

Background to the EGM and explanation of matters to be considered

As Members may be aware, there are several matters which the Management Board (MB) has been considering since the last AGM, some of which will need to be brought back to Members for approval.

The AGM is the usual forum for such matters and the MB are intending to do that at the 2025 AGM in January as this generally represents the best opportunity for discussion and feed-back from Members.

In the interim, the MB wishes to bring a couple of matters to the membership which can be regarded as enabling to provide greater flexibility in the wider proposals to come, as well as dealing with the immediate need to have an active President in post. These matters are:

1. **The President:** At the time of the AGM, the Guild did not have a President in office. The position of President is an important one – a figurehead of the Guild and the MB has been addressing the role of the President and what sort of person would be the best for that role.
2. **The Vice-Presidents:** Conversely, the present Constitution provides for Vice-Presidents and so if the change of the role and status of President is approved, it is appropriate that the status and role of Vice-Presidents be reviewed.

The propositions in relation to the above and some other consequential matters may be summarised as follows:

1. Constitution changes to the election and role of President

- a. It is proposed to amend the way in which the President is appointed and changing the President's role within the Constitution.
- b. Members will be aware that at present the President is appointed by the MB and previous appointments have not been Guild Members, nor have they been involved much in the day-to-day life of the Guild. Some previous incumbents have been successful in their role and others less so. It is also fair to say that finding someone outside of the Guild, with a role which has been quite like that of a patron, has proved to be difficult.
- c. Another factor in the MB's consideration is that under the existing Constitution terms, parts of the Vice-President's role, being an existing Member of the Guild upon appointment and being independent of and a sounding board to the MB, have considerable benefit to the Guild and might be better performed by a President who comes from the membership.
- d. Therefore, subject to the approval of Members, under the Constitution the President will henceforth be appointed by Members from within the membership. The role of President will be more involved within the

Guild by being able to attend MB meetings and having access to the management process as an advisor to the MB. These changes should also enable the President to better represent the Guild externally as a figurehead Member together with the Chair of the MB and the Patron.

- e. See proposed changes to Articles 11, 34 and 45.
- f. Subject to Members approving the change to the Constitution, the MB propose making a by-law under Article 53 on the role, rights and privileges of the President. (See Proposed Article 53 By-law)

2. Election of President

- a. Under the existing Constitution terms, the President is appointed by the MB and therefore the MB appointed Steve Abbott as President as an interim measure pending the calling of the EGM. Members are therefore invited to formally elect Steve Abbott as President in the amended role.

3. Constitution changes to amend the status and role of Vice-Presidents

- a. On the basis that the changes to the President's role are approved by Members, it is proposed to create some flexibility in the office and role of Vice-President by making minor adjustments to the Constitution. Under the proposals, Vice-Presidents will be appointed by the MB, and the role, rights and privileges are to be determined by by-laws made under Article 53. (See proposed changes to Article 46)
- b. In proposing to make the changes to the Constitution, it will potentially enable the creation of a new status of Vice-President which could recognise long service and contribution, as well as providing for other roles that might be appropriate. The MB proposes to bring this aspect back for consideration at the AGM.

4. Consequential amendments to the Constitution

- a. Subject to the approval of the above Constitution amendments, it is proposed to make a consequential amendment to the definition of "Honorary Member" reflecting the above proposed changes which will remove references to a President and Vice-President being ex officio Honorary Members.

5. Other Agenda items

Members will note that there is a proposed resolution appointing Sue King as a member of the Management Board and Director of the Guild

Sue was co-opted onto the MB shortly after the 2024 AGM with an intention that she would be able to undertake the role of Education Director. The Constitution states that the term of a co-opted member of the MB shall be until the next

general meeting, and therefore the MB has pleasure in proposing Sue to be formally appointed by Members as a member of the MB, and a Director of the Guild.