



The Constitution

of

The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice

(former: The Honourable Order of the Royal Knights of Justice, Great Britain)

The Constitution of The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice was approved by the Governing Grand Magisterial Council and proclaimed at the Grand Magisterial Meeting held on 10th May 1981 by then elected Grand Master Sir Sydney LAWRENCE.

WHEREAS the Sovereign order of the Knights of Justice has duly made revised Constitution for the Order;

AND WHEREAS the said revised Constitution have been submitted to the Grand Magisterial Council for approval. The Constitution was promulgated 10th May 1981 and revised on 20th March 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Grand Magisterial Council having taken the alterations into consideration and were pleased to approve them.

ARTICLE I

Character of the Order: The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice is an international and ecumenical Order of Chivalry, maintained in its traditions by this Constitution.

The Order was traditionally under the protection of the Great Britain and is it was referred to as "L'Ordre de la Table Ronde" after King Arthur's round table. Today the Order is hosted in Malta and Great Britain, and with registered Branches or Priories worldwide. The Order is organized in the same heraldic and chivalric style as the well-known behaviour of Bonifazio da Sutri from 1090 in the code of Christian Knights "Liber de Vita Christiana".

The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice is an international, non-political, nondenominational and independent non-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) according to the European Convention on the Recognition of the Legal Personality of International Non-Governmental Organizations. Traditionally it has been organized as a Chivalric Order.

ARTICLE II

Religion: Today's Members of the Order shall be not required to be of any specific religion but shall subscribe to a code of moral ethics consistent with their own principles and beliefs.

Membership: The Membership in the Chivalric Order of the Knights of Justice is open to everyone - independently of sex, descent, nationality, race, religion and colour - who have satisfied the criteria for membership and who, like all new members, make a specific promise to "be faithful, loyal and obedient to The Chivalric Order of the Knights of Justice and its Grand Master and Jurisdictional Heads as far as it is consistent with my duty to my country, to do everything in my power to uphold its dignity and support its charitable works; and to endeavour to uphold the aims of this Chivalric Order and to conduct myself as a person of honour."

ARTICLE III

Aims of the Order "Tutio Fidei Obsequium Pauperum": It is the aim of the Order to be Guardianship of Faith and respectful Concern for the Poor. Furthermore to assist, succour and help the poor and the

sick; to promote and maintain the principles of Chivalry; and to support the Order's ethics for living in world peace and harmony without wars.

ARTICLE IV

Declaration: Every official act of the Order shall be preceded by the declaration:
"In the name of my God, and this I do so God me help."

ARTICLE V

Cross of the Order: The Cross of the Order is by tradition a red enamelled cross of eight points with golden edges and golden dots on each point; on the centre of golden embossed shield, 19th century English style, with two crossed swords and a rampant lion on top, thereon the motto of the Order at the bottom of the shield is written LEX · JUSTITIA · PAX.

ARTICLE VI

Armorial Bearings: The Order's Armorial Bearings, that is to say, Shield of Arms, Supporters, Crest and Heraldic Device or Badge have been granted under the Authority by Patent and pertain to the Sovereign order of the Knights of Justice and any matters concerning them or their use and display by Members or Commanderies or Priors of the Order shall be referred to the Grand Chancellery of the Order for advice and/or decision.

The Gown: The Knight's Gown or Ceremonial Mantle (Gown) is of black satin, the collar is of red satin, the mantle being fastened by a cordon of black silk; on the left side of the mantle is embroidered of the eight-pointed cross with shield of the Order. Knight Commanders are wearing above the Mantle (gown) a red Cape, edged with golden ornaments.

The Motto: "Lex - Justitia - Pax" (Law - Justice - Peace).

ARTICLE VII

Seat of the Order: By the old tradition, the Seat of the Order has been London, England successively with Magisterial and Administrative Seats as decreed by the Grand Master.

