

BY-LAWS

EMULATION LODGE
OF
IMPROVEMENT

BY-LAWS
OF THE
EMULATION LODGE
OF
IMPROVEMENT,
No. 256
Held at Freemasons' Hall

2025

COMMITTEE

R.W. Bro R. J. Race, *DL*, PDepGM
Treasurer

W. Bro. G. W. Goodall PSGD
Senior Member

W. Bro. K. T. Masters LGR,
PProvAGReg (E. Kent)

W. Bro. H. L. Shooter SLGR

W. Bro. S. Turner SLGR, MetDepGDC

W. Bro. D. Thompson PProvSGW
(Surrey)

W. Bro. J. C. C. Walden LGR

W. Bro. D. J. Thompson PJGD

W. Bro. J. T. A. Mossom LGR
Secretary

W. Bro. P. Jones PGStwd
Assistant Secretary

V.W. Bro. G. F. Redman PGSwdB,
DepGSec
Life Member

BY-LAWS
OF THE
EMULATION LODGE
OF
IMPROVEMENT
NO. 256

I

That this Lodge be called the
Emulation Lodge of Improvement,
sanctioned by the Lodge of Unions,
No. 256.

II

That the meetings of the Lodge
shall be held at Freemasons' Hall,
London, every Friday evening
throughout the months of January,

February, March, April, May, June, October, November, and December, except for Good Friday and those dates determined to be impractical by the Committee, at such hour as the Committee may from time to time direct.

III

That at every meeting, the Lodge shall be opened and closed in the three degrees and the business of the Lodge shall be as set out in By-Law XIII.

IV

That the Officers of the Lodge shall be appointed by the Committee prior to the Lodge being opened, and shall consist of a Master, Past Masters, two Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, two Deacons, Assistant Secretary, Inner Guard and Tyler. The Master for the ensuing meeting shall be elected nightly, when he

shall name the work to be carried out.

V

That no Brother shall be eligible to be elected to the Office of Master unless he is fully acquainted with the method of opening and closing the Lodge in the three Degrees, and of working the Ceremony intended for the occasion on which he is to preside, agreeably to the recognised system of this Lodge.

That this By-Law be read by the Secretary at each meeting, immediately before the election of Master.

VI

That if any Brother appointed to an Office by the Committee shall not attend the Lodge to enter on his duties previously to the commencement of the Ceremony, he shall forfeit the appointment and

another be appointed by the Committee.

VII

That no Brother shall be admitted a member or visitor under the Degree of a Master Mason, nor unless he be a subscribing member to a regular Lodge.

VIII

That there shall be no nightly contribution for members.

That the nightly contribution of each visitor shall be one pound, payable in cash or by on-line means.

IX

That no Brother shall be proposed to become a member unless he be present at the time he is proposed (or shall have previously visited the Lodge), and that every Brother on being proposed to become a member shall pay a

joining fee of five pounds, payable in cash or by on-line means, such proposition to be regularly seconded and subject to a ballot on the succeeding Lodge night, when, should there appear two black balls, the proposition shall be rejected and the joining fee of five pounds shall be returned to him.

X

That the joining fees and nightly contributions shall be paid to the funds of the Lodge and applied, in the first instance, in defraying the expenses of the rooms and the necessary paraphernalia of the Lodge, and the remainder in such a manner as the Committee may determine.

XI

That no motion for the disposal of the funds otherwise than for the payment of incidental expenses, or

for the purposes of Charity, shall be allowed to be brought forward, unless notice of the same shall have been given at the previous meeting.

That in any case no Brother shall be relieved from the funds of the Lodge unless he be a member.

XII

That no Brother shall be admitted into the Lodge unless he be properly clothed as a Master Mason and attired in a manner deemed suitable by the Committee.

XIII

That the business of each meeting shall normally consist of one of the Ceremonies, they being the First Degree and Charge, the Second Degree and Tracing Board, the Third Degree and Traditional History, and the Ceremony of Installation, and so much of the Lectures as time will permit, the

Lodge being called off and then back on after the completion of the Ceremony.

The Lectures shall be worked in sections by such members or Officers of the Lodge as the Committee may nominate.

The Committee may, in its discretion, set aside an evening for a Festival evening, in which case it shall not be necessary for a Ceremony to be worked, but sections of the Lectures may be worked.

XIV

That the last Friday evening in February shall be set aside as a Festival evening at which four sections of the Lectures shall be worked by members nominated by the Committee. That at this meeting it shall not be necessary to call off.

That the last Friday evening in June shall be set aside as a Festival

evening, the work for which shall normally consist of a Degree Ceremony, followed by the Ceremony of Installation.

XV

That the Treasurer and four or more other Committee Members including a Secretary shall be elected annually at the first meeting in January. They together shall form a Committee for the general purposes of the Lodge, three to form a quorum. An Assistant Secretary may, and the Tyler shall, also be elected.

That the Committee shall deal with all matters not specifically required by these By-Laws to be brought before the members of the Lodge for decision.

That the Committee may co-opt a Brother or Brethren to its number. Any such co-opted member shall remain a member of the Committee

until the first meeting in the January thereafter.

That a member of the Committee may, if he so desires, resign from it, in which case he shall send his resignation in writing to the Secretary, such resignation to be effective from the date of receipt of that written resignation.

That the Committee may, as a mark of appreciation of his services, propose that a Brother be elected a Life Member of the Committee, such proposition to be voted on by the members present at the first meeting in the January thereafter.

XVI

That the Secretary shall keep regular minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge, an account of all moneys received and disbursed, and a list of the members with the name and number of their respective Lodges.

XVII

That the Tyler shall, so far as is within his power, attend all the meetings of the Lodge and devote himself exclusively to it and its members during their meeting. He shall be paid an agreed fee out of the fund of the Lodge.

XVIII

That it shall be part of the duties of the Committee to arrange for the audit of the accounts, and to report to the Lodge the state of the funds at the first meeting in January, should any member request, immediately previously to the election of Treasurer.

XIX

That the Committee shall select one of its number to occupy the Past Master's chair until the Lodge is called off at each meeting, and one

of its number to occupy the Past Master's chair from the calling on until the Lodge is closed at each meeting. The member of the Committee whilst so occupying that chair shall act as Preceptor.

XX

That no motion for the alteration of the By-Laws shall be brought before the Lodge unless notice of the same shall have been given at least three meetings previously in Lodge. Such motion shall be referred to the Committee who shall report its recommendation to the Lodge prior to a ballot on the proposed amendments. No alteration whatever shall take place unless it is both recommended by the Committee and passed by a majority of the Brethren present at a meeting of the Lodge.