

**The Council for Soft Tissue Therapies**  
**CONSTITUTION**

Subject to final approval by the Council on 10/7/14

- 1 The name of the Organisation is The General Council for Massage Therapies – abbreviation GCMT.
- 2 The GCMT is a non-profit making body.
- 3 The GCMT is an unincorporated association.
- 4 All member organisations of the GCMT are expected to ensure that their own members adhere to the agreed Core Curriculum for their particular discipline. If the GCMT becomes aware that member organisations are not adhering to the agreed Core Curriculum then disciplinary action may be taken.

**DEFINITIONS**

- 5 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 use of massage and other soft tissue techniques, to improve physical health and emotional well being.. Massage Therapist or Massage Practitioner or Soft Tissue Therapists means a person suitably trained and experienced for the purpose of applying such therapy.

**OBJECTS**

- 6 The principal objects of the GCMT are:
  - a) To promote the adoption of high standards of practice in Massage and Soft Tissue Therapies . 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 and Soft Tissue Therapies.

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 and Soft Tissue Therapies...
- c) Provide support to the profession in the form of Standards and expertise.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- 7 Membership of the GCMT shall be open to:
- a) Professional Associations. Full membership shall be open to Professional Associations concerned with Massage Therapies 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) Training providers.
  - e) Awarding Organisations.
  - f) Representatives from relevant educational organisations.
  - g) There shall be no individual membership of the GCMT
- 8 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. Applications from new organisations will be deferred until they have been operating successfully for a minimum period of 2 years.
- 9 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**

- 10 The final authority on all matters concerning the governance and policies of the GCMT shall be the Council in General Meeting.
- 11 An Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held once a year.
- 12 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 if appropriate.
  - 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.
13. 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 organisations invited to notify the names of their representatives to Council.
  - b. Six Weeks prior to AGM – Professional Associations and other organisations 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
- 14 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.
  - 15 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.
  - 16 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
  - 17 All representatives on Council must be duly appointed by the organisations they represent. All Professional Association representatives must be trained in Massage/Soft Tissue Therapy.
  - 18 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.
  - 19 Voting rights will be limited to Professional Associations. There will be one vote per association.
  - 20 Representatives, if unable to attend, may nominate any other representative or the Chair to exercise a proxy vote on their behalf.
  - 21 Voting rights
    - a. shall attach to Professional Associations and not personally to representatives and each association 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.
  - 22 The 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.
  - 23 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.
  - 24 Representatives without voting rights may take a full part in deliberations and may move motions.
  - 25 The quorum for Council meetings shall be defined in terms of the number of organisations 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.
  - 26 Simple majority except where otherwise provided in this constitution shall decide votes at Council meetings.

- 27 The Council may take decisions on matters by correspondence on any particular occasion, provided no full member organisation objects to such procedure.

## **OFFICERS**

- 28 All officers of the GCMT may be designated ex officio.
- 29 A Chair will be nominated from a member organisation of the Council.
- 30 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 organisations as their representatives on Council.
- 31 If the Council, appoints a staff person, that person may attend Council meetings but without voting rights.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

- 31 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.
- 32 The 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**

- 33
- 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. The Council currently requires that members pay a minimum fee of £100 per annum up to a maximum of £500 per annum based on membership numbers as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of December each year. The Council may waive or reduce fees where a member is providing services to the GCMT or where a member is not representing a Professional Association. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> January of the membership year.
- ii. Membership will cease if payment is not received by 31<sup>st</sup> January of the membership year. Completed payment is defined as funds that are deposited and cleared in the GCMT bank account.

## **FINANCE**

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

## **DISSOLUTION**

- 35 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.