

# THE COTTESMORE HUNT SUPPORTERS' CLUB CONSTITUTION

## 1. NAME

The Club shall be called *The Cottesmore Hunt Supporters' Club*

## 2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be to:

- 2.1. further the objects of the Cottesmore Hunt as defined in its Constitution dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005 ("the Hunt Constitution") Clause 1 (iii)
- 2.2. support the activities of the Cottesmore Hunt as defined in the Hunt Constitution Clause 1 (iv)
- 2.3. undertake any other related lawful activities which the Committee may decide to pursue

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

Any person whose subscription is tendered to and accepted by or on behalf of the Committee shall become a member of the Club:

- 3.1. for life, if the subscription is a life subscription or
- 3.2. for the current year if the subscription is for that year.

Memberships of either class can be revoked as provided for in Section 8.3

## 4. PRESIDENT

The President of the Club shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

## 5. COMMITTEE

The Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Club together with not less than eight or more than twelve members of whom not less than one quarter shall retire annually.

Retiring members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election one year after their retirement.

## 6. OFFICERS

The Chairman of the Club shall be elected by the Committee and shall hold office for a period of five years or until prior resignation, unless removed from office by a majority resolution of the Committee.

The Treasurer and Secretary of the Club shall be elected by the Committee and they shall respectively hold office until resignation, unless removed from office by a majority resolution of the Committee.

The Committee may at any time co-opt not more than four members to serve as additional voting members of the Committee to be re-elected annually by the Committee.

## **7. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS**

At all meetings of the Committee:

- 7.1. The President of the Club shall be entitled to attend and vote.
- 7.2. The Master(s) together with the Chairman and Secretary of the Hunt may be invited to attend but not to vote.
- 7.3. The Chairman shall have a casting or additional vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- 7.4. Five shall form a quorum except for the purpose of Rule 8.3
- 7.5. There shall not be less than four meetings in one year.
- 7.6. The Constitution shall be read at the first Committee meeting after each Annual General Meeting to enable new members of the Committee to know its content.

## **8. COMMITTEE'S POWERS**

The Committee shall have the following powers and discretions:

- 8.1. To accept or decline to accept any subscription tendered to the Committee.
- 8.2. To suspend for seven days without prior notice a member whose conduct may in the opinion of the Committee tend or be calculated to frustrate or thwart the objects of the Club. A member may not vote whilst suspended.
- 8.3. To expel any member whose conduct may in the opinion of the Committee tend or be calculated to frustrate or thwart the objects of the Club. Before any member is expelled the Secretary shall give him seven days written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee or shall inform him of the complaints made against him. No member shall be expelled without first having an opportunity of appearing before the Committee and answering the complaints made against him, nor unless at least two thirds of the Committee are there present and vote in favour of his expulsion. A member thus expelled shall receive no remission of membership fees.
- 8.4. To fix provisionally the subscription rates.
- 8.5. To make contributions out of any surplus funds of the Club towards the cost of any expenditure to be incurred by the Hunt, but the Committee shall be under no obligation to see to the proper application thereof.
- 8.6. To adopt the Annual Accounts.
- 8.7. To elect new members to the Committee annually from the nominations received by them from the Committee or members, and report the appointments to the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.8. To fill any vacancy in the Committee that may occur between one Annual General Meeting and another.
- 8.9. To change or alter the Rules as and when deemed necessary, excluding the co-opted members and the ex-officio members of the Club.

## **9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

An Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held in every calendar year to transact the following business:

- 9.1. To receive reports of the Chairman and Treasurer.
- 9.2. To consider and if approved sanction the subscription rates for the current year.
- 9.3. To elect the President.
- 9.4. To adopt newly elected members to the Committee for their following term of office.

- 9.5. To deal with any matter which the Committee desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the meeting shall be sent to members not less than twenty one days before the meeting.

Any resolution or names of candidates for election to the Committee, together with the names of the proposer and seconder shall be sent to the Secretary of the Club not less than fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

#### **10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be convened within fourteen days from the receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than twenty five members specifying the object of the meeting for any of the following purposes:

- 10.1. To deal with any matter which the Committee may desire to place before the members.
- 10.2. To receive the resignation of the Committee or to remove any member or members thereof from office and to fill any vacancy or vacancies caused thereby.

#### **11. PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETING**

At General Meetings the President of the Club shall preside if present but may delegate the conduct of the meeting to a Chairman who shall be the Chairman of the Club if present. In the absence of the President the Chairman of the Club shall preside if present and otherwise a member shall be elected to preside. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting or additional vote in the event of an equality of votes. Twenty five shall form a quorum.

#### **12. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB**

12.1. If at any General Meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club shall be passed by a majority of the members present the Committee shall thereupon proceed to realise the property and assets of the Club and after the discharge of all liabilities shall pay any surplus to the Trustees or former Trustees of the Cottesmore Hunt ("the Trustees") for the purposes set out in 12.3 below.

12.2. Upon such payment the Club shall be dissolved.

12.3. The Trustees shall apply any monies received by them pursuant to 12.1 above ("the monies") for the following purposes:

- i If at the date of receipt the Cottesmore Hunt remains an active and independent body carrying out its objects and activities as defined in Clause 1 (iii) and (iv) of the Hunt Constitution then the Trustees shall apply the monies as they in their unfettered discretion think fit to further those objects and activities.
- ii If at the date of receipt the Cottesmore Hunt is in suspension as defined in Clause 15 of the Hunt Constitution the Trustees shall apply the monies in accordance with Clause 15 (ii) and (iii).

- iii If at the date of receipt the Cottesmore Hunt has been merged with another hunt the Trustees shall apply the monies in accordance with Clause 15 (vii) of the Hunt Constitution
- iv If at the date of receipt the Cottesmore Hunt has been dissolved the Trustees shall apply the monies in accordance with Clause 15 (ix) of the Hunt Constitution
- v In no circumstances shall any member of the Club be entitled to receive any direct or indirect payment or benefit from the dissolution of the club

**13. VOTING MAJORITY**

Any alteration to this Constitution made by the Committee under rule 8.9 must be approved at a General Meeting and must be carried by a three-quarters majority voting thereon. Other resolutions at a General Meeting must be carried by a simple majority unless otherwise specified in this Constitution

**14. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

'He', 'his' and 'him' refer to both males and females.