

THE BRITISH GORDON SETTER CLUB

CONSTITUTION & RULES

TITLE

1 The title of the Society shall be "*The British Gordon Setter Club*" and hereinafter referred to as the Club.

AIMS

2 The aims of the Club shall be as follows:

To promote the responsible breeding of Gordon Setters.

To define and publish the description of the true type of Gordon Setter to act as the standard.

To urge the adoption of the description by breeders and judges as the standard by which the breed shall be judged.

To support dog shows and field trials.

To encourage generally and in all possible ways the working and exhibiting of Gordon Setters.

To Actively support the education and training of judges in accordance with The Kennel Club's Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) (as published and amended from time to time). This does not apply to those breed societies which do not have an interest in the exhibition of dogs or scheduling of dog shows. (KC)

To promote and maintain an open forum on all health matters concerning Gordon Setters

CONSTITUTION

3 (a) The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of individual Members only, from which an Executive Committee of thirteen members shall be drawn to properly manage the Club on behalf of the Members.

(b) The Club shall not join any federation of Societies or Clubs nor shall company or organisation affiliations be allowed.

(c) The Club acknowledges the Kennel Club as the supreme authority and as the final court of appeal in all matters of dispute.

(d) If the Club is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Club, the persons named as Officers and Executive Committee members of the Club in the last return furnished to the Kennel Club, shall be responsible for the proper winding up and for the disposal of all Club property and assets to the satisfaction of the Kennel Club. A final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposed property and assets shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months of the date of cessation.

MANAGEMENT

4 (a) The management of the Club, its assets and property, shall be vested in the Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, elected from amongst the fully paid-up Members.

Composition of the Committee

(b) The Committee shall comprise of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and nine other individual members.

(c) All Committee members shall be fully paid-up Members during their terms of office.

(d) The posts of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be known as Officers of the Club and shall be ex-officio on any sub-committees the Committee may set-up from time to time.

(e) The immediate past President can be invited to attend Committee meetings for a period of one year at the discretion of the Committee. The immediate past President shall not have voting rights on the Committee.

(f) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint a Member to the post of Assistant Secretary, who unless a voted-on member of the Committee shall not have voting rights and shall not attend Committee meetings unless invited to do so.

(g) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint a Member to the post of Membership Secretary, who unless a voted-on member of the Committee shall not have voting rights and shall not attend Committee meetings unless invited to do so.

(h) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint a Member to the post of Trophy Steward, who unless a voted-on member of the Committee shall not have voting rights and shall not attend committee meetings unless invited to do so.

(i) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint Members for the Editorships of the Club Yearbook and the Club Newsletter(s), who unless voted-on members of the Committee shall not have voting rights and shall not attend Committee meetings unless invited to do so.

(j) The Committee shall also be empowered to appoint Members to other posts such as Match Stewards and Seminar Stewards as and when required. Such appointed Members, unless voted-on members of the Committee shall not have voting rights and shall not attend Committee meetings unless invited to do so.

Meetings of the Committee

5 (a) The President or in his/her absence the Vice President, shall act as Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman shall not vote at committee meetings except in the case of a split vote. In which case they shall have a casting vote.

(b) In the event of the absence of an Officer or ordinary member of the Committee, for reasons of death, resignation, travelling abroad for long periods or other similar circumstances, the Committee shall be empowered to co-opt a suitable fully paid-up Club Member to fill the vacancy, providing there be a majority vote of the remaining Committee members for that Club Member.

(c) Should the Committee recommend that such co-opted members' appointments be permanent, then they shall be ratified by the Members at the next Annual General Meeting.

(d) In the event of a Committee member not being in attendance at three or more Committee meetings in each year for reasons not acceptable to the Committee, that member shall resign from the Committee and Rule 5(b) shall apply.

(e) The Committee shall meet as often as necessary with six members being required for a quorum consisting of two Officers and four ordinary members.

Bye-laws

6 The Committee shall be empowered to create and pass bye-laws and decide on matters that may be in dispute that are not covered in the Club Rules. Such bye-laws shall be submitted by the Committee for ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

Banking Account

7 (a) The Committee shall arrange for Current and Deposit Accounts to be opened in the name of the Club, into which all revenue shall be paid and from which all withdrawals shall be made. Every and each withdrawal shall require the signature of the appointed Club Treasurer and the signature of one other Officer of the Club usually the Secretary.

(b) The Club accounts shall be certified annually by one qualified accountant or two unqualified individuals with accounting experience. Their appointment to be ratified annually by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

Election of Committee Members

8 (a) The election of the Officers and the ordinary members of the Committee shall be carried out on an annual basis by ballot of all Members.

(b) The posts of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a period of one year only and they can offer themselves for re-election if they so wish.

