Mr Leather London Guidance

Purpose of Document

As of 2023, London Leathermen (LLM) has re-instated the Mr Leather London title as an official representative of the Club. This policy is a living document aiming to guide, assist, and clarify the expectations the Club has from its titleholder, as well as what the titleholder can expect from the Club.

Description of the Role

LLM sees Mr Leather London as an ambassadorial role, representing the Club, its values, and the local community it stems from. Whilst the person holding the title will enjoy the perks of representing the Club locally, nationally and internationally at various events, and acting as one of the Club's links to other organisations, LLM emphasises that this title is predominantly focused on work within the local London community itself. That emphasis is represented, amongst other elements, by an annual, community-focused project each titleholder is expected to lead.

This role is important, but not essential - if the Club is unable to find a suitable candidate for a given year, then there will not be a titleholder for that year.

LLM recognises that there are as many ways to be a titleholder as there are titles and clubs, and aims to give each titleholder the freedom to fulfil the title the way they see fit. The following three sections describe the elements the Club deems important - the requirements to apply, the non-negotiable responsibilities, and the more loose, interpretable expectations.

Who can apply for the role

Whilst the title and the sash are gendered as Mr, **the title and the election process are open to anyone who is interested in pursuing them**. If you'd be proud to wear the sash, we'll be proud to have you!

The candidate must plan to continue living in the UK for the length of their title year (March to March), as the role is a full one-year commitment.

The candidate must not be a current committee member or an official title holder in London Leathermen or any other kinky community organisation, as the role and your annual project are expected to be prioritised for the year.

The candidate must be, or become, a London Leathermen member by the time of the competition. This does not need to be done immediately upon applying to be elected, but something to take in mind. To start the process of sorting out a membership, please use the Contact Form on the London Leathermen website.

The candidate must be willing to have their photo and name out in the open as the representative of a fetish club, as the role requires you to be the ambassador of the club in public situations and on social media.

The candidate must be available to participate in their year's title election process in person.

Responsibilities

The titleholder will represent all members and guests of the Club, as detailed in the Club's principals and values document, and will **not** conduct themselves in a way that acts counter to the Club's values, or brings the reputation of the Club into disrepute. If they do, the title may be rescinded.

The titleholder will attend the Club's major events, which will include the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March, London Leather Weekend in October, and the Mr Leather London competition at the end of their title year in February.

The titleholder will conceptualise, run, and complete their suggested annual community project during their title year. The Club will offer support as needed and within the limits of its ability, but the responsibility for the project is the titleholder's alone.

The titleholder will **not** use the title to pursue financial opportunities, compensation, or equivalent favours from businesses, events, and other partners. The only exception to this rule is the cover of travelling expenses (including event tickets) to specific events.

The titleholder will seek the approval of the LLM Executive Committee for any kind of public appearance as Mr Leather London (i.e. wearing the sash). These public appearances include, but are not limited to: interviews in any format, speaking engagements, educational classes, in-business appearances, and social media collaborations with businesses and other commercial bodies. The

Executive Committee will not withhold permission to attend these public appearances as Mr Leather London without reasonable grounds.

Expectations

The titleholder is expected to be an essential instrument in achieving the Club's 4 objectives, as they are defined in its Constitution:

● to promote and organise activities for the mutual enjoyment of Club Members;

● to develop and maintain close and friendly relations with, and to show hospitality towards members of similar Clubs;

● to raise money and collect gifts for charity; and

● to provide such services for the benefit of Members as the Executive Committee deems desirable and practicable.

The titleholder is expected to be **kind**, **patient**, and **gracious**. This is a people-facing role representing a club, which includes a high volume of interaction that should be perceived as positive by the crowds.

The titleholder is expected to be well versed in all Club-related issues - upcoming events, policies, and history included. They should be prepared to answer the questions they will be asked as a part of their role.

The titleholder will make an effort to attend as many London Leathermen events as possible. It is recommended that this effort extends to other, prominent London scene events, and to local events in the British Isles - as much as their budget and time allows.

The titleholder is **not** expected to travel to international events if their time or budget do not allow them to do so. Attendance at these events as Mr Leather London is entirely a personal choice, and while the Club encourages them to travel and will support where possible, they are not required to travel to or attend any event occurring outside of London.

The committee's responsibilities to the Titleholder

The LLM Executive Committee will support the titleholder via a dedicated point of contact to answer any immediate questions, provide information on events plans for the coming year, and pass on any requests for additional assistance to

the wider Executive Committee (for example, the Events Captain for any event related queries, or the Treasurer for any budget related enquiries).

The LLM Executive Committee will dedicate a small annual budget to cover the titleholder's travel and event expenses. These expenses will be reimbursed by the Committee based on the same rules meant for Committee Members - cheapest available form of transportation, and justified expenses only.

The LLM Executive Committee will support the titleholders' further applications to title competitions like Mr Leather Europe and IML to the best of its abilities, should the titleholder choose to pursue those.

Good Practice

The following section features a few good practice recommendations regarding conduct and management whilst carrying the title. Whilst not mandatory, we expect these should help a successful candidate to prepare for their year:

Plan ahead - How do you want your title year to look? Which events would you like to prioritise? What would you like to achieve? Answering these questions could help you make the most of your title.

Be organised - Working with tables, specifically for elements like travel to events and budgeting, can help keep track of your year. They are also a major help in managing your budget, reclaiming reimbursement, and securing cheaper travel.

Keep in touch - Not sure about processes or offers that you got? Have an idea? Just want to catch up? Stay in touch with your Executive Committee contact, they are there to guide and support you.

Communicate clearly - Do not presume the people you speak to understand the unsaid or the hinted. You will communicate with many types of people, and it is always best to be direct, honest, and clear about your intentions to avoid misunderstandings.

Carve some time for yourself - Being in the spotlight can be grating some time. Make sure to carve some time for your hobbies, your loved ones, and your pets to keep the balance in your life.