

Governing Body 10/10/2023 KGA

## THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE OF KING ARTHUR

### Rules and Constitution

Full name: The Fellowship of The Knights of The Round Table of King Arthur, hereafter known as The Fellowship.

#### Mission Statement:

*To serve with dignity, nobility and compassion.*

*To promote service before self.*

*To assist those of our Fellowship who may be in such need.*

*To be honourable in our daily lives.*

*To herald respect of others.*

*To be active in charitable activities and fundraising as approved by the Governing Body.*

*Support for charities may be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration.*

*To provide companionship for all like-minded people who share an interest in the Arthurian and Grail legends and their attendant histories.*

*To promote awareness and education of the legends of King Arthur and associated matters.*

*The Fellowship has three 'homes' from which they emanate and in which all ceremonies take place.*

*King Arthur's Great Halls, Tintagel, Cornwall, UK and Kasteel De Berckt, Baarlo, The Netherlands. A*

*third venue is also in operation from the fellowship registered office in Xativa, Valencia, Spain.*

#### MEMBERSHIP

The Fellowship is open to all persons of good standing.

Persons may apply to join The Fellowship subject to the Rules and Constitution of The Fellowship and approval in accordance with those rules.

Application is no guarantee of acceptance of membership. All applications will be reviewed by the Governing Body and their decision is final. No reason for refusal need be given.

If the application is unsuccessful, any payment made at the time of application for membership will be refunded (Less any charges made by third parties in relation to the transaction).Governing Body

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Membership year is January 1st to December 31st.

A new joining member is admitted as a 'Companion'.

Applications for membership must be accompanied by a proposal from a full member or knight.

A Companion must attend a Fellowship Annual Dinner in order to be invested as a full knight.

Investitures take place at King Arthur's Halls, Tintagel, Cornwall, or Kasteel De Berckt, unless by reason of geography when dispensation may be granted for investiture elsewhere.

Investiture is by the hand of the Knight Seneschal. In case of indisposition, investitures may be conducted by the Knight Bursar on behalf of the Knight Seneschal.

A member may resign at any time in writing to the Knight Seneschal. No refund of membership fees will be made.

A member who fails to pay the annual subscription shall be treated as having resigned.

A member may not enter into any contract or expense on behalf of The Fellowship without the prior written consent of the Governing Body.

The liability of all members and officers of The Fellowship in relation to its activities is limited to one full year membership subscription.

#### GOVERNING BODY

A body of senior Knights will form the Governing Body. These persons will be responsible for the day to day activities of The Fellowship and decide upon such matters as affect the integrity, appropriate governance and administration of The Fellowship.

The Governing Body comprises: Knight Seneschal (KS), Knight Bursar (KB) and co-opted members of senior standing for matters of particular relevance.

All resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of members of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body may appoint any full member to fill a casual vacancy on The Governing Body. Any such appointment to be confirmed at the AGM.

No member of the Governing Body, Chapter Knight or Central Chapter Knight, or any other full member of The Fellowship shall receive any remuneration from The Fellowship. Any payment is limited to the reimbursement of any expense properly incurred on behalf of The Fellowship.

The Governing Body shall maintain a bank account and an account with any other financial service institution on behalf of The Fellowship, but shall not incur any loans or overdrafts on its behalf.

Full indemnity is given out of The Fellowship's funds to members of the Governing Body in relation to activities properly carried out on behalf of The Fellowship.

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The Governing Body is assisted by, and co-ordinates, the activities of other Officers of The Fellowship. All members of the Governing Body, together with all other Officers Of The Fellowship contribute their time freely and without any reimbursement of any kind.

Such Officers are:

*Knight Seneschal.* Responsible for recruitment, ceremony, dinner activities, investitures, monitoring chapter knights and central chapter officers, promotion of the Fellowship and public relations. The Knight Seneschal shall also administer on matters of governance.

*Knight Bursar.* Responsible for all finance, banking, accounts and donations. Responsible for fiscal propriety and publication of annual accounts at AGM.

*Chapter Knights* are responsible for local recruiting, events and keeping the Fellowship's good name within their geographic activity area. Where the area is large, and, or the membership is numerous a Knight Preceptor may be appointed to assist. Any prospective new members must be notified to the Knight Seneschal before membership is allowed.

*Central Chapter Officers* are appointed by the Knight Seneschal, upon occasion in consultation with other officers of the Governing Body. Their positions are to be of particular support and advice to members of the Governing Body and Chapter Knights.

Central Chapter Officers with specific duties are as follows:

*Knights Chamberlain.* One appointed for the United Kingdom and one for the European Union. Act as 'Preceptor' to the Knight Seneschal. Responsible for regional chapter knights within their geographical areas. Responsible for monitoring the fellowship governance in their areas.

*Knights Adjutant.* One appointed for the United Kingdom and one for the European Union. Act as deputies for the two appointed Knights Chamberlain and act in their name.

*Knights Almoner.* One appointed for the United Kingdom and one for the European Union. Responsible for all matters pastoral and parochial for the fellowship. Administers to any members indicated who may require special assistance from the fellowship in liaison with the Knights Seneschal and Bursar.

