

# **The Companions of the Crow**

## **Constitution**

### **Name**

The society shall be known as 'The Companions of the Crow' (referred to here as the Companions) and shall be for the purpose of historical re-enactment, predominantly of the 11th to 15th centuries.

### **Object**

The objects of the Companions are as follows: -

To arrange displays, competitions, tournaments etc. for the mutual enjoyment of the members and the public.

To hold practice and training sessions for the safe use of weaponry.

To arrange social occasions for the enjoyment of the members, their families and friends

### **Membership**

Any person over eighteen years of age shall be eligible for membership. Any person under eighteen years of age shall be eligible for membership if parental permission is submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary. All applications for membership shall be subject to approval by the Committee.

Resignation of membership shall be in writing to the Honorary Secretary, the member resigning to remain liable for any subscriptions due on or before the date of his/her letter of resignation. Subscriptions paid are not refundable.

The levels of membership are as follows: -

- a) Full members shall be allowed to participate in all the Companions' activities, including combat.
- b) Associate members shall be allowed to participate in all the Companions' activities other than combat.
- c) Temporary members shall be allowed to participate in one public display or one practice and training session and must obey all rules of the Companions at such events.

New members shall undergo a probationary period of no less than six months before being confirmed as full or associate members. During this period, they shall not be permitted to hold office or exercise voting rights but will enjoy all other benefits of membership.

Probationers will be confirmed in their membership at the beginning and end of season general meetings.

A list of such candidates will be circulated with the Agenda, allowing members to raise any reasonable objections with the Committee before the meeting. If a probationer is found by the group to be unsuitable for membership, all subscription monies will be refunded to them.

### **Management**

The society shall be managed by a Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, consisting of a Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Safety Officer, Secretary, Training Officer, and Marshall. If there are less than seven on the Committee, the shortfall will be made up by electing additional members. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

The Committee shall have the power: -

- a) To fill casual vacancies arising during the season or as a result of posts remaining unfilled after a General Meeting.

To co-opt up to four additional persons with voting rights.

To enter into agreements on behalf of the Companions.

To impose appropriate non-financial penalties on any individual for conduct detrimental to the interests or character of the Companions. The individual involved must be given details, in writing, of the conduct alleged, a reasonable opportunity to answer the allegations and may lodge one appeal at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held within twenty one days.

To make decisions and to take actions as necessary for the proper management of the Companions.

### **General meetings**

General Meetings shall be of three kinds; Annual, Beginning of Season and Extraordinary.

Written notice of the date, time and place of holding a General Meeting, together with an Agenda, shall be sent by post to each member at least two weeks before the date of the meeting, but inadvertent omission to send notice or Agenda to one or more members shall not invalidate the meeting or its proceedings.

At General Meetings every member shall have one vote. Voting shall be by ballot or show of hands, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote. No person present shall be entitled to cast more than one vote. Five persons entitled to vote shall form a quorum.

### **Beginning of season general meeting**

The Beginning of Season Meeting shall be held within six weeks of the beginning of the season in order

- a) To receive the reports of the officers.

To declare the winners of any competitions and to present any trophies or prizes.

To elect any vacancies arisen during the off-season.

To deal with any other business on the Agenda.

### **Annual General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held within six weeks of the end of the season in order:

- a) To receive the reports of the officers and a statement of accounts made up to the eve of the AGM,

To declare the winners of any competitions and to present any trophies or prizes.

To elect the officers and members of the Committee for the following year.

To deal with any other business on the Agenda.

### **Extraordinary General Meetings**

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Committee in order to deal with any matters which are beyond their authority to resolve. They may also be called by appeal of a member facing a penalty imposed by the Committee.

### **Subscription**

There shall be an annual subscription for membership of the Companions, the amount to depend on the type of membership and to be fixed at a General Meeting. All subscriptions

shall become due by the Pre-season General Meeting in each year and shall allow membership until the Pre-season General Meeting the following year.

### **Rules of engagement**

The Rules of Engagement shall govern the conduct of all members while participating in Companions' activities. However, when the Companions are guests at an event where the organisers' rules and guidelines are more stringent than our own, these should be respected and followed at all times.

### **Duties of officers**

The Duties of Officers shall govern the role and duties of the officers elected by the Companions.

### **Amendments**

No amendment to the Constitution shall be made except by the passing of a resolution by a General Meeting with at least two thirds of the votes cast being in favour. The text of any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be specified in or with the notice convening the General Meeting at which the amendment is to be considered, but the Chairman of that meeting shall be at liberty to accept at the meeting modifications which are consistent with the general intent of the original proposal.