciplinary action, including suspension/dismissal, with respect to a members' misconduct or breach of these Rules. Any member subject to such action will be informed in writing by the Secretary.
- c) No member shall claim to represent the Society in any way or use the name of the Society in any negotiation with any other body except with an explicit authorisation from the Executive Committee.

12) OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

The Society will publish quarterly the official magazine called 'The Vellum', which shall be edited by a person duly elected.

13) CONVENTIONS and MAIN SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

- a) There will be a minimum of three Conventions held in Blackpool and at least one other meeting held at venue agreed by the Executive Committee.
- b) All social functions and member's concerts will be conducted by a person so appointed at the function.
- c) The Society may promote either within its membership or offer to the general public any competition, performance or function for which the Society may make donations, award trophies, give prizes, make charges, collect fees or require payment, provided such activity is lawful.
- d) Admission charges to Conventions, meetings and other functions will be as decided by the Executive Committee.
- e) No child under the age of 16 will be admitted to Conventions, meetings or other functions unless accompanied by an adult.

14) COMMON EFFECTS AND SOCIETY PROPERTY (ARCHIVES)

- a) The Archivist will be responsible for all property, effects and belongings owned or on loan to the Society which are in his possession. He/she is responsible for the safekeeping of such property and effects for the duration of his/her term of office. Under no circumstances may he/she allow such effects to pass out of his/her possession without the prior agreement of the Executive Committee.
- b) The Archivist will by virtue of such property, effects and belongings as described above, being Society assets, keep listed such effects and where appropriate arrange insurance for such effects owned by the Society.

15) ASSETS AND FINANCES

- a) The assets and finances of the Society shall be managed with the aim of maintaining future conventions to the scale required and investing in archives and equipment in order to promote the aims of the Society.
- b) Should the Society be dissolved with funds/assets remaining these will be distributed to charities/societies with similar aims as the Committee decide.

16) BRANCHES

a) Branches of the Society may only be set up after being granted permission by the Executive Committee.

b) The title of the Branch must incorporate the words 'Branch of the George Formby Society' or similar.

*For Example: - A **Town Branch***

The Leeds Branch of the George Formby Society.

Or a County Branch

The East Midlands Branch of the George Formby Society

Or a Country Branch

The North Wales Branch of the George Formby Society.

c) Branches are organised independently but shall be operated within the Rules of the Society.

d) The organisers of the Branch shall be fully paid up Members, Nominated Family Members or Honorary Members.

e) Members of Branches should preferably be Members, Nominated Family Members or Honorary Members of the Society.

f) Visitors to Branch meetings should be encouraged to join the Society.

g) Branches are not allowed to disassociate themselves from the main Society.

h) If any Branch decides to close, for whatever reason, the Executive Committee must be informed.

i) The Executive Committee shall be kept informed of any media publicity activities involving members of the Society or of the Branch.

j) Individual Branches may produce their own Newsletters and maintain their own websites and social media sites provided these are moderated and operated with the purpose of furthering the aims of The Society.

17) LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The Society, the Executive Committee, co-opted Committee members, Officers, servants and members disclaim legal liability from individual action propagated from any utterance, action, deed or implication made by or created by the said Society, its Executive Committee, co-opted Committee members, Officers, servants and members.

18) INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

The Executive Committee will have the final decision with regard to interpretation of these Rules.

Feb 2023