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THE DUDLEY MASONIC CLUB
WELLINGTON ROAD
DUDLEY

RULES

1962

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The Dudley Masonic Club

R U L E S

The following rules, adopted by Members of the Club on the 8th day of April, 1962, shall henceforth and until they be altered or repealed as provided by Rule 15 hereof regulate the proceedings of the Dudley Masonic Club.

TITLE

1. The title of the Club shall be "THE DUDLEY MASONIC CLUB."

PURPOSE

2. The purposes for which the Club is established are:

(a) To act as chief tenant of the Masonic Hall, Wellington Road, Dudley, the property of "The Dudley Masonic Hall Limited."

(b) To promote the objects of Freemasonry generally and to provide accommodation for the members of Masonic Lodges and other duly constituted Masonic bodies also to provide accommodation for all the meetings regular or otherwise of such lodges or bodies, and of the Committee or sections thereof, and to provide the refreshments usually provided in connection with such meetings.

(c) To promote mutual acquaintance and social intercourse among its members.

(d) To combine with those primary objects the usual conveniences of a Club.

QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS

3. (a) All the present subscribing members of all the existing Masonic Lodges or duly constituted Masonic bodies meeting at the Masonic Hall, Wellington Road, Dudley, and all such other persons as shall hereafter become subscribing members of such Masonic Lodges or bodies, or of such other Masonic Lodges or bodies as may hereafter meet at the Masonic Hall, Wellington Road, Dudley shall be eligible for membership.

(b) All the persons eligible for membership as provided in the last preceding sub-clause of these Rules shall be proposed by a Member of the Club and seconded by another Member of the Club on the form provided by the Secretary to whom the form, duly completed shall be transmitted. All applications for membership received by the Secretary shall be posted on a Notice Board in the Secretary's Office for seven days prior to the meeting of the Membership Sub-Committee at which the proposal will be considered. Any Member of the Club who objects to the election of the Applicant, as a Member of the Club may make his objection in writing, stating the ground thereof, addressed to the Secretary, who shall communicate the same to the Membership Sub-Committee but to no other person. The election of Applicant shall be by the Membership Sub-Committee (which shall consist of any two Members of the Committee with the Secretary) and no person shall be admitted to membership in the Club until so elected. The Membership Sub-Committee at every meeting thereof shall consider the applications of all Applicants whose names have been posted on the notice board as herein provided and upon the Applicant being elected to membership a note thereof shall be sent to the Secretary of the Masonic Lodge or other Masonic Body of which the Applicant is a member and the Applicant shall become a Member, when the fees provided by Rule 4 of these Rules shall have been paid to the Treasurer of the Masonic Lodge or other body concerned for remitting to the Club Secretary.

ENTRANCE FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

4. For all members who shall be initiated in or shall join such lodges or Masonic Lodges after the date when these Rules come into force an entrance fee of Five Guineas shall be paid immediately after such initiation. All annual subscriptions shall be payable on the 1st July in advance, and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Club by the Lodges or Masonic bodies in which the members are subscribing members. The amount of such subscriptions shall be such sums as the Club in General Meeting shall from time to time determine, but shall not be less than ten shillings and six pence per annum for each subscribing member of the Lodge or Masonic body, provided that not more than one subscription shall be payable by or in respect of any one member.

The Committee may at any time in their discretion decide that for such period and subject to such terms as the Committee shall think fit, any person or persons who from his or their official connection with Freemasonry or by reason of the services rendered by him or them to Freemasonry or who by reason of age or infirmity or the distance of the place of his residence from the Club premises is unlikely to be able to use the amenities provided by the Club shall not be called upon to

pay an Annual subscription. Any Member who is not required to pay an annual subscription by virtue of this rule shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership of the Club.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

5. (a) The Committee of the Club shall exercise the powers given to it by these rules and is charged with the general management of the affairs of the Club.

(b) The Committee shall have power to settle and adjudicate upon disputes between Members of a kind which are usually referred to the Committee of a Members' Club.

(c) Immediately after these rules have been adopted the Members present shall elect 9 Members of the Club to serve on the Committee of whom 3 (to be chosen by lot) shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 1963; 3 (to be chosen by lot) shall hold office until the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 1964; and the remaining 3 shall hold office until the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 1965.

(d) At the Meeting to be held in the year 1963 and at every other Annual General Meeting thereafter 3 Members shall be elected to hold office for a period of three years in place of the retiring Members but the retiring Members shall be eligible for re-election.

