**LMFTS Membership Rules & Regulations**

**Lancashire & Merseyside Field Trial Society**

**Kennel Club No. 677**

**TITLE -**

The Society shall be called the Lancashire and Merseyside Field Trial Society hereinafter called The Society.

**OBJECTIVES -**

* To encourage and promote a general interest in the breeding of working gundogs, of all varieties of recognised gundog breeds.
* To conserve the best type of working gundogs.
* To cater especially for novice both dogs and handlers.
* To encourage and promote field trials.
* To secure the services of competent judges at field trials and working tests.
* To encourage junior members in all aspects of handling and training methods.
* To assist in the training of gundogs.

**TRAINING GROUNDS -**

These should only be used by the Society as a whole and not by individuals.

**MEMBERSHIP -**

The Society shall consist of an unlimited number of members and honorary life members whose names and addresses shall be entered in a register kept by the secretary. Application will be placed before the first committee meeting after receipt of the application and will be accepted by a majority decision. The right to refuse any application for membership is reserved if such application is considered to be against the best interest of the Society. Membership shall not be confined to any radius. Membership shall be defined as follows: -

* Single membership
* Joint membership
* Junior membership (applies to persons under the age of seventeen years)

In the case of joint membership, this only entitles one of the partnership to vote at a general meeting and it also only entitles one member of the partnership to one nomination in respect of entry at a field trial. In the case of resignation of a member, a member may resign on giving notice in writing to the secretary, and any member whose resignation has been accepted and who wishes again to become a member must be proposed and seconded in the ordinary way, as if he or she had never been a member. A member leaving the society shall not be entitled to receive back any monies which may have been paid to the Society, or on account of the Society, during his or her membership or have any claim against the Society. Every member shall be in possession of the Society's rules.

**VOTING RIGHTS -**

Each member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Proxy votes are not allowed as long as the postal votes are sent to the secretary within a reasonable period before a general meeting. In the case of joint membership only one vote per partnership is permissible. If both members of a joint membership wish to stand for the Society's committee and if they are duly elected, then individual membership must be taken out by both such partners. No member will be allowed to vote on any activity of the Society in which he or she may have any financial interest, and if he or she has such a financial interest, then this interest must be declared accordingly. Junior members have full voting rights. No member who is in arrears of subscription shall be entitled to vote.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS -**

The annual subscription and joining fee shall be such amount as agreed by members in general meeting and notified to the Kennel Club accordingly. No member whose subscription is in arrears is entitled to any of the privileges of membership, and if the member shall fail to pay outstanding subscription within two months, then his or her name shall be automatically erased from the register. Acceptance back as a member of the Society will be dependent upon a new application and payment of back arrears.

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE -**

The Society will elect annually a President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. All these officers shall be ex-officio members of all committees with full voting rights. All these officers will retire annually but will be eligible for re-election. Together with the above, officers will be a committee of any club members wishing to serve. No committee member may serve for a period of longer than three years without resigning and offering his/herself for re-election. All members of the committee shall have full voting rights. Nominations, which must be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up members, must be made in writing and with the written agreement of the nominee, and these must be received by the secretary at least fourteen clear days prior to the annual general meeting.

Officers of the Society and members of the committee must have been fully paid-up members of the Society for at least a period of one year prior to nomination. The committee may co-opt any member to fill any vacancy which may arise amongst the committee, such a co-opt member will serve and act with full voting powers until the next general meeting, at which an election will be held. Election of officers and committee members shall be as decided by majority voting at the annual general meeting. No person whilst an un­discharged bankrupt may serve on the committee or hold any office or appointment with a Kennel Club Registered Society.

**MANAGEMENT -**

For transaction of business at a committee meeting, a quorum shall be five elected members of the committee, including any one officer, and except in an emergency, at least 7 days' notice of a meeting shall be given to all officers and committee members, stating a time, date and place, any officer or member of the committee, who without reasonable cause, fails to attend two consecutive meetings, or fails forward their apologies in writing to the secretary prior to the meeting, may be suspended, but a vacancy shall not be filled until the next annual general meeting. Any nomination will only be accepted if the person attends the annual general meeting or has been excused for extenuating circumstances. There shall be no proxy voting.

**POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE -**

The committee shall have the powers to call meetings to arbitrate in matters of dispute within the Society; to deal at is absolute discretion with the funds and the property of the Society, and to settle any question or matter not presently provided for in these rules. Any decisions taken under this rule shall remain operative until the following annual general meeting.

**EXPULSION OF MEMBERS -**

Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(4) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall ipso facto, cease to be a member of the Society for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the committee of the Society 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 Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of a special general meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving 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 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 Society except that he/she may, with in two calendar months from that date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose. The Society will submit a report in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

**GENERAL MEETINGS -**

A special general meeting shall be called by the honorary secretary if twenty members, or, at the request of the committee a signed request is sent stating the subject to be discussed. No other business other than the matter on the agenda can be discussed at a special general meeting. Notice of any special general meeting must be given not less than twenty one days before the event in writing, stating time, date and place of meeting, The rules of the Society may not be altered except at an annual General Meeting, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the Society's annual meeting.

**MINUTES OF MEETING -**

The minutes of the Society meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary, presented to and agreed by the committee, and signed the Chairman. They shall be circulated as required before the next similar meeting. Society records so confirmed shall be available for inspection by any member entitled to vote after reasonable notice has been given to the secretary in writing.

**AVAILABLITY OF RECORDS -**

The Society will send a list of members and their addresses to the Kennel Club with their annual returns, and if so, requested make an up-to-date list of members available for inspection by the Kennel Club and members of the Society.

**ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB -**

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title Fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registrations of 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 which may occur during the year.

**SOCIETY ACCOUNTS -**

The fiscal year of the Society shall be from the January to the 31st of December. A bank account shall be maintained in the name of the Society, into which all revenue of the Society shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall be made on the signatures of two or more unrelated officers. The accounts shall be submitted to the Kennel Club annually. All expenses incurred by the secretary, treasurer or any other member of the Society authorised by the committee shall be reimbursed from Society funds.

**CUPS TROPHIES AND SPECIAL AWARDS -**

A cup steward shall be appointed by the committee from amongst its members who shall be responsible for keeping records of awards and signatures of recipients. All cups and trophies donated to the Society shall be the sole property of theSociety and it is only under this condition that they shall be accepted.

**WINDING UP -**

The property of the Society shall be vested in the committee and in the event of the Society ceasing to exist, a general meeting shall be called to decide on disposal of any assets. The donors of cups and trophies shall be consulted, and each cup or trophy shall be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the donor. The Kennel Club shall be notified as soon as a decision has been made to wind up the Society and within six months of such date, they shall be supplied with a final statement of the accounts and records showing the disposal of all Society property.

**THE SOCIETY -**

The Society shall not join any federation of societies and clubs except as approved by the Kennel Club.

**THE KENNEL CLUB AUTHORITY -**

TheKennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Society, and in all cases relative to canine or Society matters.

**Chairman**

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