

Guidance Notes on the RIBI Corporate Member Pilot Programme

What is Corporate Membership?

The RIBI Corporate Membership Pilot Programme allows an organisation or company in the club's area to become a member of the Rotary club, through an established membership approval process, and to appoint up to four designees as the individuals attending club meetings, serving on projects, voting on club matters, and serving as club officers and on club committees and so on.

Is there an established membership approval process to be used by clubs in RIBI?

No, it is up to each club to decide what this process should be. It is best to develop this before organisations are invited by the club to consider Corporate Membership.

What is a good way to get started?

Once you have identified an organisation that wishes to be considered for Corporate Membership the Rotary club might establish the background to the organisation and whether it maintains the high ethical standards expected of Rotarians.

How does the Rotary club register the Corporate Member?

In due course this will be available on the RIBI website but in the meantime a simple form can be used to register the corporate member and retained with club records.

Who chooses the proposed designees?

This is up to the Corporate Member but one should be a senior executive of the organisation and the others of leadership status.

What sort of process should the club use to agree these individuals?

Again this is up to the club to decide. The organisation is the Corporate Member of Rotary and as such has the right to decide who its designees are. When deciding the process of agreement of designees the club may not wish to use the '7 day letter' but may use a shortened or alternative process. The club could decide that it will simply accept those individuals whose names are put forward by the corporate partner. What will be important is that the club discusses with the organisation the process that it will put in place. It is recommended that any designees fill in the standard membership form suitably amended as the designee will not require a Rotarian sponsor.

How does the Corporate Member go about changing designees?

Again the club needs to discuss with the organisation the process it will put in place. This might be a simple process of the organisation advising that a designee is being changed

Is the individual designee inducted into the club?

It is suggested that the induction of a designee is inducted in line with the traditions of the club in relation to new members.

Does the Corporate Member and the designees have a classification?

The classification of the Corporate Member and its designees will be established by the club. Article 8 of The Standard RIBI Club Constitution deals with classification. It is for each club to manage classifications but it is suggested that each designee takes the classification of the corporate member and that this classification is counted once only when considering Article 8, Section 2.

What are the attendance requirements of a Corporate Member?

It is for the club to decide the attendance requirements either of the Corporate Member or of individual designees although a degree of regularity would be expected. For example, collectively, as a minimum the designees could be expected to represent the Corporate Member at the expected frequency for a normal member.

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Are Designees registered with RI?

Each designee is listed as an official member of the Rotary club. The club secretary should ensure that they are listed on the RI database and included in returns to RIBI and district as appropriate.

Do designees wear badges?

Since all designees are full members of the Rotary club it is expected that they will wear a badge. It is up to the club to consider what references should be on the badge in line with the club traditions.

Do designees have a vote on club matters?

Designees are full members of the Rotary club and for the purposes of general meetings and club matters designee voting can be established by the club. Although clubs have discretion they should bear in mind that full members of clubs normally have full voting rights.

Can a designee, as an individual, hold office in the Rotary club?

Yes, a designee can hold office. It is up to the club to determine the number of designees of a Corporate Member who can hold office at any one time.

What are the fees for a corporate member?

Many Corporate Members will pay for their designees in relation to subscriptions. Currently, any designees will be registered with RI and will be required to pay the annual RIBI (including RI) subscription. Districts and clubs can decide to charge a fee other than the usual annual dues.

Will designees have to pay the RIBI affiliation fee?

Currently, this is the case so either the Corporate Member or the designee will need to meet this cost. The affiliation fee is £15 per member for 2014-2015.

Can a Corporate Member designee convert to individual membership?

Yes, this can be done at any time and the club should determine a process of how this can be achieved.

If a designee leaves the Corporate Member organisation can he/she convert to an individual membership?

Yes. Again it is up to the club to establish processes.

Is there a process for terminating the membership of a designee or the Corporate Member?

The club should consider a process for terminating membership. Article 12 of The Standard RIBI Club Constitution may be helpful.

It seems that clubs can make a number of decisions about the processes they use with regard to Corporate Members. Surely, it would be better if RIBI agreed upon these processes.

We are still at the stage of piloting these processes within RIBI. In due course, an evaluation will be carried out and good practices from that may be spread to clubs.

Do clubs need to record the way in which they are introducing pilots for their own purposes?

There is no instruction to do this. However, for clarity and so that all understand the way a pilot is conducted clubs may wish to consider adding short Standing Orders to their Club Constitution.

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Can a club introduce other ways of getting Corporate Members? For example, could all the designees be associate members of the club?

The 2011-2012 RIBI General Council agreed that the RI Pilot Programmes could be introduced in RIBI clubs subject to the agreement of the District Governor. The intention was that the RIBI pilots followed the format of the RI pilots. The advice given in this Guidance Note does this for corporate members. However, clubs who wish to explore other methods of recruitment should use the 'Innovative and Flexible' pilot.

Where can I get further information?

Contact Cath Chorley, member of the RIBI MDR Team on cath.chorley@gmail.com