

Cape Knifemakers Guild (RSA) CONSTITUTION

(Revised : 19 March 2015)

Founded : 10th of May 2008 at Cape Town

1. About us and Modus Operandi

A group of knife makers, referred to as members of the Cape Knifemakers Guild (CKG), who believe that making knives by hand is the only way that a knife can be raised to the point where it is fully gratifying and the result totality beyond reproach. The knives are made using the stock removal method of shaping the blade profile, hollow or flat grinding of the blade and tapering of the full tang.

2. Handmade

Shall mean that all processes to produce the knife, be personally controlled or guided, started and stopped by the knife maker, choosing whatever tools, machines or driving methods he sees fit to use.

The above proviso excludes using outside help, factory bulk cutting or stamping of blades, knife parts, prepared knife kits (bench made) or customizing of factory knives, etc.

Heat treatment of steels can be done by members with the appropriate equipment and expertise or by the suppliers of the knife steels, using sophisticated methods such as vacuum atmosphere ovens.

Embellishment of knives, such as engraving, scrimshaw etc may be done by artists other than the knife maker and this is to be acknowledging on the certificate of origin.

3. Presentation of knives for sale

All knives to be supplied with an appropriate sheath, pouch or presentation case of quality matching the knife.

A certificate of origin stating:

- A. Blade steel type and make (brand)
- B. Heat treatment and hardness
- C. Bolster or guard material
- D. Handle material (s)
- E. Finishes, satin mirror etc.
- F. If folder, liner or frame material and locking mechanism type.
- G. Sheath or pouch material
- H. Photo if possible
- I. Embellishment and author thereof
- J. Makers signature & date

4. Membership

Original members will be the founders, Neels Roos as Secretary/Treasurer and Fanie La Grange as Chairman; this will constitute the working committee for the first year of developing the Guild. Any member serving on the committee will do so without any financial reward.

5. Working committee members

Will consist of:

- A. Chairman.
- B. Secretary.
- C. Treasurer.

- D. Show Committee Chairman.
- E. New members for the working committee, may be proposed at the yearly AGM at the end of July of every year, voted for and be accepted by a two thirds majority.
- F. Office Bearers will not personally be liable for any loss suffered by any person as a result of an Act or omission which occurs in good faith while the office bearer is performing functions for or on behalf of the organization.
- G. Office Bearers or members will not become liable for any of the obligations and liabilities of the organization solely by virtue of their status as members or office bearers of the organization.

6. Members

- A. Interested knife makers can apply for membership, by offering two knives for assessment at a general meeting, or by post to the secretary. Should these knives pass scrutiny and acceptance; the maker will be accepted as a full member.
- B. Members of the South African Knifemakers Guild will not be required to submit two knives for membership.
- C. Knives presented must have a blade finish of either satin or mirror with no coatings or blade etching allowed. Fixed blade knives must have metal bolsters.
- D. If a member does not have a show table at the annual show he is required to display one of his knives on the communal table which can be for sale and only removed at the end of the show or for display only.

7. Associate Membership

A person who has been of great benefit to the cause of the handmade knife or do quality embellishments suited to knives may apply, or be proposed by existing members, for this category. Such a person shall then present him or herself at a pre-arranged monthly meeting, where after a vote by ballot (majority) shall determine membership.

8. Honorary Life Member

- A. A person that is nominated by an existing member and agreed upon by at least 75% of the members present at the meeting.
- B. This person must have made an exceptional contribution to the promoting of knife making and also to the CKG. This membership must be viewed as an award and not presented to members for normal contribution such as being a committee member.
- C. Only one nominee will be considered in a financial year (July to July)
- D. This Honorary life member will not pay annual fees and will have normal voting rights as any other member.

9. Termination of membership

- A. On the demise of or resignation of member.
- B. Non-payment of membership fees within three months of due date and after two written notifications. If a member's membership is terminated through non payment of annual subscriptions and he wants to reapply for membership within two years after termination, he will only be considered after payment of outstanding fees and for time of non membership.
- C. Should a member be found behaving contrary to the spirit and letter of the constitution, such member will be requested to explain his actions at the next bi monthly meeting. Should said member fail to satisfactory explain his actions he or she may have their membership terminated by a majority vote done by ballot. Such member may then lodge an appeal by letter to every member and have his case reconsidered at the next AGM.

10. Voting

All members including founder members shall have one casting vote. Voting by proxy via letter, email or sms will be accepted.

11. Membership fees

- A. Due in July of every year @ R150 per year, or as otherwise decided by the members at the AGM. The Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer will open a bank account and or investment account and the Treasurer will keep detailed record of all income and expenses and deposit all income in said account.
- B. The secretary will not pay membership fees for the year of office as a means of compensation for his inputs as secretary.

12. Bi-monthly Meetings

Shall be on the second Saturday of the month; July, Sept, Oct, Jan, Mar and May. Cancellations or additional meetings can be announced at the discretion of the working committee. The secretary will keep detailed minutes of all meetings. Minutes of the previous meetings will be proposed for acceptance at the following meetings. Visitors may attend by request, if proposed by a member and pre-approved by the committee.

13. Communication

Announcements and reports by eMail or SMS's.

14. Furtherance and Alterations

Furtherance and alterations to the Constitution may be proposed by members and approved by a two third majority.

15. Guild's Income and Assets

The CKG will only receive income by means of membership fees, exhibitions, training seminars and or donations for the furtherance of the cause of the CKG.

All assets and income will be used to further the skills needed to make handmade knives and to promote the art of knife making.

16. Body Corporate

The CKG is a body corporate and have an identity and existence distinct from its members or office-bearers. The CKG shall continue as a body corporate notwithstanding any changes that might take place in the composition of its members of office-bearers.

17. Winding Up

In the case whereby a two thirds majority of the members, by vote, decide to wind up or dissolve the CKG, any assets remaining after its liabilities have been met must be transferred to its paid-up members in equal proportions.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

TREASURER

Date

Date

Date