

Proposed Constitutional amendment to the AGM of FoMBL - Friday 26 September 2025

Proposed by: Neil Roger (Project Manager)

Seconded by: Alistair Cant (Member)

These proposed changes related to the existing Constitution, dated 2008.

CHANGE A

Clause 13:

Existing: "Any person who wishes to become a member must sign a written application for membership; the application will then be considered by the board at its next board meeting."

Proposed change: Insert before 'board at its next board meeting' the clause: '**Membership Secretary; who may refer an application for consideration by the**'

Reason: Applications would be able to be processed quickly and smoothly by the Membership Secretary. Any ones requiring a board decision could still be referred to them.

CHANGE B

Clause 15:

Existing: "The board must notify each applicant promptly (in writing or by e-mail) of its decision on whether to admit him/her to membership."

Proposed change: Delete 'board' and replace with '**Membership Secretary**'

Reason: As Change A, to make the application process quicker and smoother.

CHANGE C

Clause 16:

Existing: "Membership subscription will be payable every year."

Proposed change: Add the following sub-clauses:

16.1 The Membership subscription year shall run from 1 July to the following 30 June.

16.2 If an application for membership has been approved but the person has not paid their subscription within 28 days of the person being notified of the approval, then the application shall be cancelled automatically.

16.3 If a Member has not renewed their membership by paying their subscription by 31 August, then their membership shall be cancelled automatically.

16.4 The Membership Secretary will update the Members Register with these automatic cancellations.

Reason: To give clear guidance on what happens if someone does not pay their subs, either on first application or on renewal.

CHANGE D

Clause 17:

Existing: "The board must keep a register of members, setting out"

Proposed change: Delete 'board'. Replace with '**Membership Secretary**'

Reason: To make this process simpler - a board should not have to do admin tasks collectively.

CHANGE E

Clause 17.2:

Existing: "for each former member – for at least six years from the date on which he/she ceased to be a member:"

Proposed change: Delete 'years'. Replace with '**months**'

Reason: It seems very onerous to keep membership records of former members for 6 years. Six months should be sufficient. At the end of the day, the person can re-apply for membership.

CHANGE F

Clause 18:

Existing: "The board must ensure that the register of members is updated within 28 days of any change:"

Proposed change: Delete 'board'. Replace with '**Membership Secretary**'

Reason: As above, to keep the admin simple and in the hands of the Membership Secretary.

CHANGE G

Clause 21:

Existing "Membership of the organisation may not be transferred by a member."

Proposed change: Add a second sentence: '**Membership shall cease upon the death of a member.**'

Reason: To be clear that membership is a personal item and ends upon death.

CHANGE H

Clause 25.3

Existing: "The member concerned will cease to be a member if their subscription is not paid in accordance with sections 22-23 above."

Proposed change: Delete this sub-clause completely.

Reason: This clause has always been in the wrong place, as it has nothing to do with the expulsion of a member (Clause 25). This clause 25.3 is no longer needed as it has superseded by the new clauses 16.2 and 16.3.

CHANGE I

Clause 106 (new)

Proposed change: Add new sub-heading '**Membership Secretary**' [under the Administration Section] and new clause wording:

'106. The board shall appoint a Membership Secretary, who may be a Charity Trustee or alternatively may be a Member. The post shall be Honorary (i.e. not salaried/not an employee). The Membership Secretary shall carry out the membership process; maintain and update the membership register; and keep the board informed. An up-to-date report of (fully-paid-up) membership numbers and names shall be provided to the board at each AGM, for attendance to be checked and recorded, and the quorum established.'

Renumber each subsequent clause (increase by 1); and the Contents page numbering.

Reason:	The role of Membership Secretary is primarily administrative and they do not necessarily need to be Charity Trustees. The key functions of the post are laid out, especially in relation to AGM attendance.
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The Members of the FoMBL are encouraged to support this Amendment to enable the charity to function more smoothly and for some of the more administrative processes to be clearer.

12 September 2025

Neil Roger, Alistair Cant