

**Rules
Of
The
George
Formby
Society™**

September 2023

RULES OF THE GEORGE FORMBY SOCIETY

1) IDENTITY

- a) The Society will be known as "The George Formby Society" hereinafter referred to as "The Society".
- 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 functions, meetings, publicity and publications as is deemed necessary.

3) MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility

Membership is open to all persons, of any age, regardless of any sectarian denomination, gender, sexual identity or orientation, race, religion, disability or religious bias who:

- a) express a genuine interest in the Society and the furtherance of its aims.
- b) have paid the appropriate membership fee as required.
- c) agree to abide by this set of rules.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse membership to any person(s) if deemed to be not in the interests of the Society. Any decision will be final with regard to the suitability of an application for membership.

Categories of Membership

There are **four** categories of membership:

- a) **Free Member** – For services to the Society.

- b) **Honorary Member**

Honorary Membership shall be the Society's most prestigious award. The granting of it will be at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee. A nominee's record must be able to demonstrate an exceptional, substantial and devoted contribution to the aims and objectives of the Society.

Honorary Members shall enjoy the same rights as Full Members and will be exempt from paying any membership fee.

- c) **Full Member**

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

d) Nominated Family Member

Any family member legally related to an Honorary or Full Member. This will include 'in laws' and 'common law/civil' partners and families who do not necessarily reside at the same address or have the same surname. They will pay a reduced Full Membership subscription, will have Full Member's rights but will not receive the Society's magazine. Children under the age of 10 Years will pay a reduced subscription.

At Conventions, any other person will pay a day membership fee as decided by the Committee.

4) SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) All Membership subscriptions will be set at the discretion of the Committee and will run from 1 September to 31 August each year.
- b) Members may only enjoy Society functions, publications and privileges providing their subscriptions are fully paid up and on production of a valid membership card where requested.
- c) Subscriptions are renewable annually.
- d) Subscriptions are non-refundable. Should for any reason a member wish to terminate their membership, they will not be entitled to a refund. The same will apply to those who are expelled from the society.

5) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (hereinafter referred to as THE COMMITTEE)

- a) The organisation and administration of the Society will be the responsibility of the duly elected Committee and will consist of the following: President, Vice President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Vellum Editor, Media and Development Officer and two Committee Members.
- b) The Committee will hold whatever meetings it feels necessary to discharge its 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 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 Committee will constitute a quorum.
- e) Committee members will be elected to serve for one year and 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 a 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) The Committee may appoint any person to perform a specific task or duty: they need not necessarily be a member.
- h) Committee members and other persons (See Rule 5c) required to travel in the course of the Society's business shall be entitled to claim expenses up to the current agreed maximum round trip of 150 miles. *(Examples of such travel include travel to Committee meetings and/or mileage incurred in arranging/organising Society events e.g. van hire/extra vehicles to transport Society equipment etc.)* A limited hardship fund of £120 to

provide assistance to committee members in travelling to and from conventions is available. This would need to be applied for in writing every year.

- i) The Committee reserves the right to hold Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) if necessary.

6) OFFICERS

The committee shall engage as many officers as are required. Such posts may include: Musical Advisor, Keyboard, Drums, Bass player, M. C's, Archivist etc.

7) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Annual General Meeting will normally be held in September. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) will be held if and when necessary. At all General Meetings, fifty members shall form a quorum without which no meeting shall be held. The membership shall be given 21 days clear notice of the intention to hold a General Meeting and its purpose and agenda.

AGMs will be held 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 Accountant's Report'.
- c) To elect members of the Committee as per rule 5(e) above.
- d) To receive and vote on propositions.
- e) To transact, at the discretion of the 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. The Chairman has the right to allow questions from the floor subject to time constraints.
- f) Honorary Members, fully paid-up Members and Nominated Family Members are entitled to attend the AGM/EGM 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.
- 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 FOR COMMITTEE

- a) All nominees, proposers and seconders shall be Honorary Members, Full Members or Nominated Family Members.
- b) Nominees will only be accepted for one position per nominee.
- c) Nominations supported by a Seconder 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.

10) PROPOSALS TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) Proposals supported by a Secunder shall be made in writing to the Secretary not less than 7 days before the AGM.
- b) Proposals will be disposed of by a show of hands.
- c) The members shall approve additions, deletions or amendments to Rules by two thirds of those voting being in favour.

11) CONDUCT OF GENERAL & 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 back up held by the Secretary.
- c) Any disagreement between Executive Committee Members concerning Society business shall be settled within the confines of Committee Meetings.
- d) All business discussed within meetings shall be undertaken on the understanding that it is confidential. Any committee member found to be breaching this rule will be severely dealt with.

12) CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

- a) Members are required to conduct themselves in an orderly manner during the course of the Society's activities or whilst representing the Society and observe the Rules. They must not bring the Society into disrepute through unseemly behaviour, verbal abuse or malicious writing (including social media), during branch meetings, conventions or any other occasions.
Members who wish to notify the Committee of any incidents must contact the President, Chairman or Secretary in writing.
- b) It is a condition that Members must follow the rules and conduct themselves in a way which will not detract from the Society.
- c) The Executive Committee will be responsible for any disciplinary action, including suspension/dismissal, with respect to a member's misconduct or breach of these Rules. Any member subject to such an accusation will be informed in writing by the Secretary.
- d) Any Member who has been accused of bringing the Society into disrepute will be given an opportunity to state their case in mitigation to the Committee.
- e) Any member who has any written complaint or disciplinary action taken against them, has the right to advocate their case before a Disciplinary Sub Committee who will review the case and then report back to the full committee at a later date. The full committee will then review and ascertain whether further action needs to be taken. At this point if the member then wishes to appeal against the decision of the committee, they can appeal to the Appeals Sub Committee who will review the evidence etc. However, the member must have reasonable grounds for asking to appeal eg additional information. The decision will then be reported back to the full committee to make the final judgement. The constitution

of the two above mentioned sub committees will be made up from different members of the committee.

- f) Any member who has had their membership withdrawn for misconduct will forfeit their membership fee. No refunds will be made.
- g) 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.

13) AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Items for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary no later than 14 days prior to the date of the AGM. The Committee reserves the right to limit the items for discussion in Any Other Business by reason of time constraints.
- b) Items on the agenda necessitating a vote shall be settled by a show of hands, a majority will decide the outcome.

14) OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

The Society will publish an official magazine called "The Vellum", which shall be edited by a person duly elected.

15) CONVENTIONS AND MAIN SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

- a) There will be a minimum of three Conventions per year held at a venue or venues as decided by the Committee.
- b) All social functions and members' 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 Committee.
- e) No child under the age of 16 will be admitted to Conventions, meetings or other functions unless accompanied by an adult.

16) COMMON EFFECTS & SOCIETY PROPERTY (ARCHIVES & GFS SHOP)

- a) The Archivist will be responsible for all property, effects and belongings owned or on loan to the Society which are in his/her 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.
- c) The shop manager will be responsible for the safe keeping of all items of stock held in his/her possession and arrange appropriate insurance.

d) The shop manager will keep accurate records of income/expenditure and submit the relevant balance sheets to the Treasurer for audit purposes.

17) 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 decides.

18) 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 followed by the town or area in which it is situated.
- c) Branches are organised and managed 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 actively encouraged to join the Society by the display of posters, membership forms and personal invitation.
- 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 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.
- k) Branches are encouraged to have their own public liability insurance. Any Branch requiring further information should contact the GFS Secretary.

19) LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The Society, the 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.

20) INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

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