ARTICLE VIII

Paragraph 1: The Grand Master

The Grand Master is the Head of the Order. He is elected by a Chapter General and must be a member of the Order, bearing a title of major nobility and holds the Grand Cross of the Order. He must speak English fluently and shall serve for life or until he retires. If because of becoming incapable by reason of mental disorder, he is unable to serve, the Governing Grand Magisterial Council may call a Special Extraordinary Meeting, which may decide to elect a successor.

The Grand Master shall take the following oath, administered by the Grand Chancellor:

"I do solemnly promise before Almighty God to honour, uphold and observe at all times His Holy Commandments, and to ensure that they may be upheld, venerated, and observed as far as that may lie within my power; to administer and govern The Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice loyally and faithfully, as becomes the duty and dignity of the Grand Master; and to uphold the Ordinances, Regulations and Customs of the Order and to ensure that the same are upheld and observed by all members of the Order. So God me help."

The Grand Master shall appoint High Officers of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council, like the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Secretary, etc. of the Order. His approval is required for the appointment of all Grand Priors, Priors and Priorities, Ambassadors, Grand Cross and Knight Commanders. He is the sole authority for the creation of a Knight or Dame of the Order. No member shall be admitted into the Order against the objection of the Grand Master and the Grand Chancellery. All members of the Order appointed to any office or dignity within the Order shall serve at the pleasure of the Grand Master and the Grand Chancellery.

Paragraph 2: Election of Grand Master

If the current Grand Master shall be deemed unfit or incapable of fulfilling his functions or dies in office or resigns his office, the Lieutenant Grand Master becomes acting Grand Master. An election for a new Grand Master shall be held within 30 days thereafter. Any Knight may nominate any other Knight qualified under the Constitution. All members of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall form a quorum and will decide by a majority of votes and in case of an equality of votes the Grand Chancellor shall have a second or casting vote.

Paragraph 3: Governing Grand Magisterial Council

The Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall be the highest functioning body of the Order and shall comprise the Head of each National Jurisdiction or his/her designated representative.

The Grand Master of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall appoint the Grand Chancellor as Chairman of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council.

The Governing Grand Magisterial Council will meet once a year on the order of the Grand Chancellor or of the Grand Master.

The Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall have the authority to call a meeting of The Chapter General on the simple majority plus one vote of its members.

The Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall be responsible for the interpretation of the Constitution, Ordinances and Regulations of the Order and for the supervision of the Legal Affairs of the Order.

The Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall comprise all members of the Order in good standing. Only members of the rank of Commander or of higher rank may vote.

Paragraph 4: The Grand Magisterial Council

The Grand Magisterial Council shall consist of not more than 24 nor less than 12 high officers of the following dignitaries of the Order: The Grand Master and Lieutenant Grand Master; The Grand Chancellor for all affairs of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council; The Grand Magistrate for all ordinances, decrees, regulations and brevets of the Order; The Grand Bailiff and The Grand Commissioner for all affairs of his national jurisdiction; The Grand Custodian and Grand Ceremonist for all affairs of knightly ceremonies; The Grand Prelate for all spiritual and religious affairs of the Order; The Grand Treasurer for all treasury and finance affairs of the Order; The Grand Counsellor and Grand Justiciar for all external and legal affairs of the Order; The Grand Secretary and The Grand Registrar for all administrative matters and the maintenance of the register; The King of Arms for all heraldic matters; The Grand Historian for all historical research; The Ambassadors as delegate and representative of the Order in international jurisdictions.

Paragraph 5: The Executive Council

The management of the affairs of the Order shall be vested in the Executive Council, who, in addition to the powers and authorities by the Constitution or otherwise expressly conferred upon them, may in respect of the affairs of the Order exercise all such powers and do all such things as may conduce to the furtherance of the objects of the Order and which are not by the Constitution or by the Statutes expressly directed or required to be exercised or done by the Order in general meeting. The Executive Council shall consist of not less than 4 high officers, and not more than 6. The Executive Council acts as the Grand Chancellery of the Order and is the Supreme Council of the Order.

