



The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire

Membership Application Process

Background

Membership is restricted to those who live or work in the county of Gloucestershire, including South Gloucestershire, or within 7 miles thereof and who contribute to the wellbeing of the county through, for example, voluntary work, by charitable giving, or by recognised support for, or in, the armed forces, arts & heritage, business, countryside & environment, education, science and sport.

Membership may also include those who by national or international endeavour have brought credit to the county. However, those actively engaged in politics are not considered for membership while performing such duties.

New members must be proposed and seconded by other members. Proposal forms are available through the website and from the Clerk.

Ordinary membership is limited to 160. Court may invite up to five individuals to become honorary members.

Procedure for Appointing New Members

1. Court will establish a Membership Committee consisting of the Junior Warden and 2 other members, who are not members of Court.
2. Prospective members should ideally first attend at least one Company or Interest Group (IG) event as a guest and have been introduced to at least two members of Court.
3. After the prospective member has been to an event, using the appropriate form, the proposer must provide the candidate's full name, address, contact details and age together with a CV and include a statement of not more than 150 words setting out how the individual concerned fits the criteria for membership and how they can contribute to the Company.
4. The proposer must sign (physically or electronically) an undertaking that they have fully described to the applicant the Company's objectives, terms of membership and associated responsibilities, including the necessary financial and charitable commitments, and the activities of the Company's IGs; the form must be countersigned (physically or electronically) by the seconder.
5. On completion of the form, the Clerk is to send the name of the prospective member to the membership asking for any comments to be submitted to the Chair of the Membership Committee within 2 weeks. The Membership Committee will consider any comments and provide their advice to the Clerk, who will circulate it to Court members either in or out of committee for their consideration alongside the application form and CV.

6. In considering applications, Court will address the following criteria:

- a. The number of vacancies for membership.
- b. The prospective member's value to the Company and their commitment to the county.

Court members may, if they wish, submit comments in confidence to the Warden before a decision is made. Where objections have been received from Court members or the wider membership, then the application is to be discussed in committee. If requested by 3 or more Court members, then a secret vote will be held. If there are a majority of negative votes in Court, then the application will be rejected.

7. The Warden is responsible for informing prospective members of the outcome of their application.

8. Implicit in this procedure is the prospective member undertaking to comply with the aims and objectives of the Company and accepting the associated responsibilities.

9. If an application is approved after 1 October, the member concerned shall pay only half the annual subscription for the year in question plus the extant initial contribution to the Company's Charitable Trust.

Sabbatical Membership

10. Court may at their discretion grant a sabbatical to a member for up to 3 years based on their individual circumstances. At the end of the sabbatical period, the Warden will write to the sabbatical member to ask if they wish to return to full membership. If they return to full membership, then the appropriate fees and charitable donations must be paid.



Julie Kent MBE
Warden

8 Feb 25