

BY LAWS of the BERKSHIRE MARK BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (BeMBA)

TITLE

1. The Association shall be called the Berkshire Mark Benevolent Association, hereinafter called the Association.

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Association shall be to establish and maintain a fund (hereinafter called The Fund) to which its Members may subscribe and for the fund or any part thereof to be paid or applied by the Committee as constituted in By Law 4, for all or any of the following purposes,
Namely:-
 - a. The Committee may make grants for the relief of Mark Master Masons who are or were members of Mark Lodges or of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges in the Mark Province of Berkshire, or their wives, widows, widowed mothers, spinster sisters or children being in every case in necessitous circumstances.
Emergency Grants may be made if agreed by the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and put before the next Committee meeting for ratification.
Widows who remarry should not necessarily be excluded from B.M.B.A. grants.
 - b. The Committee may make donations to any or more of the following Charities, namely: The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Fund of Benevolence.
The Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England.
The Masonic Trust for Boys and Girls.
The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The New Masonic Samaritan Fund.
Other Trusts or bodies in the County of Royal Berkshire established exclusively for Charitable purposes.
 - c. Grants to non-charitable organisations may be considered in exceptional circumstances but should first be agreed by the Committee and the President.

MEMBERSHIP

3. The Members of the Association shall be of two classes, viz:
 - a. All Members of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges of the Province who have subscribed to the fund.
 - b. Such other persons who are willing to subscribe to the Association. Members of class 3(b) shall have no voice in the Management of the Association.

MANAGEMENT

4. The Management of the Association shall be vested in the Officers and Committee of the Association.

The Officers shall be The Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Berkshire who will be the President, together with a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Treasurer, a Secretary and the Provincial Charity Steward.

The Committee shall consist of the Officers and one Representative from each Mark Lodge and Royal Ark Mariner Lodge in the Province.

CONSTITUTION

5. The Offices shall be filled as follows:-
 - a. The Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire as President.

- b. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the President or by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Fund of Benevolence.
- c. The Representative of each Lodge shall be elected at the Installation Meeting by the Members of the Lodge. No Member may represent more than one Lodge without the approval of the Officers of the Association, but the elected Representative of a Mark Lodge may also represent its associated Royal Ark Mariner Lodge if desired and if he is a member of both.
- d. The Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- e. The Committee may payout of the Fund the working expenses of the Association.

MEETINGS

- 6. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held prior to the meeting of Provincial Lodge.

The Committee Meetings will be on dates to be agreed and fixed by the members as required. Dates for the year to be changed if required at the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall give at least seven days notice of meetings to every member of the Committee. Five members present at any Meeting of which one shall be an Officer, shall form a quorum.

SECRETARY

- 7. The Secretary shall keep a register of the names and addresses of all Members and shall record the Minutes of all Meetings of the Association and Committee.

TREASURER

- 8. The Treasurer shall keep proper records of all receipts and disbursements.

AUDIT

- 9. The accounts of the Association shall be examined by a Committee of not less than two, to be Elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Financial Year shall be from 1st January to the 31st December and the examined Accounts shall be presented at the following Annual General Meeting.

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

- 10. All monies received shall be banked in the name of the Association, and all cheques shall be signed by one of three signatories, who shall be the Treasurer, Secretary and current Chairman.

INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS

- 11. Any question of dispute as to the meaning of these By-Laws, or any differences between the Association and any Member thereof, shall be referred to the Committee whose decision shall be final.

ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

- 12. These By-Laws can only be amended by the Annual General Meeting of the Association and then only if notice of any such amendment is deposited with the Secretary at least

five weeks before such Meeting, provided always that no amendment shall be made to these By-Laws which will cause the Association to cease to be a Charity in law.

OWNERSHIP OF THE FUND

13. The Fund and all subscriptions received or receivable from Members shall be the absolute property of the Association.

In the event of the Association being wound up, any surplus funds after meeting all known liabilities shall be transferred to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

ADMINISTRATION

14. The Provincial Grand Secretary shall cause to be completed with the Installation Returns of each Lodge, a form indicating the details of the Lodge Charity Steward and BMBA representative for the ensuing year, together with a list of the current Members of the Lodge.

PRESIDENT

RW Bro P J Sands, PGM Berkshire

CHAIRMAN

W Bro R J Olliver, PAGDC, Dep PGM Berkshire

Charity Commissioner's Ref: 265 522 All 23.03.88

By-Laws amended at the AGM 10th June 2010