

Rules and Regulations.

OF THE

FREEMASONS' CLUB.

VERNON HOUSE,

PAUL MALL.

LONDON: PRINTED BY W. P. METCHIM,

20, PARLIAMENT STREET.

MDCCL.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Freemasons' Club,

VERNON HOUSE, PALL MALL.

I. THE FREEMASONS' CLUB is established to provide an agreeable and convenient place of meeting, for Members of the Fraternity; and shall consist of Brethren connected with British or Foreign Lodges, properly introduced.

II. Each Candidate for admission must be proposed by one member, and seconded by another. The candidate's name and residence, his rank, profession, or other description, and the name of his proposer and

seconded shall be inserted in the "Book of Candidates." The proposer and seconder are held responsible for the eligibility of the Candidate.

III. The election of members shall be by ballot. The ballot shall take place every Wednesday, between the hours of three and five P.M. No ballot shall be valid unless twenty members actually vote; and one black ball in *ten* shall exclude. A list of the candidates to be balloted for on each day with their proposers and seconds, shall be put up in the coffee-room, at least one week before the ballot, dated and signed by the Secretary. Members desirous of recommending any candidate, may sign their names in such list.

IV. The Secretary shall remain in the room during the whole time of the ballot, to deliver the balls, and take down the names of the members who vote; and in the presence of at least one member of

the committee, he shall open the boxes at the close of the ballot.

V. The terms of admission for members enrolled up to the fifth of April 1850 shall be an entrance fee of ten pounds for members resident in town : and five pounds for country members. The annual subscription shall be five guineas.

VI. Each new member shall have his admission notified to him by the Secretary (in duplicate, if abroad) ; he shall at the same time be furnished with a copy of the Rules of the Club, and required to remit an order for payment of the amount of his entrance fee and subscription.

VII. No member shall be competent to propose or second a candidate for admission into the Club, neither shall he ballot or vote on any occasion whatever, until he shall have paid his annual subscription ; and no newly-elected member shall participate in

any of the advantages of the Club, until he shall have paid his entrance money, and first year's subscription.

VIII. Any new member who shall not, in compliance with the preceding rule, have paid the sum therein specified within two months from the day of his admission to the Club, if he be in the United Kingdom, and within twelve months if he be abroad, shall be reported by the Secretary to the Committee, with a view to his name being erased from the list of members, unless he can justify the delay to the satisfaction of the Committee.

IX. The name of every member failing to pay the annual subscription, due on the first of January, shall be placed in the coffee room on the first of March, notice of which shall be sent to him by the Secretary; and if the subscription be not paid on or before the first of April, he shall cease to be a member of the Club, and his name shall be erased

from the books, unless he can justify the delay to the satisfaction of the Committee. Every member who shall have used the Club in any way, after the first of January, shall be liable to the payment of his subscription for the current year.

X. Any member who may be absent from the United Kingdom during the whole period within which the annual subscription is payable, may, by giving notice in writing to the Secretary of his departure, be considered as a supernumerary member, and be exempted from his subscription during the continuance of such absence. The name of every member who may avail himself of this rule shall be entered in the list of "Supernumerary Members." At his return he shall be admitted to all the privileges of the Club, on paying his subscription for the current year; but if his wish to rejoin the Club be not expressed to the Secretary within three months after his return to the United King-

dom, he shall no longer be considered a member thereof.

XI. An annual general meeting of the Club shall be held on the 5th of April, at one o'clock P.M. for the purpose of receiving a report from the Committee; for electing the Committee for the ensuing year, and for discussing such other matters relating to the well-being of the Club, as shall be brought before the meeting.

XII. The general superintendence of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, consisting of twenty members, who shall make, from time to time, such regulations, consistent with these general rules, as they may think necessary. Seven of the Committee shall retire annually, being eligible for re-election, and the vacancy shall be filled up at the Annual General Meeting. The names of all candidates for the Committee shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary and exhibited in the coffee-room, at least one

week before such meeting. In the event of any vacancies occurring in the Committee after the annual meeting, the Committee shall have the power of filling them up.

