

GCMT

CONSTITUTION

Adopted on the 21st August 2008

- 1 The name of the Organisation is The General Council for Massage Therapies – abbreviation GCMT.
- 2 The GCMT is a non-profit making body

DEFINITIONS

- 3 In this constitution the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this article.
 - a) 'United Kingdom' shall be deemed to include the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.
 - b) Massage Therapies means the systematic use of classical Swedish massage and other soft tissue techniques and Bodywork*, to improve physical health and emotional well being and Massage Therapist or Massage Practitioner or Bodyworker means a person suitably trained and experienced for the purpose of applying such therapy.

* Bodywork – health massage or physical manipulation of the body: physical manipulation of the human body, including all types of massage, to improve general health or posture, or to treat injuries (Encarta)

OBJECTS

- 4 The principal objects of the GCMT are:
 - a) To promote the adoption of high standards of practice in Massage Therapies and Bodyworks. Thereby optimising public access to treatment of a high professional standard
 - b) To establish and maintain a nationwide professionally determined Standard of Training, Conduct and Competence for the protection of the public.
 - c) To act as a unifying body by bringing together organisations engaged in representing or teaching Massage Therapies and Bodyworks.

And to these ends in due course and after full consultation with member organisations

- a) To establish standards for continuing professional development of registered practitioners.
- b) Establish core Curricula in all areas of Massage Therapies and Bodyworks.
- c) Establish Advanced Curricula in all areas of Massage Therapies and Bodyworks, as applicable
- d) Provide support to the profession in the form of Standards and expertise

MEMBERSHIP

- 5 Membership of the GCMT shall be open to
 - a) Professional Associations. Full membership shall be open to professional associations concerned with

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- Massage Therapies, Bodyworks and soft tissue techniques, and other organisations based in the UK which meet such requirements as the GCMT may set down
- b) Lay members appointed by Council
 - c) Ex officio officers appointed by Council
 - d) There shall be no individual membership of the GCMT
- 6 The Council shall determine the eligibility of applicant Organisations for membership and the Council's decision on the conferring or termination of membership shall be final.
- 7 The termination of membership of any organisation (other than for failure to pay due subscription under Article 32) may be effected only by the Council and after three weeks notice of a resolution on the matter has been given to all member organisations.

GOVERNANCE OF GCMT

- 8 The final authority on all matters concerning the governance and policies of the GCMT shall be the Council in General Meeting.
- 9 An Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held once a year within six months of the end of the previous financial year.
- 10 The business to be considered at an Annual General Meeting shall include:
- a) Election of officers for the ensuing year.
 - b) Approval of the accounts for the previous financial year and consideration of the verified accounts
 - c) Appointment of accountants for the current year
 - d) Consideration of such reports on the affairs of GCMT as Council may present.
 - e) Such other business as members of Council, or Officers may present..
11. Timetable for Annual General Meeting
- a. Nine Weeks prior to AGM –
 - i. Notice to be given of time and venue of AGM
 - ii. Professional Associations and other organizations invited to notify the names of their representatives to Council
 - b. Six Weeks prior to AGM – Professional Associations and other organizations to notify Secretary of their representatives to Council
 - c. Five weeks prior to AGM
 - i. The Secretary shall advise Professional Associations of officer positions to be filled at the AGM and invite nominations from the received names of Professional Association representatives
 - ii. The Secretary shall invite motions to be moved at the AGM
 - d. Three weeks prior to AGM Notice of motions to be moved shall be given
 - e. Two weeks prior to AGM, agendas, minutes, nominations and motions shall be given to all members
- 12 The term of office of representatives on Council shall be deemed to be from the beginning of an AGM to the beginning of the following AGM unless notice of a change of representative is given by his/her organisation.
- 13 Minutes shall be kept of all Council meetings and shall be circulated to all members with notices of

meetings together with any papers to be considered two weeks before meetings. Exceptionally, Council may consider papers tabled at a meeting.

