

EXMOOR GUNDOG CLUB CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. Name

The Club shall be called "Exmoor Gundog Club" hereinafter referred to as the Club.

2. Objects

The objects for which the Club is established are:

- i) To encourage the training and working of Any Variety Retrievers and Spaniels
- ii) To run working tests and field trials

3. Constitution and Rules

The Constitution and Rules of the Club shall form the basis of membership. They may not be altered except at an Annual or Extraordinary General meeting, the notice of which will include details of the proposal to alter or amend the Constitution and Rules. Such alterations may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alteration. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club's requirements shall be adopted immediately.

4. Financial Year

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st March until the last day of February.

5. Club Accounts

The Club shall have a banking account and the Bank shall be empowered to honour all cheques drawn on that account if signed by the Honorary Treasurer and either the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Membership Secretary.

6. Auditors

Certification of accounts shall be carried out annually by one qualified Accountant or two individuals with accountancy experience, appointment of the same to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting; they shall not be members of the Committee.

7. Maintenance of Title

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January, a Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club, whether by the Secretary or by direct debit, for the continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns as stipulated in The Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of the Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities will be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform The Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.

8. Club Property

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee.

9. Officers

The Officers of the Club shall consist of a Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon Field Trial Secretary, Hon Working Test Secretary and Hon Membership Secretary.

All Officers shall retire annually but be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. *(See Voting Rights below)*

All Officers shall be ex-officio members of the Committee and have full voting rights.

10. Committee

The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Officers and six ordinary Members. They shall appoint a President for a period of five years and shall be able to re-appoint him/her after that period if appropriate.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary but at least once every six months.

Each ordinary Committee member shall be elected for a term of two years and have full voting rights. Two of the ordinary Members shall retire from the Committee in rotation every two years but retiring members may seek re-election.

Five, including at least one Officer, shall form a quorum. The Chairman of the meeting shall, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote only.

The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees which are accountable to the Committee. Sub-Committees so appointed are to include a minimum of two members of the Committee one of which may be an Officer.

Members of the Club shall not be eligible to stand for election to the Committee until they have been fully paid-up members for a minimum of one year.

If any member of the Committee shall have been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without satisfactory explanation, his/her name shall be struck off the list of Committee members and the Committee may appoint a replacement until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members on to the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between Annual General Meetings. Those co-opted shall only hold office until the next Annual General Meeting at which an election of Officers and Committee takes place. Co-opted Members shall have voting rights at Committee meetings.

At each Committee Meeting, the provisional date of the next meeting will be given. This date will be confirmed by notice given not less than fourteen clear days before the chosen date unless exceptional circumstances demand it.

The Committee shall have power to make bye-laws and regulations, consistent with the terms of the Constitution and Rules, as it may from time to time deem necessary.

It shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee to invest any surplus income of funds of the Club or disburse same in whatever manner it decides is beneficial to the Club.

No person whilst an un-discharged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

Honorary Vice-Presidents or Honorary Members may be elected for life at an Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee. Notice of a proposal to elect an Honorary Vice-President or Honorary Member must appear on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members shall have all rights and privileges of membership. They will not normally attend Committee Meetings but if they are invited to do so, will have no vote. They shall not be required to pay subscriptions.

11. Membership

The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members; all responsible persons interested in gundog work and shooting field activities being eligible for membership.

An email address for each member must be provided if available.

An up to date list of Members and their addresses will be maintained and if so requested, made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and Members of the Club. A declaration of the number of members of the Club will be made with the Annual Returns to the Kennel Club.

Applications for membership, which, to avoid delay, are considered throughout the year, must be proposed and seconded by two current paid-up members of the Club and receive the subsequent approval of the Committee. If there are two or more objections, the application will be fully discussed at the next Committee meeting before a final decision by a majority vote is made. In the event of a membership refusal by the Committee, the proposed applicant may not re-apply for membership for a minimum of three years."

Junior membership shall be available, without voting rights, from 8 to 16 years of age. These members may, when they reach the age of 16 and on payment of the full subscription, enjoy the rights and privileges of full membership.

No member whose subscription is unpaid or owes other monies to the Club which has remained due for a period of more than two months is entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if the member fails to pay outstanding subscriptions or debts by the end of two calendar months, his/her name shall be automatically erased from the register. Acceptance back on the register will be dependent upon a new application, a re-joining fee and full payment of any monies outstanding.

