

GUILD OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS LTD



History

Alderman John Garbutt and Mark Henderson, who are both former investment managers, questioned why the practitioners in the industry had never formed a City Livery company. In the spring of 2016 they met the Chairman of the Livery Committee and the Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court who said that they were unaware of any earlier attempt to form such a Guild and outlined the formation process. Over the summer Garbutt and Henderson who had both worked for Touche, Remnant & Co approached other former employees and directors who shared their view that such a guild was a sound idea. In October 2016 the Guild of Investment Managers (GIM) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. Since then there has been a series of meetings with the major trade bodies and other relevant professionals in the industry all of which have been supportive of our formation.

Links with the City of London

Investment management is a core financial service industry in the City of London and, in its current form, goes back to the first investment trust (Foreign & Colonial) founded in 1868. GIM think it is time that the UK industry, with some £10 trillion under management (Source: Investment Association 2016), put something back into the City. GIM would not be involved in the regulation of the industry as Guilds of yesteryear would have been. This function is covered today by the Financial Conduct Authority which also implements the many global directives. Nor would we be a trade association representing asset management companies, the Investment Association and others do that. GIM will provide the opportunity for fellowship, networking and have the traditional aspect of charity and support for the Mayoralty.

Most of the financial service industries in the City are represented by Livery Companies, for example the Solicitors, Chartered Accountants, Actuaries, International Bankers, Insurers and Tax Advisors. These Companies therefore have direct access to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation. One major omission is Investment Management which the formation of the GIM would rectify because it aspires to join their ranks. Becoming a City Livery Company is a long process taking many years and a guild requires the approval of the Court of Alderman before it can call itself a City of London Guild.

Objectives

- To consist of men and women of good standing and repute who are or were engaged professionally in the business of investment management
- To encourage its members to participate in the governance of the City of London and support, in whatever way they can, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and the City of London Corporation

- To promote honourable standards of business conduct and integrity within the industry
- To raise charitable funds (see below)
- To encourage professional and social discussion and exchange between members in different fields of the industry
- To raise awareness of investment management in the public at large
- To hold meetings within the City of London

Membership Base

1. UK members of GIM are required to work or to have worked for an investment organisation regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) or have achieved the appropriate examination standard (AES) specified by the FCA. This definition includes individuals who support portfolio managers.
2. Overseas members would have the same rights but would have to demonstrate that they have achieved the equivalent standards within the regulatory framework of their country.
3. Individuals who have made a significant contribution to the industry may be invited to become members.
4. It is envisaged that, initially, there will be two classes of membership, Members and Freeman. The minimum age is 18 with a minimum period of one year before progressing from Member to Freeman.
5. Ultimately, should we eventually reach full Livery status there would be Liverymen and Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Investment Managers.

Charity

GIM does not currently have a charity associated with it but the Court of Aldermen will require it to have one with over £300,000 if it is to progress to full Livery. Therefore, thought has been given to type of charitable activities that would be appropriate. These might include awarding bursaries for individuals to gain appropriate examinations, making awards for excellence and innovation in investment management, education to the public on investment management and offering prizes, in collaboration with an education establishment, for academic work in the field. It is envisaged that it would also support the charities associated with the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

Next Step

In order to become a “City of London” Guild GIM must write a Letter of Intent to the Court of Aldermen demonstrating how it intends to meet their requirements. For the purpose of this document the relevant requirement is to show that we have consulted widely within the industry and that there is broad support for what we wish to achieve. We know that some individual Liverymen of the 110 Companies are investment managers but believe there are many more investment professionals who are not and who would be interested in joining a Livery Company. It is not our intention actively to encourage current Liverymen to join GIM rather we wish to bring new people into the Livery fraternity.

You may think, without more discussion, that the Guild of Investment Managers is a company you would support in which case we would like to hear from you expressing that support. If you would prefer us to visit you in person and discuss the matter further we would be happy to meet whatever Committee or group is appropriate for you.

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