



FENLAND GOATKEEPERS & SMALLHOLDERS CLUB RULES

Definitions

- a) Wherever the Committee is referred to this shall be taken to mean the Committee and Officers.
- b) G.M. - General Meeting of the Club's Members
- c) A.G.M. - Annual General Meeting
- d) S.G.M. - Special General Meeting

1. The Club is called the Fenland Goatkeepers & Smallholders Club

2. Objects

- a) To bring together people interested in country matters.
- b) To enable members to develop their interests by training and by encouraging the exchange of ideas and experience.
- c) To promote good practice in the management of all types of livestock.
- d) To inform the public about the activities of the Club and its members.

3. Qualifications for Membership

- a) Anyone who is not less than 14 years of age is eligible for membership.
- b) Membership of the Club shall be at the discretion of the committee save that Membership shall not be withheld unreasonably or exercised prejudicially.
- c) Membership shall run from the date of payment of the subscription until the following January, saving that any *initial* payment from the 1st October in any year shall cover the period to the succeeding January, together with the following Club year.
- d) The Annual Subscription shall be fixed by the Committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.
- e) The privileges of the Membership extend to all the member's immediate family, except for voting rights and the membership of Committees.
- f) Any member may resign from the Club at any time, but there will be no re fund of part-subscription. On ceasing to be a member of the club, the former member forfeits all rights to and claim upon the Club and its property and funds.

4. Expulsion of Members

- a) If at any time the Committee considers that a member has acted against the objects of the Club or in a manner which brings the Club in to disrepute, they may invite that member to resign from the Club.
- b) If the member concerned does not withdraw, the Committee must submit the question of their expulsion to a Special General Meeting.
- c) Not less than 28 days notice of the meeting must be given to the members.
- d) The Secretary must inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting, and the nature of the complaint against them in sufficient time to allow them a proper opportunity of offering their explanation.
- e) At the Meeting a member shall be allowed to offer an explanation of their conduct rally or in writing.
- f) If two thirds of the members present (*postal or proxy votes are not allowed in these circumstances*) vote for their expulsion they will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.

5. The Committee

- a) The Management of the Club (except as otherwise provided by these rules) is deputed to a Committee of members.
- b) The Committee shall consist of the Officers plus 6 members elected at the AGM.
- c) The Officers shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Catering Secretary.
- d) If insufficient members stand for election at the AGM, the committee has the power to co-opt up to the total number required.
- e) Nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee must be made to the Secretary by the 1st November in the year preceding the AGM. Nominations should be in writing and signed by two members of the Club and by the nominee.
- f) Only if insufficient nominations are received before the AGM may nominations be made at the AGM.

6. Meetings of the Committee

- a) The Committee shall meet at least 4 times between AGMs.
- b) 5 members of the Committee forms a quorum.
- c) Notice of Committee Meetings and the Agenda shall be sent to all Committee members at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- d) Minutes of all the proceedings of the Committee shall be taken and be open to inspection by any member of the Club.
- e) The Agenda will drawn up by the Secretary and Chairman jointly and Meetings will be held at a time and place to suit the majority of the Committee members.

7. Voting and Committee Meetings

- a) Each member of the Committee has one vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairman has a second or casting vote.
- b) The Chairman can call a vote on any point if they deem it necessary.

8. Membership of the Committee

- a) The Committee may at their discretion require a member to resign from the Committee if he or she has not attended any 3 consecutive committee meetings.
- b) The Committee may also from time to time appoint from among its number such other sub-committee as it deems necessary or expedient and may depute or refer to them such of its powers and duties as it may determine. All sub-committees must periodically report their proceedings to the Committee and must conduct their business in accordance with its directions.

9. Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Club must be held in January in each year on a date and at a time to be fixed by the Committee and must:

- a) Receive from the Committee a report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year.
- b) Elect the Officers and Committee members
- c) Appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- d) Decide on any resolution which may be submitted to the meeting in the manner provided below.
- e) Ratify the annual subscription of the Club.
- f) Consider AOB as determined by the Committee.

10. Notice of Business at AGM

Any member who desires to move any resolution at the AGM must give notice in writing to the Secretary not later than 1st November of the preceding year.

11. Special General Meeting

The Committee may call an SGM at any time for any special purpose and must do so immediately upon a requisition in writing (stating the purposes for which the meeting is required) from any 10 members or one fifth of the total membership entitled to vote (whichever is the less).

12. Convening General Meetings

- a) At least 28 days before the AGM or SGM notice of the meeting and the business to be transacted must be sent to every member.
- b) No business other than that which notice has been given may be brought forward at a GM except at the discretion of the Chairman.

13. Proceedings at GMS

- a) At all GMS of the Club, the Chairman or, in his or her absence, the Vice Chairman must take the Chair.
- b) Every member is entitled to one vote upon every motion, and in the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman may have a second or casting vote.
- c) The committee may, if it thinks fit, make regulations enabling members unable to be present to vote by proxy or in writing.

Regulation *(made by the Committee on 30th September 1998)*

On every occasion when a ballot of the membership is called voting in Writing shall be allowed. Voting by Proxy shall not be allowed.

14. Amendments to Resolutions at GMs

- a) No amendments (other than a motion for adjournment) may be moved to any resolution proposed at any GM unless written notice of the amendment has been sent to the Secretary not less than 42 days previous to the meeting.
- b) Members must be notified of any amendment.

15. Financial Year

- a) The financial year of the Club ends on 31st October each year, and the accounts of the Club must be balanced to that day.
- b) The accounts as published to the members must have been audited.
- c) At every AGM 1 person not being a member of the Committee must be elected to serve as auditor for the ensuing year.
- d) Any vacancy in the office of auditor occurring during the year must be filled by the committee.

16. Club Activities

- a) Any member may bring guests to any Club activities.
- b) The Committee may levy charges to members for services provided by the Club.

17. No member May Make a Profit From the Club

- a) No member may on any pretence or in any manner receive any profit, salary or emoluments from the funds or transactions of the Club, except for professional services rendered at the request of the Committee.
- b) As soon as a member of the Committee has an interest in a contract with the Club, they shall declare it to the committee and it shall be recorded in the Committee minutes.

18. Members Addresses

Every member of the Club from time to time must communicate their address (including post code) to the Secretary and all notices sent by post to that address are considered to have been given within five days following the date of posting.

19. Interpretation of Rules

- a) The Committee is the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and the regulations made by it from time to time.
- b) The decision of the Committee on any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Club and not provided for by these rules or by the regulations is final and binding on the members.

20. Amendments to Rules

These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by a resolution passed at any Annual or Special General Meeting by a majority of the members voting on it.

21. British Goat Society

The Club will be affiliated to the BGS and the members will abide by the rules of the BGS in their dealings with goats.

22. Dissolution of the Club

If at any GM a resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a majority of the members present and at an SGM held not less than six weeks later (of which not less than four weeks written notice has been given to each member) and at which not less than two thirds of the members vote (personally or by post), that resolution is confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of three quarters of the members voting on it, the Committee must immediately or at such future date as is specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the property of the Club and after the discharge of all liabilities, must divide such property equally among all paid-up members and on the completion of the division, the Club will be dissolved.