

# SPORTING WHIPPET CLUB – CONSTITUTION

## 1. NAME

The name shall be “Sporting Whippet Club” (and hereto referred to as the “SWC”)

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- I. To encourage competition for KC registered Whippets in the form of 'lure' meetings that are as close to coursing as possible and strive to uphold the traditions of coursing. The whippets run in knock-out stakes wearing red or white collars and are released from traditional leather slips by the Slipper. The competing pairs are judged using the traditional coursing method.
- II. To protect, promote, and strive to produce the fit for purpose breed standard whippet as set out by the Whippet Breed Council and the UK Kennel Club:
  - Desirable height for dogs 18.5 - 20"
  - Desirable height for bitches 17.5 - 18.5"
- III. To deliver challenging courses that replicate the path a hare might take by incorporating a run-up, turns and wrenches.
- IV. To keep canine health and welfare at the heart of our activities and promote responsible care when participating in Lure Coursing.
- V. To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club, guests and visitors to our events.
- VI. To help novice owners, those new to Lure Coursing and those who show an interest in Whippets.
- VII. To act as a responsible tenant of any hired or loaned facilities.

Further to these objectives SWC is for the benefit of its members and will not be classed as a trading business, so that all income and profits from any source shall be maintained for the benefit of the Club and its members.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

- I. Membership will be granted upon payment of the subscription.
- II. The number of members may be limited at the discretion of the Committee.
- III. Members' names and addresses shall be entered on a database kept for the purpose of club correspondence by the Secretary.
- IV. Each member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Joint members shall have one vote each.

## 4. FINANCE

- I. The financial year of the Club shall run from 1st January to 31st December.

- II. The annual subscription, entitling membership to SWC shall, for each member, be such sum as decided by the Committee and set prior to the commencement of each financial year.
- III. Subscriptions are payable on application for membership and subsequently on 1st January each year.
- IV. At the beginning of each year notice shall be sent to members that the annual subscription became due on 1st January stating any amendment to the sum. No person shall enjoy any privilege of membership until the annual subscription has been paid.
- V. The Accounts will be certified annually and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting.
- VI. Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified accountant or individual with accountancy experience. Those undertaking the certification must be independent from those who prepared the accounts.
- VII. A copy of the annual statement of accounts for the last financial year, which must be sent to all members of the Club 7 days prior to the AGM.
- VIII. The funds of the Club shall be deposited in a Bank, Building Society or Post Office Account in the name of 'Sporting Whippet Club'.
- IX. Any expenditure over £150 must be authorised in writing by a minimum of 2 Officers.

## 5. EXPULSION

- I. Lure Coursing and the activities of SWC both on and off-site is intended to be a safe and sociable activity where Committee, Members, Judges, guests and visitors can participate without fear of bullying, harassment, intimidation or unacceptable behaviour.
- II. Any form of anti-social behaviour or bullying at an SWC meeting will result in immediate removal from the grounds.
- III. If the conduct of any member in person, in writing or on social media shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of SWC, their membership will be rescinded.
- IV. Any member found to be mistreating a dog shall be immediately expelled and become ineligible for any future membership with SWC.

## 6. MANAGEMENT

- I. The affairs of SWC shall be under the management of the following elected officers; Chairman, optional Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and a committee of eight members.
- II. Three members of the Committee shall retire bi-annually but will be eligible for immediate re-appointment.
- III. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer and Chairman should not retire in the same year.
- IV. All Officers and Committee members shall have full voting rights at Committee and General meetings.
- V. Nominations for election to the Committee must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM. All nominees must be present at the AGM to be eligible for official positions including committee posts.
- VI. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, the election shall be decided by those members personally present at the AGM

