



About the OSCA Merit Award

GENERAL

1. A Merit award is bestowed on those whose commitment to an affiliated club or society has been, in the view of its members, of an outstanding nature.
2. The number of Merit awards should be limited to ensure that the recognition implied by the award is substantial.
3. Many factors could be taken into account when considering Merit awards. These include:
 - a. Ten years or more of involvement within the OSCA environment (Exceptional commitment of shorter duration may warrant a Merit award.)
 - b. Holding leadership positions in affiliated clubs and societies, and involvement in the organisation at that level over a substantial period.
 - c. Long-term membership (20 years or more) and outstanding participation in affiliated clubs and societies, particularly multiple entities.
 - d. Strong support of the nomination by members of the club or society. (See point 2, below.)
 - e. While all these aspects are important, it is the unique contribution of the member that should stand as the most important criterion. Generally the recipient's involvement would have contributed significantly to the success of the entity and its causes.
4. Unless particular circumstances apply, two to four Merit awards will be made each year.

NOMINATION PROCESS

1. A call for nominations for Merit awards would be made by the OSCA Executive Director in April/May each year, with an article in Great Scot featuring a story on previous award recipients, and formal communication with all affiliated clubs and societies. (This would also include a call for nominations for OSCA Honorary Life Membership.)
2. Nominations will be made on a standard application form, requiring a proposer and up to six supporting sponsors.
3. Nominations must be received by the Executive Director by 31 July each year.
4. The Executive Director, at his discretion, may in exceptional circumstances consider a late nomination, provided it can be considered by the executive at the appropriate meeting.
5. The Executive Director will assess the nominations and present valid nominations to the Executive for consideration.

OSCA EXECUTIVE SELECTION PROCESS

1. The Executive of OSCA Council will consider all applications at its meeting in September.
2. The Executive will recommend potential Merit award recipients in a ranked order for consideration at the October meeting of OSCA Council.

RATIFICATION BY OSCA COUNCIL

1. OSCA Council will at its October meeting consider the ranked recommendations from the executive, and decide who should be offered Merit awards.
2. Any dispute or indecision would be referred back to the Executive for resolution.

PRESENTATION

1. Merit awards will be presented at the OSCA Presidents' Dinner each November.