Paragraph 6: The Grand Officers

The Grand Master shall appoint the Grand Officers (like Grand Chancellor, Grand Secretary etc., see Grand Officers as listed in the General Statutes of the Order) of the Order and determine their functions.

Paragraph 7: The Honorary Council

The Honorary Council shall be a standing Council of the Order and shall consist of members of the Order appointed by the Grand Master to advise him when so requested.

Paragraph 8: The Chapter General

The Supreme Governing Body and repository of all power in the Order is the Chapter General.

The Chapter General is composed of all Knights and Dames of the Order in good standing, such good standing being confirmed in writing by the national jurisdiction to which each member belongs. Each Knight and Dame of the Order in good standing shall be entitled to vote at the Chapter General. Each Knight and Dame of the Order in good standing may vote by written proxy given to the Head of the National Jurisdiction to which such Knight or Dame belongs. The Chapter General shall be convened by the Grand Magisterial Council on instruction of the Grand Master or on the death of the Grand Master, or on the order of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council.

When the Chapter General is convened, notice of at least thirty (30) days of the subject matter for which such Chapter General is convened shall be given to the Head of each National Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IX

Paragraph 1: The Spiritual Protector of the Order (Grand Prelate)

The Spiritual Protector of the Order shall be a high-ranking member of the Christian Clergy, appointed by the Governing Grand Magisterial Council.

Paragraph 2: The Spiritual Advisory Council

The Grand Master, upon the recommendations and with the consent of the Spiritual Protector of the Order, shall appoint a Spiritual Advisory Council. The Chairman of the Spiritual Advisory Council shall be the Spiritual Grand Prior or Grand Prelate of the Order.

The purpose of such council is to advise and to provide guidance to the Grand Master upon all matters relating to the Spiritual Life of the Order. It shall meet at least every two years, on the occasion of the Grand Magisterial Council Meeting.

Paragraph 3: Chaplains or Prelates

Each jurisdiction should have at least one Chaplain or Prelate who shall be responsible for the spiritual matters of the jurisdiction.

ARTICLE X

Membership of the Order

Paragraph 1: Qualifications

In accordance with the Ordinances of the Order, ladies and gentlemen of such character and standing as may be a credit to the Cross of the Order and to its aims may be proposed to a jurisdictional Admissions Commission and, subject to approval, shall be recommended to the Grand Chancellery for admission as a member or as companion of such status as may be appropriate.

Recommendations for promotion or awards shall follow such similar procedure and shall be based on service to the Order.

Paragraph 2: Ranks in the Order

The ranks in the Order in ascending order are:

Member Companion {MJ}, Knight or Dame of Justice {KJ/DJ}, Knight or Dame of Honour {KJ/DJ}, Knight or Dame Commander {KCJ/DCJ}, Knight or Dame Grand Commander {KCJ/DCJ}, Knight or Dame Grand Cross {GCJ}, Knight or Dame Grand Collar {GCJ}.

Paragraph 3: Clergy

Priests and ministers of the Christian faith may be admitted as Chaplains or Prelate of the Order. Such candidates for admission must submit proof of ordination and be in good standing as a priest or minister in his/her particular denomination.

The ranks of clergy members, in ascending order are:

Assistant Chaplain (Prelate) {ACh(P)J}, Chaplain (Prelate) {Ch(P)J}, Ecclesiastical Chaplain (Prelate) {ECh(P)J}, Ecclesiastical Grand Cross {EGCJ}.

Paragraph 4: Admissions and Transfers

Every admission or transfer requires the approval of the Head of the National Jurisdiction of the country in which the candidate is principally domiciled. Except for jurisdictions in exile, no jurisdiction may recruit or admit members outside its national territory without the permission of the

Head of Jurisdiction of the country of which the candidate is a national or in which he/she is principally domiciled.

In the rank of Knight or Dame and above there are being as in Paragraph 2 of Article X mentioned.

Members of the Order will be granted the Cross of Justice.

