

Proposed Changes to RMets By-Laws

Background

- 1) The Charter and By-Laws www.rmets.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Charter%20and%20Bylaws.pdf detail the operating framework that defines how the Society shall conduct its business.
- 2) The Charter and By-Laws are kept under review by the Society's House Committee, on behalf of Council, who recommend changes to Council. Changes to the By-Laws need to be approved at the Society's AGM, as stated in By-Law 66.
- 3) The proposed changes to the By-Laws are highlighted as tracked changes and presented below. Most changes being proposed reflect adjustments to the Society's ways of working and technology. However, the proposed change to By-Law 26 is part of a wider review of the Society's Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct to be completed in 2024.

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws:

- 9 The Society may admit such other persons as may be hereafter qualified and elected in that behalf as Honorary Fellows, Fellows, or Members, respectively, and such persons shall sign a form [or tick a box online](#) indicating that the member agrees to be governed by The Charter and By-Laws of The Society and gives a commitment to advance the objects of The Society. The form to be used shall be specified in The Society's Standing Orders.
- 10 The Society may admit such Corporate Bodies as may be qualified and elected in that behalf as Corporate Members, and representatives of the Corporate Members nominated under ~~By-Law 7. shall sign a form indicating agreement to be governed by The Charter and By-Laws of The Society and gives a commitment to advance the objects of The Society. The form to be used shall be specified in The Society's Standing Orders.~~
- 11 On matters related to appellations:
 - a An Honorary Fellow shall be entitled to use, after the Honorary Fellow's name, the abbreviation HonFRMetS, and a Fellow the abbreviation FRMetS as decided on by Council in accordance with the appropriate professional qualification and competence.
 - b A Member or Fellow may, if accredited for the time being in accordance with By-Law 31 but not otherwise, use the style or title "Registered Meteorologist" and use after their name "RMet" or "Chartered Meteorologist" and use after that their name "CMet" or a title that The Society awards under licence, as described in By-Law 31 [\(df\)](#).
 - c No member shall by virtue of membership of The Society adopt, or use, any description or abbreviated title otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this By-Law.

- 23 Every member who is elected shall be informed ~~and sent a copy of form, as specified in~~about the Standing Orders, and of The Charter and By-Laws of The Society. No election or transfer shall become effective until the entrance fee and the first annual subscription payable on such election shall have been paid and the relevant form signed by the candidate or organisation in the case of a Corporate Member. The Council shall have the power in exceptional cases of extending the period of such payment and subscription respectively.
- 25 Any member may resign from The Society by giving notice in writing to ~~the Chief Executive at the office of~~ The Society.
- 26 All members and Fellows shall act in accordance with the respective Code of Conduct as published by the Council from time to time and they shall do nothing that may bring the profession of meteorology or The Society into disrepute. The Council may reject an application for membership or suspend from membership for a period deemed appropriate or expel from membership any person who does not act in accordance with the Code of Conduct. :
- a.—~~Is found guilty in a court of law of an offence involving fraud or dishonestly;~~
 - b.—~~Is committed to prison following conviction for any other offence;~~
 - c.—~~Is held by the Council to have failed to observe the Charter, By-Laws or Standing Orders of the Society;~~
 - d.—~~Is held by the Council to have failed to observe the Code of Conduct in place from time to time;~~
 - e.—~~Engages in any activity that in the opinion of the Council is inconsistent with membership of the Society;~~
 - f.—~~Is held by the Council to have acted in a way that is detrimental to the welfare or reputation of the Society;~~
 - g.—~~Is held by the Council to have been guilty of any act or default discreditable to the profession of meteorology;~~
 - h.—~~Has been admitted as a member as a result of false representation;~~
 - i.—~~Is the subject of a country or State at war with the United Kingdom.~~

ACCREDITATION³

- 31 On matters related to Accreditation:
- a A person may apply to the Society for accreditation in accordance with the provisions of this By-Law.
 - ~~b~~ ~~Where any such application is received from a person who is not already a member of The Society, it shall be deemed to include an application for membership.~~
 - ~~bc~~ The Council shall make such arrangements as it shall from time to time think fit for the purpose of assessing, by whatever means the Council shall consider appropriate, the education, training, qualifications, knowledge, skill and experience of any person applying for or seeking to maintain accreditation in accordance with this By-Law and for such purpose shall prepare and publish regulations (which may include a Code of Conduct to be observed by any person accredited in accordance with this By-Law) and may from time to time rescind, vary or add to such regulations⁴ and Code of Conduct as it thinks fit.
 - ~~d~~ ~~When considering the professional qualifications of nationals from other European Union Member States, The Society will assess and take decisions on applications for registration in accordance with the relevant European Union Directives⁵.~~

³ ~~N.B. To ensure continued compliance with the appropriate EU Directives (currently 89/48/EEC and 92/51/EEC), By-Law 31 and the Regulations associated with it must not be changed without the new text being first approved by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.~~

