

RULES OF THE SOCIETY



As amended at the Annual General Meeting – March 2006

Rule 1 – NAME AND OBJECT

The Society shall be called 'The South Eastern Gundog Society'.

The object of the Society shall be to improve the standard of working gundogs by any method approved by the Committee, including:

- a) organising training classes
- b) holding Field Trials and Working Tests for dogs with a full Kennel Club registration in a recognised gundog breed.

Rule 2 – OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The Society shall consist of Officers, which may include Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Field Trial Secretary, Honorary Working Test Secretary, Assistant Honorary Secretary, Honorary Members and an unlimited number of members. The Officers, excluding the Patron, President and Vice-Presidents, shall retire annually but be eligible for re-election.

Rule 3 – COMMITTEE

The Management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of the Officers, excluding the Patron, President and Vice-Presidents and up to ten ordinary members who shall all be appointed by ballot at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the following paragraph.

The retiring ordinary members, who shall be eligible for re-election, shall be first any ordinary members co-opted during the preceding year; second ordinary members not wishing to continue; third ordinary members who have served more than one year since last re-elected; fourth other ordinary members. If the first two categories exceed five, none of the other categories will retire, otherwise the number of retirements shall be five. The Annual General Meeting may elect as many members to the Committee as is necessary to complete the Committee.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held every three months or more frequently if necessary. Five shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

The Committee may fill any casual vacancy of Officer or elected member of the Committee by co-option, but any such Appointee must stand for re-election at the following Annual General Meeting.

Any Committee Member who has defaulted by non-attendance at three consecutive Committee meetings without a satisfactory reason shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club registered society.

Rule 4 – ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Candidates for membership of the Society must be proposed by one member and seconded by another and elected by vote of the Committee or a sub-committee appointed by the Committee for that purpose. Three negatives shall exclude.

Candidates who are not elected to membership by 1st August in any year shall not enjoy the privileges of entry as a member to the Society's Field Trials for that season.

Honorary members, who shall have all the privileges of membership, shall be either:

- a) recommended by the Committee and elected by a simple majority vote at a General Meeting, or
- b) anyone, not being a member, who assists the Society in any way at a Society event, such Honorary Membership to be evidenced by a written entry in a register and to terminate at the end of the event.

Rule 5 – MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

An entrance fee of £4.00 shall be paid by a new member on joining the Society and by any former member on re-admittance to the Society.

The annual subscription for each member shall be £8.00 (*UK & Ireland*) and £13.00 (*Overseas*), except that:

- a) Honorary members shall not be required to pay a subscription
- b) Bona fide Gamekeepers shall pay a subscription of £3.00.

All subscriptions shall be payable in advance to the Honorary Treasurer on 1st January of each year.

No member whose subscription is unpaid shall be entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if any member fails to pay the annual subscription by 1st March the Committee shall have the power to erase that member's name from the list of members. The Committee may at its discretion re-admit the member on payment of a further entrance fee and any arrears of subscription.

Rule 6 – PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY

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 the disposal of any assets.

Rule 7 – 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, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the interests or character 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. Notices of the 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, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

If a member is expelled by the Society for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Field Trials or Working Tests, particulars shall be sent to the Kennel Club within seven days of the expulsion.

Rule 8 – GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of March to receive the Report of the Committee and Accounts, to elect Officers, Honorary Members and Ordinary Members of the Committee, to appoint the Auditor(s) and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the Agenda of which fourteen days prior notice has been given in writing to the Honorary Secretary. 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.

Written nomination of any new candidate for election as Officer or Committee Member, proposed by one member, seconded by another and including the Candidate's consent (which in the case of a Committee Member shall be deemed to be consent to attending Committee meetings and to help at events run by the Society), must reach the Honorary Secretary fourteen days before the Meeting.

Members shall receive twenty-one days' notice of the Annual General Meeting. Non-receipt of the notice, duly posted, by any member shall not invalidate the meeting.

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary if fifteen members send in a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed. No other business can be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

Any change to these Rules required by the Kennel Club shall be effective from the date that the change is notified to the Honorary Secretary and shall be reported to the next following Annual General Meeting. Any other alteration to the Rules shall require a majority vote at a General Meeting, the notice of which shall include details of the proposed Rule change, but shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has given its approval.

Rule 9 – ACCOUNTS

Banking accounts shall be opened in the name of the Society into which all revenue shall be paid. Withdrawals from any cheque account shall be made only on the signature of two Officers. Transfers between accounts in the name of the Society shall be authorised only by the Treasurer or, in his absence, by the Chairman.

Annual accounts shall be prepared and shall be audited by a qualified accountant or by two unqualified persons, who shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

The financial year of the Society shall be from the first day of January to the last day of December.

Rule 10 – THE KENNEL CLUB - THE FINAL COURT OF APPEAL

The Kennel Club shall be the Final Court of Appeal in all matters of dispute.

Rule 11 – FEDERATION

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

Rule 12 – MAINTENANCE OF TITLE

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 continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of 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 Society which may occur during the course of the year.

Rule 13 – LIST OF MEMBERS

A list of members and their addresses at the preceding 31st December must be sent with the Society's Annual Return to the Kennel Club. A similar up-to-date list must be made available for inspection at any time by the Kennel Club or by any member.

Rule 14 – TERMINATION OF THE SOCIETY

Within six months of the Society being wound up, or ceasing to be a Society registered with the Kennel Club, a final statement of account, duly audited, shall be sent to the Kennel Club together with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society made in accordance with Rule 6. The Kennel Club will hold the last notified Officers and Committee of the Society responsible for the proper winding-up of the Society.