- VII. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies by co-opting members to serve for the unexpired part of the year. Those co-opted shall only hold office until the next AGM, when they must be duly nominated for election.
- VIII. No individual who has been a member for less than 12 months may be elected on to the Committee.
- IX. Committee meetings shall be held as often as is deemed necessary, but at least every six months and five members shall form a quorum.
- X. In the event of an elected member of the committee being absent from three consecutive meetings or events, the committee shall have the power to declare the seat vacant.
- XI. The Chairman's duties shall be to attend all committee meetings of SWC. In the event of an equality of votes at either a general or committee meeting, they shall have the casting vote in addition to a deliberate vote.
- XII. The Honorary Secretary's duties shall be to summon and attend all meetings of SWC. They shall keep a correct record of the Annual General Meeting proceedings and keep minutes of all committee meetings. They shall also conduct all correspondence on behalf of the Club and transact such business as may be required by the committee.
- XIII. The Honorary Treasurer shall receive all monies and will keep a proper record of all receipts and payments and shall submit a properly audited income and expenditure account and balance sheet to members at the AGM. The Treasurer will also keep a bank or Building Society account in the name of *Sporting Whippet Club* and cheques and electronic payments will be made in accordance with the authority given by the Committee.
- XIV. Complaints are to be sent in writing within 14 days of any incident. The Chairman will respond within 7 days of receipt.

## 7. QUORUM

- I. A quorum of Committee meetings shall be five and of the Annual General Meeting shall be eleven.
- II. A quorum of a Special General Meeting shall be fifteen members personally present, all of whom must have been paid up members for the preceding six months.

## 8. MEETINGS

- I. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of February after not less than twenty eight days' notice to members in writing.
- II. The purpose of the AGM is to receive the report of the Committee, the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the preceding year, to elect Officers and Committee members and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the Agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Secretary.
- III. No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda with the exception of those matters which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, are urgent. Election of the Committee shall be by a show of hands or written ballot. The nominations polling the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- IV. A member desiring to move any alterations or addition to the existing rules or any other business at the Annual General Meeting must give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Proposed changes to the rules must be on the notice of the meeting or sent to members 14 days prior to the meeting.

- V. The Honorary Secretary shall, upon a requisition signed by fifteen members and specifying the business, for which such a meeting is required, summon a Special General Meeting. Not less than 14 clear days' notice shall be given in writing to the members of a General Meeting.
- VI. The meeting shall be held not less than seven or more than twenty-eight days after the receipt of the requisition by the Honorary Secretary.
- VII. Notice may be given for the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting to any member by sending it by post or email or via social media.

## 9. PROPERTY

- I. The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee.
- II. All winners of cups and other trophies, which are not won outright, must return them to the Cup Steward prior to the event at which they will next be on offer.
- III. The Cup Steward will issue a reminder 28 days before the required return date. It shall further be the duty of the Cup Steward to obtain a signature of the winners of the trophies who must also be asked to sign a declaration to the effect that they are solely responsible, whilst in their possession, for the safety, insurance, return in the condition received and replacement / repair if lost / damaged, of the trophies.

## 10. DISSOLUTION

If the Committee decides that it is necessary, or advisable, to dissolve the Club it shall call a meeting of all members of the Club, of which not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is supported by two-thirds of those present and voting the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by, or on behalf of, the Club.

All equipment will be sold and any monies remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be donated to a Whippet Rescue Organisation agreed on by the Officers of the Club. A final statement of the accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the membership within six months.

## 11. DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

The Data Protection Act currently exempts private clubs from the need for registration of their databases, but the Club will follow best practice guidelines as follows:

- I. The Membership Secretary holds a simple UK-based electronic database of the information provided by members on their membership application form including e-mail addresses where supplied.
- II. Member contact details will be used for mailing newsletters, renewal reminders and other club information the Committee deems appropriate.
- III. Committee Members undertake to treat any member contact details as confidential and for the use of club business only.
- IV. Any member who has any concern regarding the use or holding of their contact details at any time should contact the Secretary in writing giving details of the nature of their concern.

## 12. GENERAL

- I. The Constitution of SWC shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, notice of which contains specific proposals to amend the constitution.
- II. In any case not covered by these rules the decision of the Committee shall be final.