12. Subscriptions

The annual subscription shall be as decided by the Annual General Meeting and be categorised as follows:

Ordinary Membership
Gamekeeper and Spouse or Partner
Junior Members (8 – 16)

Bona fide Gamekeeper members shall benefit from a reduced subscription and they shall have the rights and privileges of membership including voting rights.

Subscriptions shall be payable on March 1st each year; reminders will be sent out four weeks later.

13. Voting Rights

Each adult member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Junior members shall have no voting rights until they achieve full membership status.

In the event of there being more than one nomination for an Officer or Committee Members, there shall be a secret ballot of members present at the Annual General Meeting. If, however, a member is unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, he/she can apply in writing for a ballot form from the Secretary enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. The ballot form to be returned to the Secretary in the envelope provided. These will be handed to the Tellers at the Annual General Meeting and included in the ballot.

No member shall vote with regard to any matter in which he/she has a financial interest and shall declare any such interest he/she may have.

14. Notices

A notice may be given by the Club to any member:

- i) Personally
- ii) Sending it by post to his registered address if they do not have an email address

Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting it and to have been effected by the expiration of five clear days after it was posted for members within the United Kingdom. For overseas members, a period of fourteen days shall be deemed equivalent.

15. Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 1st June and shall be after the audited accounts are available. At least forty-two clear days notice shall be given to all members of an Annual General Meeting and the agenda shall be available fourteen clear days prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Annual General meeting shall be:

- i) To receive the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- ii) To receive the report drawn up by the Honorary Secretaries on the proceedings of the Club.
- iii) To receive the Balance Sheet of the Club by the Honorary Treasurer.
- iv) To elect the officer-bearers, members of Committee and Auditor of the Club.
- v) To discuss any resolutions or other items placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given. Such resolutions or other items shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than twenty-eight clear days before the date of the meeting.

No business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda with the exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman, are urgent. Should any member at the Annual General Meeting of the Club wish to appeal against a ruling of the Chairman, he shall make a formal proposal to that effect immediately stating the grounds of his action. This proposal shall be seconded by another member. The Chairman shall then be entitled to make a statement, should he so choose, explaining the grounds for this ruling. No further discussion shall take place.

16. Special General Meetings

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon Secretary if one fifth of the members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so. The Committee of the Club is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.

Notice of such meeting shall be circulated to the members stating the business to be discussed not less than fourteen clear days before the date of the meeting and shall be attended by all those who requested said meeting to ensure at least one fifth of the membership is present.

No business other than that detailed on the agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

The Chairman of the meeting shall, on the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

17. Expulsion of Members

Any member who shall be suspended under The Kennel Club Rule A42.j.(4) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under The Kennel Club Rule A42.j.(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Club for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.

If the conduct of any member shall in the opinion of the Committee of the Club be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member giving the particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation.

If, at the meeting, a resolution to expel said member is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Club except that he/she may, within two calendar month from the date of such a meeting, appeal to The Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as The Kennel Club may impose.

If the Club expels any member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions, the Club must report the matter in writing to The Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

17. The Kennel Club, the Final Court of Appeal

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters.

18. Winding Up or Dissolution of the Club

The Club may be dissolved and wound up provided that a resolution to that effect has been passed by a majority of three-fourths of the members present and voting at a General meeting of which notice to propose the resolution has been duly given.

In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, a final General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Club's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club. The property of the Club shall, where possible, be returned to the donors, their heirs, executors or assigns. Cash assets shall be distributed by decision of a General Meeting and a final Statement of Audited Accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Club.

19. Indemnity

The Officers of the Society, Members of the Committee and Auditors shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Club against all loss, costs and charges which they may respectively incur or be put to on account of any contract, deed, act, matter or thing done, entered into, executed or permitted by them respectively on behalf of the Club and each of them shall be chargeable only for so much money as he may actually receive and they shall not be answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of each other but each of them for his own acts, receipts, neglects and defaults only. Neither they nor their heirs, executors or administrators shall be liable for any loss or expense happening to the Club through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired for or on behalf of the Club, for the insufficiency or deficiency and any obligation or security in or upon which any of the funds arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or wrongful act of any person with whom monies, securities or effects shall be deposited or for any loss, damage or misfortune whatsoever which shall happen in the execution of duties of his office or in relation thereto unless the same shall happen through his own fraud, wilful neglect, defaults, breach of duty or breach of trust.

20. Federation

The Club shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.