XIII. The Committee shall hold a meeting, once at least in every week, to transact the current business of the Club. Three of the Committee shall form a quorum.

XIV. Any infraction of the rules and regulations of the Club shall be taken immediate cognizance of by the Committee.

XV. Each member shall be allowed to bring two friends, not members, with him into the Strangers' Room, in which dinner may be ordered by such member for himself and friends, at a rate to be regulated by the Committee; *it being expressly understood that the bill should be discharged by the member.* Any friends who are invited to dine in the Strangers' Room, shall be permitted, in company with the member who

entertains them, to use in the evening such room as the Committee shall appropriate for that purpose.

XVI. The Club-house shall be opened at nine, and closed at two A. M. Such members, however, as may happen to be actually within the Club are not to be restricted or influenced with respect to their departure by this rule. During Epsom and Ascot races, the Committee shall have the power of ordering the Club-house to be opened at an earlier hour.

XVII. No stranger shall, at any time, or on any pretence, be permitted to use any except the Strangers' Room.

XVIII. The Committee shall have the power of admitting as honorary members of the Club, *for a period not exceeding two months at a time*, such foreigners or other Brethren, as shall be properly recommended to them for that purpose. This admission

may be renewed as often as may be considered advisable. The Secretary, while holding office, shall be an honorary member, but shall not have any vote in the management or the proceedings of the Club.

XIX. No servant belonging to the Club-house shall be allowed to receive any money or gratuity from any member or stranger admitted into the Club-house, on pain of instant dismissal; and the member offering or giving such gratuity, shall be fined five guineas for the use of the Club.

XX. No dice or game of hazard shall, on any account, be permitted; nor shall any higher stake than half-a-guinea points ever be played for at any game whatever. Any deviation from this rule, upon the same being proved before the Committee, consisting of not less than thirteen members, shall be visited with immediate expulsion.

XXI. A library of the most useful works

shall be collected; and no member shall take, or permit to be taken away from the Club, on any pretence whatever, or shall injure or destroy, any newspaper, book, pamphlet, or other article.

XXII. No member shall be allowed to bring a dog into the Club-rooms.

XXIII. All complaints concerning dinners are to be made in writing to the Committee, either by letter, or remarks written on the back of the bill.

XXIV. The conduct of a servant shall in *no* instance be made a matter of personal reprimand by any member: but all complaints against servants shall be made by letter to the Committee, signed by a member complaining.

XXV. All members are to pay their bills for every expense they incur in the Club before they leave the house, the Steward hav-

ing positive orders not to open accounts with any individual.

XXVI. It is considered the duty of the Committee, in case any circumstances should occur likely to endanger the welfare or good order of the Club, to call a general meeting, giving fourteen days' notice; and in the event of its being voted at such meeting, by ballot of two-thirds of the persons present, that the name of any member or members should be removed from the Club, the subscriptions of such member or members for the current year shall be returned, and he or they shall cease to belong to the Club.

XXVII. The Committee may at their discretion call a general meeting of the Club at any time, giving not less than seven days' public notice, and specifying the object, to which alone the discussion shall be confined; the decision of a majority of such meeting shall be final, provided there shall be thirty members present; but if there be less than

thirty, their decision must be unanimous. The Committee shall also call a general meeting of the Club, subject to the preceding restrictions, on the written requisition of twenty members.

XXVIII. No new rule or alteration of an original rule shall ever be made without the sanction of the annual *or* of an extraordinary general meeting, consisting of at least thirty members. If at any such annual or extraordinary meeting there be less than thirty present, their decision must be unanimous to effect any change. It shall be necessary, in all cases, that fourteen days' notice be given of the proposed new rule or alteration of an original rule, previous to the day of meeting.

XXIX. Each member of the Club shall give his address, or that of his Banker or Agent, from time to time, to the Secretary; and all notices sent to such address shall be considered as duly delivered.

XXX. These Rules and Regulations shall be printed, and a copy of them delivered to every member ; but no member shall be absolved from the effect of these Rules on any allegation of not having received them.

NICHOLAS V. TORRE,

Secretary.