(c) The President and Vice President of the Club shall not be allowed to hold their posts for more than three consecutive years.

(d) The nine ordinary members of the Committee shall each be elected for a three year period only and then, if they so wish, they must seek re-election by the normal procedure. In the event of more than three ordinary Committee members being due to retire in any one year it shall be decided by ballot within the Committee which three members will go forward for re-election by the normal procedure.

Nominations for Committee

9 (a) Nominations for Committee vacancies shall be made in writing to the Secretary of the Club by a date, directly notified to the Members and which may in addition be announced in the Canine Press, that shall be two calendar months before the next Annual General Meeting.

(b) All nominees shall have given their permission beforehand and shall provide a summary of their appropriate experience and shall be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members who shall not be husband and wife or related or in any form of partnership.

(c) Nominees for the posts of President and Vice-President shall, prior to their nomination, to have served at least three years as an elected Club Committee member.

(d) If two or more nominations are received for any of the Officer posts, or more than the required number of nominations are received for the ordinary members of the Committee, then an election shall be conducted by means of a postal ballot of all fully paid-up Members.

(e) The Secretary or appointed Officer shall be responsible for issuing the ballot papers to the Members to enable the return of the ballot papers by post to a neutral scrutineer. The ballot papers to be postmarked no later than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting. The results of the ballot shall be passed sealed from the Scrutineer to the Secretary or appointed Officer of the Club for announcement at the Annual General Meeting and not beforehand.

(f) In the event of the nominations for the Officer posts and the ordinary members of the Committee not exceeding the number of vacancies available then the nominations shall be approved by the membership attending the Annual General Meeting and the need for a postal ballot dispensed with.

(g) No person who resigns as an Officer or Committee Member of any other Gordon Setter breed society shall be eligible to stand for election as an Officer or Committee Member of the Club until their original term of office with the other society has expired.

MEMBERSHIP

Grades of Memberships

10 (a) The Club membership shall consist of individual Members, joint Members, life individual and joint Members, Honorary Members, Honorary Vice Presidents and Honorary President.

(b) Individual and joint Members shall be elected into membership at the approval of the Committee.

(c) Existing Life Individual and Joint membership shall cease on the death, resignation or expulsion under Rule 14 of the member or members. No single or joint life memberships will be transferrable from those persons originally elected by the Committee. No further Life single or joint memberships will be made available.

(d) Honorary Members and Honorary Vice Presidents shall be selected by the Committee to receive the "Honorary" title for outstanding services rendered in the aid of Gordon Setters. Honorary Members need not be Members of the Club but it is expected that Honorary Vice Presidents shall be Members. Honorary Members and Honorary Vice Presidents, unless voted-on members of the Committee shall not be involved in the management of the Club. The number of Honorary Members and Honorary Vice Presidents shall not exceed six for each grade at any one time.

(e) The Honorary President shall be the Patron of the Club and shall be an invited position approved by the Club Members at an Annual General Meeting. The Honorary President who may or may not be a Member of the Club shall not be involved in the management of the Club.

Election of Members

11 (a) An up to date list of members and their addresses, and those of branch members where appropriate, must be maintained and, if so requested, made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and members of the society. A declaration of the number of members of the society must be made with Annual Returns.

(b) The Committee shall be the only body empowered under the Rules to elect or remove Members from the Club Register.

(c) There shall be no limit to the total number of Members the Club can enrol.

(d) Candidates for membership shall be proposed and seconded by separate fully paid-up Members. The Proposer and Secunder shall not be husband and wife or related or in any other form of partnership.

(e) The application shall be made on the prescribed form and submitted to the Committee for approval. The Committee shall be two thirds in favour of the election into membership otherwise the application shall be rejected.

(f) Members shall not be elected by the Committee if there is less than the quorum of six members present.

(g) As a condition of membership, members shall abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Club contained herein and abide by the Club's published Code of Ethics.

Resignation of Members

12 (a) A Member may resign at any time providing that Member gives notice in writing to the Secretary.

(b) Any Member who resigned under Rule 12(a) shall be able to rejoin the Club by the same procedure as for a new candidate.

(c) A resigned Member shall not be entitled to a rebate of subscription for any part year that may be remaining, nor have any other claim on the Club.

Expulsion of Members

13 (a) Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A11.j(5) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A11.j(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society.

(b) 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.

(c) Notice 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 condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

(d) If the Society expels any member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions, the Society must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

Lapsing of Members

14 (a) A Member shall be considered as having lapsed their membership if their annual subscription is over two calendar months in arrears of the annual due date of 1 January and shall lose entitlement to the privileges of membership. If following six calendar months the arrears have not been paid, the Secretary shall inform the Committee who shall be empowered to remove the Member's name from the Register.