(e) If a casual vacancy occurs by death or resignation of a Member of the Committee in the first or second year of his tenure of office the vacancy shall be filled by the election of another Member elected at the then next Annual General Meeting. The Committee Member so elected shall retire when the Committee Member whose place he takes would have retired but shall be eligible for re-election.

(f) Candidates for election to the Committee in the year 1963 and in every year thereafter must be proposed and seconded by Members of the Club. The name of every candidate with the name of his proposer and seconder must be sent in writing to the Secretary before the 31st day of May in any year and shall be printed in the Notice convening the Meeting.

(g) If no names or an insufficient number of names of candidates eligible for election and prepared to serve as Members of the Committee be received by the Secretary by the 31st day of May in any year, candidates may be proposed at the Meeting without notice.

(h) If the number of candidates duly proposed and seconded exceed the number to be elected, voting shall be by secret voting paper and each Member of the Club present shall have one vote for each of the number of vacancies to be filled but may not give more than one vote for any one candidate. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

The words "The Committee" used throughout these rules shall be deemed to refer to the Committee constituted by virtue of the provisions of this rule.

SECRETARY

6. The Secretary of the Dudley Masonic Hall Limited shall be Secretary of the Committee and shall perform all the duties usually performed by the Secretary of a Club.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE AND QUORUM

7. The Committee shall at the First Meeting of the Committee held after each Annual Meeting elect from among the Members of the Committee one of their number to act as Chairman of the Club. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall hold meetings in each month except the month of August. Three members shall be a quorum.

HOURS OF OPENING AND CLOSING

8. (a) The hours during which the Club premises shall be open shall be from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays except Christmas Day and Good Friday except on occasions when permission shall have been given by the Committee for any function being held to continue to a later hour.

(b) The permitted hours during which intoxicating liquors may be supplied shall as from the 9th day of April, 1962 be:

(i) such as may from time to time be determined by the Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act, 1961 and notified to the Clerk of the Justices for the Borough of Dudley provided that if an Order is made under Section 5 sub-sections (3) or (4) of the said Act the proviso under sub-section (8) shall apply, and;

(ii) such additional hours as the Committee shall with the approval of the Licensing Justices decide.

POWERS OF COMMITTEE

9. The General concern of the Club shall be managed by the Committee who, in addition to the other powers under these rules, shall have the following powers:

(a) To enter into contracts and arrangements for occupation of the said Masonic Hall and other premises and otherwise for the benefit and convenience of the Club.

(b) To appoint, remove, and suspend all servants of the Club.

(c) To control all purchases on behalf of the Club, and to provide all wines and liquors and consumable stores required by the members and to undertake the catering for all suppers or banquets or such other meals as may from time to time be required either by direct purchase or by sub-contract, and to determine the charges to be made for same.

(d) To make all such regulations (not inconsistent with these general rules) as they shall from time to time think necessary for the internal management and well-being of the Club, and such regulations shall be considered binding upon all members of the Club until and unless set aside at a general meeting of members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10. An Annual General Meeting of the Members shall be held during the last fourteen days of the month of June in each year for the following purposes:

(a) To receive from the Committee a report and Abstract of Accounts for the year ended the 31st May preceding the Meeting.

(b) To elect members of the Committee.

(c) To transact any other business of which notice may have been given.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

11. The Committee may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club and shall do so on the written requisition of 20 members.

MODE OF CALLING MEETINGS

12. Every General Meeting shall be called by notice under the hand of the Chairman or Secretary. Such notice to be posted to the members at least seven clear days before the date of such meeting.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

13. At a General Meeting each Member personally present shall have one vote. The Chairman of the Committee shall act as Chairman of the Meeting and if he should not be present within fifteen minutes of the time for which the Meeting has been called one of the Members present shall be elected to serve as Chairman of that Meeting. The Member who actually occupies the chair at such Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

14. Visitors who attend any masonic Meeting or other functions held on the club premises at the invitation of a Masonic body meeting upon the Club premises shall for the purpose of this rule be deemed to be the guest of the Secretary of such masonic body. There shall be kept at the Club House a book in which shall be entered by the introducer the name, address, occupation and Masonic rank (if any) of every guest, the name of his introducer and the date of introduction. Such entries shall be made before the guest shall participate in the privileges of the Club.

ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS TO RULES

15. No new rule or alterations of these rules shall be made at any General Meeting, without the sanction of a majority consisting of two-thirds of those present, nor unless the proposed new rule or alteration of an old one shall have been posted up in the Club House at least 7 days previous to the day of meeting.

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