



## *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 service 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.

Ordinary membership is limited to 160. Court may invite a small number of additional individuals to become honorary members.

#### **Procedure for Appointing New Members**

1. 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.
2. After the prospective member has been to an event, using the form available at <https://www.honcoglos.org/enquiries-and-membership/>, the proposer must provide the candidate's full name, address, contact details and age together with a short statement setting out how the individual concerned fits the criteria for membership and how they can contribute to the Company.
3. The proposer must affirm 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 interest group.
4. On submission of the form, the Clerk is to circulate the name of the prospective member to all existing full members asking for any comments to be submitted within 2 weeks. At the end of this period, the Clerk will circulate the proposal form (together with any member comments received) to Court members, who will either accept or reject the proposal by simple majority vote. If requested by 3 or more Court members, then a secret vote may be held.
5. In considering applications, Court will consider 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.

6. The Warden is responsible for informing prospective members of the outcome of their application, after which the Clerk will make contact with an approved new member to confirm their details and arrange payment of the membership fee and initial contribution to the Company's Charitable Trust.
7. Implicit in this procedure is the prospective member undertaking to comply with the aims and objectives of the Company and accepting the associated responsibilities.
8. The Company's membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. If an application is approved after 1<sup>st</sup> October, the member concerned shall pay only half the annual subscription for the year in question.

### **Sabbatical Membership**

9. Court may at their discretion grant a sabbatical to a member for up to 3 years based on their individual circumstances. Sabbatical members do not have to pay annual fees but do not have any privileges of membership (e.g. to attend events, stand for Court or vote at the AGM). At the end of the sabbatical period, the Clerk will write to the sabbatical member to ask if they wish to return to full membership. Members who wish to return from sabbatical may rejoin immediately without having to go through the joining process, subject to their payment of the necessary membership fee.

### **Partner and Widow(er) Membership**

10. A separate membership category exists for partners and widow(er)s of existing members. Partners and widow(er)s do not have to go through an approval process when joining, and they pay a reduced membership fee. Further details are available from the Clerk.

*Michael Jones*

**Michael Jones**  
Warden

1 Sept 26