Paragraph 5: Payment of Oblations and Passage Fees

It shall be a requirement of membership of the Order that each member shall pay such obligations and/or passage fees as may properly from time to time be assessed, as provided in the Ordinances. No individual or body shall be deemed to have become a member until their oblations / passage fees shall have been received in full by the Grand Chancellery of the Order. For good cause shown, in individual cases, the Grand Master or the Head of the appropriate Jurisdiction may suspend or remit the requirements of this Paragraph 5 of Article X.

Paragraph 6: Subscriptions / Annual Dues

Subscriptions / Annual Dues payable und Statutes Article 5 shall become due for each member of the Order and shall become due on the 15th of February in every year.

Paragraph 7: Good Standing of Membership

If any Member (who or which is liable to pay any annual dues) shall fail to pay the same within 12 months after it has become due the Grand Chancellery may order their name to be struck off the list of Members whereupon they shall cease to be a Member, and will become as inactive Member of the Order. Members who refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of the Constitution or Statutes or behave in a way which in the opinion of the Grand Council is or may be injurious to the Order may be called upon by the Grand Chancellery by notice in writing to resign. Any such Members who, when so called upon, fail to do so within 30 days of the receipt of the said notice may forthwith be expelled by the Grand Council of the Order after a resolution for this purpose has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Council's Members present and voting at a meeting of which special notice has been given to the member in question. A Member resigning or expelled und the Constitution or Statutes or whose name is struck off pursuant to Constitution Article X, Paragraph 7 shall nevertheless remain liable for all moneys then due to the Order.

ARTICLE XI

Paragraph 1: Uniforms and Insignia

The uniform, insignia and armorial bearings of the Order shall be as prescribed by the Grand Chancellery, and shall be promulgated in the Ordinances of the Order, making allowance for the traditions of national jurisdictions.

Paragraph 2: The Seal of the Order

The Seal of the Order comprises the Arms of the Order and the inscription of the Knights of Justice.

ARTICLE XII

Validity of Acts: Every act of the Chapter General shall be valid when the same shall have been affirmatively approved by not less than two-thirds of the members thereof having been duly called together to vote upon the particular act and who are present in person or by proxy at the time the vote is taken.

Every act of the Governing Grand Magisterial Council shall be valid when the same shall have been approved by not less than two-thirds of the national jurisdictions in the Order present through duly authorised representatives.

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any meeting other than at a Chapter General.

Every Act approved shall not come into force unless it has the final Assent of the Grand Chancellery.

ARTICLE XIII

Indemnity: All Officers of the Order and all other Members of the Grand Council, including co-opted members of Sub-Committees of the Order and the Executive Council, shall be indemnified by the Order against all costs, expenses and losses for which they may become liable by reason of any act or

thing done by them in the proper discharge of their office or duty, provided that any such expenditure shall have been authorized by the Grand Council before it was incurred.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments to the Constitution: The Constitution of the Order may from time to time (subject to the provisions of the Charter) be altered, added to or repealed by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Grand Council present and voting at a general meeting of the Order duly convened for that purpose.
Amendments shall also require the Assent of the Grand Master.

ARTICLE XV

Ordinances of the Order: The Grand Master may promulgate such Ordinances, not inconsistent with any provisions of this Constitution, as may be necessary or desirable for the government of the Order.

ARTICLE XVI

The resolution of the Constitution of the Order was adopted:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the foregoing Constitution of the Order read to the Grand Magisterial Council be, and hereby is adopted, ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects as The Constitution of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Justice, and initialled by the Grand Master, and the Secretary is directed to cause this Constitution of the Order. This foregoing revised Constitution of the Order hereby is replaced the previous made Constitution of the Order in all articles and paragraphs.

This Constitution has been adopted, and duly signed and sealed by our hands on this Twentieth (20th) day of March in the year of Two Thousand Four (2004) of our Lord.

Prof. Dr. Paul A. Zammit-Lewis, The Grand Master of the Order
(former Ambassador of the Republic of Malta)