

CONSTITUTION OF IRISH MENSA

1. NAME

The name of the Committee is the "Irish Mensa Committee" (*Coiste Mensa na hÉireann*), hereinafter referred to as the "Committee".

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Committee shall be to promote and further the interests of Mensa in Ireland.

3. MEMBERS

Fully paid-up members of British Mensa currently resident in Ireland shall be collectively known as "Irish Mensa" (*Mensa na hÉireann*).

4. IRISH MENSA COMMITTEE

- a) The Irish Mensa Committee shall consist of a maximum of seven members, each member shall normally hold office for two years until the end of the second Annual General Meeting following his election.
- b) Retiring Committee members may, if they wish, be available for re-election.
- c) Not later than four months prior to the Annual General Meeting in each year the Secretary shall give notice to the members of Irish Mensa of the names of those Committee members who are to retire at the next Annual General Meeting, and shall call for nominations to the Committee.
- d) Any member may nominate a member or members to the Committee. The nomination shall be in writing, signed by the nominator and two other members in support, and the candidate in token acceptance of nomination, and shall be deposited with the Secretary not less than three months prior to the Annual General Meeting. A candidate cannot nominate or support his own candidature.
- e) In the event of insufficient nominations being received the Committee may make the necessary nominations for any vacancies, and all those so nominated shall be declared duly elected at the Annual General Meeting as members of the Committee.
- f) If more candidates are nominated than there are vacancies then the election shall be decided by ballot of all members of Irish Mensa in accordance with the system known as the Single Transferable Vote, as described by the Electoral Reform Society.
- g) Each candidate may submit to the Secretary, with his nomination, a statement of up to 200 words in support of his candidature.

- h) The Secretary shall send to each member of Irish Mensa, not later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, a copy of each statement together with a ballot form containing the names of all candidates and all members who signed their nomination forms, and requesting each member to vote for the requisite number of candidates.
- i) The accidental omission to send a ballot paper to, or non-receipt by, any member or members shall not invalidate a ballot.
- j) Ballot papers shall be returned by the date stated therein to, and votes counted by, a person or persons to be appointed for the purpose by the Committee.
- k) The successful candidates shall be those certified by the appointed person or persons to be elected. The Certificate shall be placed before the Annual General Meeting, and shall be conclusive of the matters certified therein, and the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting shall declare to be elected the candidates therein named.
- l) Any casual vacancy in the Committee may be filled by the co-opting of a member of Irish Mensa, and the member co-opted shall hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting following his co-option.
- m) At the first meeting of the Committee after each Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall appoint, and at other times may appoint, a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer from amongst their number. The Committee may appoint, either then or subsequently, any members of Irish Mensa to hold offices within Irish Mensa. Each person appointed shall hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting following their appointment or such earlier date as the Committee may determine, either then or subsequently.
- n) The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping books of accounts in respect of monies received or spent, and of the assets and liabilities of the Committee.
- o) The quorum for all Committee meetings shall be not be less than half the number of Committee members.
- p) Meetings of the Committee shall take place at least twice a year.
- q) The Committee may appoint sub-committees with such powers as may be required. Membership of sub-committees need not be confined to members of Irish Mensa.

5. PRESIDENT

Members of Irish Mensa shall elect annually a President, who shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Committee. The election of a President shall be coincidental to, and take the same form as, the election of the Committee. The President shall hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting following his election.

6 EDITOR

Members of Irish Mensa shall elect annually an Editor of a publication to be circulated to all members of Irish Mensa, and who shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Committee. The election of an Editor shall be coincidental to, and take the same form as, the election of the Committee. The Editor shall hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting following his election.

7 MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

a) Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting of Irish Mensa, of which at least two months notice shall be given by the Secretary, shall be held in the first half of each year, for the purpose of:

- i. receiving and, if approved, adopting the reports of the Committee,
- ii. announcing the result of the election of the Committee, President and Editor,
and
- iii. transacting any other business appropriate to an Annual General Meeting.

The date and venue of the Annual General Meeting shall be decided by the Committee, and shall be held in such a place as to give, as far as possible, the opportunity for all Irish Mensa members to attend. Motions for consideration, in writing, stating the name of the proposer and at least two supporters, must be received by the Secretary at least three months before the Meeting. Motions for consideration may also be proposed by the Committee. An agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be circulated to all members of Irish Mensa at least 21 days prior to the Meeting.

b) Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings shall be called by the Secretary on the request of the Committee, or on requisition, in writing, of any ten members. (Such requisition must state the business to be brought before the Meeting). At least one months notice shall be given by the Secretary, and the notice shall specify the business to be transacted.

c) Conduct of Meetings

All General Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Standing Orders.

8 VOTING

Voting at Meetings shall generally be by a show of hands of those attending, and shall be limited to members of Irish Mensa. A resolution calling for the use of a secret ballot for voting on any motion may be put forward by any member, and shall be approved providing that such a resolution is supported by at least two other members. Motions, except those to amend the Constitution, shall be carried by simple majority. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a single casting vote in addition to his own

vote.

9. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be altered, varied, amended or rescinded, only at a General Meeting providing notice of the proposed alteration, variation, amendment or rescission has been given, and that it is passed by two-thirds of those in attendance.

10. INTERPRETATION

In the case of a dispute the Committee shall have sole authority in respect of the interpretation of this Constitution.

11. TRANSITION

At the first meeting of the IMC following the AGM adopting these constitutional changes, members of the Committee shall decide by lot which five of their number shall retire at the next AGM, the others holding office for two years in accordance with Article 4(a). On completion of the act set out in this section, this Constitution shall read as if this section was deleted.

David Schulman, Chairman
John Williams, Secretary

30 April 1988

Revision 1 - Clause 4(a) amended following the passing of a motion at the 2017 AGM

Niall MacCaughey, Chairman
Bryony Burniston, Secretary
29th April 2017