⁴ ~~Applications are invited for accreditation from members of The Society working in meteorology and related fields. Candidates will be required to: hold an appropriate honours degree from a recognised EU university; have at least five years experience as a practicing professional meteorologist hydrologist or physical oceanographer; demonstrate that they possess an appropriate scientific background and level of fundamental meteorological knowledge; demonstrate a detailed professional knowledge of their own declared field(s) of speciality; demonstrate the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and succinctly in English; agree to abide by a code of professional conduct. Overseas applications will be welcomed, and will be treated on an equal footing with those from the UK, as far as is practicable. All proceedings will be conducted in English.~~

⁵ ~~See for example Article 52 of Directive 2005/36/EC on Professional Qualifications.~~

- ~~ce~~ The Council may confer the titles “Chartered Meteorologist” or “Registered Meteorologist” (or other qualifications under the appropriate licence) upon applicants who satisfy The Society by means of an assessment conducted in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of this By-Law 31 that they should be accredited. Council may withdraw the title from any who, when requested, do not provide a satisfactory record of Continuing Professional Development, as evidence that they are maintaining their knowledge, skill and experience at an appropriate level.
- ~~df~~ The Council alone shall have power to decide conclusively respecting each person applying for or wishing to maintain accreditation pursuant to this By-Law whether each has or has not satisfied such criteria as are set out in the regulations prepared and published by The Society pursuant to the relevant paragraphs of this By-Law.

- 36 Any member joining The Society during the period ~~October to November and~~ December in a given year will be required to pay the subscription rate applicable for the following year, and this membership will be valid until 31 December of the following year. shall only start paying a subscription with effect from January of the immediately following year.
- 37 Any member whose annual subscription remains unpaid after ~~31 March~~28 February shall not, except by the discretion of the Council, be entitled to exercise any of the rights and privileges of membership.
- 38 Any member whose annual subscription remains unpaid for two years shall cease to be a member on ~~31 December~~1 March in the following year of the second year and that member's name shall be removed from the Register unless by resolution the Council decide to the contrary.
- 41 Only Fellows and Members over the age of 18 years shall be eligible for service as elected members of the Council. The Council shall consist of:
- The President
 - The Vice-Presidents (which includes a Vice-President for Scotland)
 - The Treasurer
 - The General Secretary
 - Not more than twelve nor less than eight Members of Council
- The ~~Editor of Society News and the~~ Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom with the World Meteorological Organisation, shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Council.
- 45 Subject to the direction of the Council it shall be the duty of the Officers to conduct the business of The Society, to attend all meetings of The Society and of the Council, to take minutes of the proceedings of these meetings and to read minutes and communications when requested to do so. Subject to the approval of the Council they shall also engage and be responsible for all persons employed to conduct the business of The Society. Nevertheless, the whole or part of these duties may be deputed to one or more paid individuals/servants of The Society under the direction and approval of the Council.
- 47 At the June Council meeting, early notice shall be given of vacancies arising on Council in the October of the following year. Council shall confirm the number of vacancies that will arise that year. With delegated powers from Council, the Nominations Committee shall then evaluate the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity of Council, and, in the light of this evaluation, shall prepare a description of the role and capabilities required for each particular vacancy on Council. Council shall circulate to each Fellow and Member by mid-September (usually with the September issue of The Society's journal *Weather*) the names of Members of Council due to retire on 30 September of the following year along with their affiliations and the role descriptions for each. Fellows and Members will be invited to send to the General Secretary at The Society's address or via email by mid-October nominations for candidates to replace them. The nomination should include a statement that details the nominee's skills, experience and qualifications for the role. The nomination should include support in writing from two Fellows or Members. Each such nominator shall be debarred from nominating any other person for the same election.

- 48 Council shall circulate to each Fellow and Member by mid-March (usually with the March issue of The Society's journal *Weather*) a list of duly qualified persons whom they nominate for the vacancies about to occur on Council.

Not later than 30 days after the issue of Council's list any five Fellows or Members but not more than five, may nominate any other duly qualified person to fill any vacancy for an Officer by delivering an appropriate written nomination to the General Secretary at the Society's address [or via email](#) together with the written consent of the nominee to accept office if elected, but each such nominator shall be debarred from nominating any other person for the same election.

- 59 The Council shall pay to the ~~servants-staff~~ of The Society such salaries, wages, or remuneration as the Council shall from time to time think proper, and the Council shall make such provision for and grant such pensions to the ~~servants-staff~~ of The Society after their retirement from the service of The Society as they may think proper.
- 60 The Council shall arrange for the publication, in any manner which they may deem advisable, of such papers, documents and publications as may be considered by the Council to be likely to advance meteorological knowledge and the objects of The Society.
- 61 Council are responsible through the ~~Honorary Librarian appointed by Council~~[Chief Executive](#) for The Society's collection of books, pamphlets, slides and other material which is held in the National Meteorological Library and Archives on permanent loan in accordance with The Society's agreement with the Met Office. The material can be consulted during office hours but is not available for loan.
- 82 The monies of The Society which are not subject to any specific trust purpose, and which are not required to meet current expenditure, may be invested ~~in any securities quoted in the official list of any recognised Stock Exchange~~ or placed on deposit with a reputable organisation. Council may only delegate its powers to select and make investments to the extent permitted by the provisions of The Royal Charter and the relevant legislation governing responsibilities of Trustees and Charities⁷.