*Knight Remembrancer.* Keeps a record of all those members and guests attending the AD together with a list of all those being invested and awarded orders. Writes the summary of the AD for the Fellowship Newsletter.

*Keeper of the Robes.* Responsible for the manufacture of the ribbons for the pendants, regalia and other items requiring skills with needlework. Assists the Knight Chamberlain.

*Knight Guardian.* Responsible for the care of the 'Dragon Standard' and carrying the same during the ceremonies at AD

*Knights Herald.* One appointed for the UK, one appointed for the EU. Responsible for the announcing the various toasts or other announcements as instructed by KS at dinners or other functions as desired.

*Knight Scrivener.* Responsible for the production and editing of the Fellowship Newsletter. Governing Body 10/10/2023 KGA

All officers are responsible for recruiting and adherence to the Fellowship's Rules and Constitution.

Promotions and additions are approved by the Governing Body.

*Knight Practicant.* Responsible for the Fellowship's IT management and website updates.

#### PUBLIC PROFILE

All members must behave in a way that brings credit to The Fellowship and avoids disrepute and shall comply with these Rules and Constitution. Any member doing otherwise, or, acting in a fractious or contentious way in The Fellowship may be dismissed from The Fellowship.

The Fellowship will neither discriminate nor tolerate discrimination of any kind.

The Fellowship will not ally itself to any political party or body and will not allow itself to be portrayed in any political way whatsoever.

The Fellowship's nominated charities, The Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) and War Child unless agreed otherwise by the Governing Body and confirmed by the membership at the AGM.

No member shall represent The Fellowship in any form of media without prior permission of the Knight Seneschal or Knight Bursar. This will include radio, television, film, printed media or social media.

Materials published by members which reference The Fellowship must be approved in writing by the Governing Body.

#### CONDUCT OF FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Events within The Fellowship may be organised by any member but the Governing Body must be notified in good time to ensure content is in keeping with the Mission Statement and Rules and Constitution of The Fellowship.

Any surplus funds raised will be passed to the KB who will donate such to The Fellowship's nominated charity. Provincial Chapters may raise monies for other causes in their area but must inform The Governing Body.

Discretionary grants may be made by application to the Governing Body.

Chapter Knights are encouraged to be active in their geographic area.

Personal fund raising under the banner of The Fellowship is forbidden. Using the Fellowship for marketing purposes is forbidden.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)Governing Body 10/10/2023 KGA

At least 14 days' notice of AGM shall be given to members in writing, to include location, date and time. Any full member may present a resolution for consideration at the AGM. Any such notice must be given in writing to the KS at least 14 days before the AGM.

Only full members can vote at the AGM.

All resolutions to be passed by a simple majority of those members attending the AGM.

A quorum shall be at least three full members.

At the AGM, the Governing body shall:

Present a report on The Fellowship's activities for the previous year

Present accounts for the year up to the previous 31<sup>st</sup> December

Seek confirmation of the re-appointment of members of the Governing Body

Consider any other resolutions properly notified

Any alterations to these rules shall be approved at the AGM.

In the event of any 'tied' voting the KS shall have the casting vote.

Minutes of the AGM will be kept and made available to members.

#### THE FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL DINNER

The Fellowship Annual Dinner will be held annually at King Arthur's Halls, Tintagel, Cornwall on the evening of the first Saturday in June.

The European Annual Dinner will be held annually at Kasteel De Berckt, Baarlo, The Netherlands on the evening of the last Sunday in November, or the closest notified date.

Any changes to date or location shall be approved by the Governing Body and notified by them in writing to the membership.

Priority in attending will be given to fully paid up members.

Each member may invite one guest.

Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and must be received by the promulgated deadline, with payment. Special exemptions only at the discretion of the Governing Body. Governing Body 10/10/2023 KGA

Guests attending dinner cannot attend again within three years unless they apply to join The Fellowship.

The names of all guests must be submitted to KS or KB in advance of tickets being issued.

Substitutions of guests after tickets are issued will not be allowed.

The Governing Body reserves the right to refuse entry to any guest or guests who may be considered detrimental to The Fellowship's good name.

The seating plans will be drawn up and notified to the Knight Chamberlain. Requests for special seating arrangements must be notified to the KS or KB in advance of the deadline.

Any new United Kingdom resident 'Companion' member will be expected to attend the dinner within the first three years of their membership in order to be invested to full membership and Knighthood.

Those living abroad have no such constraint.

Dress for dinner:

Dinner suit, dark suit or similar.

Mess kit for HM forces may be worn.

Ladies evening dress or similar.

Only bona fide historical re-enactors may be permitted to wear costume and only by prior consultation with the Governing Body.

Medals, awards or honours may be worn.

Only duly invested full knights may wear the insignia of The Fellowship

Any members attending the dinner are to refrain from wearing the regalia or dress of other organisations that they may belong to.

Names of those Companions for Investiture shall be made available to the Knight Chamberlain and the Keeper of the Robes to enable the correct orders and awards to be assembled and made ready for the ceremony.

A list of all attending members and guests will be given to the Knight Remebrancer in order that an accurate account may be kept of attendees, promotions and awards.

Toasts at the dinner will be given by the appointed officers and announced by the Knight Herald.

These matters of governance are duly in service.