- 14 Membership at Meetings of the Council shall be
 - a) Nominated representatives who represent each full member until such time as Council decides differently.
 - b) Lay and ex officio members appointed by Council
- 15 All representatives on Council must be duly appointed by the organizations they represent. All Professional Association representatives must be trained in Massage Therapy.
- 16 The Chair, if present, shall preside at meetings of the Council. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-chair shall preside. In the absence of both, the Council shall choose another Officer or representative present to preside.
- 17 Ex officio members and lay members shall each have one vote at Council meetings. Each full member organization shall have two or more votes according to the number of massage practitioner members in their organization as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 18 Representatives, if unable to attend, may nominate any other representative or the Independent Chair to exercise a proxy vote on their behalf.
- 19 Voting rights
 - a. shall attach to member organizations and not personally to representatives and each organization shall determine which of its representatives is to exercise the vote.
 - b. Are subject to the completed payment of annual subscription. Completed payment is defined as payments that have been deposited and cleared in GCMT bank account.
- 20 An Independent Chair as defined in Article 27 shall have no normal vote but may exercise a Casting vote in the event of a tie. A Chair who is not an Independent Chair may exercise a normal vote and in the event of a tie may in addition exercise a casting vote. On election to the post of Chair from a member organisation of the council, that person will be designated as an ex- officio member in order to signify their neutrality and their separation from their original organisation.
- 21 The Council may co-opt persons with specialist knowledge or skills who may attend Council meetings. Co-opted persons may take a full part in deliberations but do not have voting rights.
- 22 Representatives without voting rights may take a full part in deliberations and may move motions.
- 23 The quorum for Council meetings shall be defined in terms of the number of organizations represented. not in terms of the number of representatives present and shall be one third of full member organizations or three such organizations whichever is greater. In the absence of a quorum the Council may deliberate but may not take decisions.
- 24 Simple majority except where otherwise provided in this constitution shall decide votes at Council meetings.
- 25 The Council may take decisions on matters by correspondence on any particular occasion, provided no full member organization objects to such procedure.

OFFICERS

- 26 The officers of the GCMT who may be ex officio shall be
 - Chair
 - Vice-chair

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Chair of Working Group

- 27 Until such time as the Council may decide, the Chair shall be styled 'Independent Chair' and shall be a person who is not a member of any member organization of GCMT or of a similar organization not in GCMT membership.
- 28 Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting of GCMT. Council may fill vacancies for the remainder of the term. Officers may be but are not required to be persons designated by member organizations as their representatives on Council.
- 29 If the Council, appoints a staff person, that person may attend Council meetings but without voting rights.

WORKING GROUPS

- 30 Council will establish such working groups as it determines appropriate. Working Groups will present their meeting notes and reports to Council. The Council may delegate authority to individual persons or working groups to undertake such tasks as it may prescribe.
- The Chair of a working Group (WG) will normally be a member of Council.
- Working Groups will be defined in Appendix 2, immediately following the Constitution.
- 31 If the Working Group Chair is an Independent Chair as defined in Article 27, he or she shall have no normal vote but may exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie. Any other Chair shall have a normal vote and, in the event of a tie, may in addition exercise a casting vote. In either event a casting vote shall be used to defeat a motion, which does not command a majority.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 32
- a) Member organisations shall pay an annual subscription of such amount, in respect of such period and by such due date as the Council may prescribe. An organisation shall cease to be a member if its subscription remains unpaid after the due date unless the Council, in exceptional circumstances, extends the date for payment. Voting rights are subject to full and completed payment of annual subscription.
 - b) Member Professional Associations will advise the GCMT Treasurer of their membership (Massage Practitioners) on 1st December and of their organization Treasurer
 - i. Invoices will be issued to all members subscribing to GCMT on receipt of membership figures for completed payments no later than 31st January of the membership year.
 - ii. Membership will cease if payment is not received by 31st January of the membership year. Completed payment is defined as funds that are deposited and cleared in the GCMT bank account.

FINANCE

- 37 The council shall make such arrangements for the control of funds and other assets of the GCMT including the delegation of powers to Officers as it sees fit

REGISTER OF QUALIFIED MASSAGE Practitioners

- 38 The Register of Qualified Massage Practitioners and Bodyworkers shall continue in its current format until the effective establishment of the CNHC register. At this point the GCMT register shall cease to exist.

DISSOLUTION

- 39 The GCMT may be dissolved by the passing of a motion at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. Any assets of GCMT on dissolution may be transferred to an organisation with objects and activities similar to those of GCMT. Otherwise, assets shall be remitted to member organisations in such manner as Council may prescribe.

AMMENDMENTS OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- 40 This constitution may be amended only by a motion adopted by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. At least three weeks notice of such a motion shall be given to all Council members.

APPENDIX 19/06/08

1. Voting Rights as defined in Article 17 at 19/06/08 will be
 - Under 500 such members 2 votes
 - 501 to 1000 such members 3 votes
 - 1001 to 1500 such members 4 votes
 - over 1500 such members 5 votes

2. The Working Groups as defined in Article 30 at 21/08/08 will be
 - Finance
 - Strategy and Forward Planning
 - Communications and Liaison
 - Education And Training
 - Sport and Remedial