(b) In the case of new Members, entitlement to privileges of membership shall cease, if the first subscription has not been paid within two calendar months of membership notification.

(c) Any Member who lapsed under Rules 15(a) and 15(b) shall be able to rejoin the Club by the same procedures as for a new candidate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

15 (a) The rates for all membership subscriptions shall be reviewed on an annual basis and set by the Committee to ensure the Club remains in a financially viable state.

(b) The Committee shall ensure that all Members are given at least two calendar months notice of any increase in subscriptions by publication in the Canine Press or the Club Yearbook or the Club Newsletter(s) or by direct notification.

(c) Annual membership subscriptions shall be due on 1 January of each year.

(d) There shall be no subscriptions levied on Honorary memberships.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting

16 (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held on a date and at a place nominated by the Committee no later than 30 April in each year.

(b) The Secretary shall notify the fully paid-up Members of the date of the Annual General Meeting by direct notification no later than three calendar months prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Members may in addition be notified through the pages of the Canine Press. The Secretary shall at the same time notify Members that proposals for the Annual General Meeting and Committee and judging nominations shall be sent to the Secretary in writing no later than two calendar months before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

(c) The Secretary shall issue to all fully paid-up Members notice of the Annual General Meeting no later than one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Members, in both the UK and Overseas, shall receive with the notice of the Annual General Meeting, all necessary papers appertaining to the items on the Agenda including ballot forms. The Statement of Accounts for the previous year and the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting may be appended to the notice of the Annual General Meeting if they have not been previously published in the Club's Yearbook or Newsletter(s).

(e) Only items on the Agenda shall be discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting, unless under "any other business" the President or acting Chairman of the Annual General Meeting shall decide that a matter of sufficient importance or urgency shall warrant discussion if the Members present so agree.

(f) Any Members who are unable to attend an Annual General Meeting in person may record their opinions and/or votes in writing to the Secretary, on subjects on the Agenda and have them read out at the Annual General Meeting.

(g) The President or whoever is nominated by the Committee to be acting Chairman at the Annual General Meeting shall not vote at these meetings but shall be granted a casting vote in the event of a tie. The casting vote shall not apply to balloted items

(h) In the case of there being equal votes on balloted items for one position, the Members so present at the AGM shall decide the issue by a show of hands vote or recommend a second ballot.

Special General Meetings

17 (a) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by either the Committee or upon a written request to the Secretary or President signed by twenty five fully paid-up Members of the Club.

(b) Notice of a Special General Meeting together with the Agenda and any such papers as required, shall be circulated by the Secretary to all fully paid-up Members no later than one calendar month before the date of the meeting and no more than one calendar month from receipt of the requested SGM. The Agenda may also be published in the Canine Press one calendar month before the date of the meeting.

(c) If ballot papers are involved then these shall be circulated in accordance with the requirements of an Annual General Meeting.

Club Rules

18 (a) Alterations to the Club Rules shall only be made at Annual General Meetings or at Special General Meetings called for that purpose and must be approved by two thirds or more of those Members so present.

(b) Any alterations to the Rules agreed at an Annual or Special General Meeting shall be advised to the Kennel Club by the Secretary forthwith and shall come into force on receipt of Kennel Club approval. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately

(c) Any proposals for alterations to the Rules shall be sent in writing to the Secretary no later than two calendar months before the date of the Annual General Meeting to enable circulation to the Members with the Annual General Meeting Agenda.

(d) Any such proposals can emanate from the Committee or be put forward by Members, providing those Members have the proposed alterations duly signed by a Proposer and Seconder, who shall be fully paid-up Members and who are not husband and wife or related or in any other form of partnership.

JUDGING LISTS

19 (a) The Committee shall be responsible for maintaining a list of approved Judges which shall be reviewed annually and shall be published annually in the Club Yearbook and/or Newsletter(s).

(b) The Judges List shall be compiled in sections in accordance with current Kennel Club Regulations and requirements.

(c) In the event that a Gordon Setter Breed Council is formed to which the Club shall become a contributory member then Rules 20 and 21 shall become inoperative as the responsibility for the breed Judges List shall lie with the Breed Council under Kennel Club Regulations. Rules 20 and 21 shall only become reinstated on the demise of the Breed Council and/or under future Kennel Club Regulations.

Applications for Inclusion on the Judging List

20 (a) Applicants, other than those approved by The Kennel Club to award Challenge Certificates in Gordon Setters, shall complete questionnaires which shall be submitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee may call for other evidence of experience if they consider this to be necessary.

(b) The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all applications for the Judges List, or to offer inclusion in a List other than that for which an application may have been submitted. They further reserve the right to delete existing entries from the Judges List.

(c) Without prejudice to their right to accept, reject or modify applications under Rule 21(b), the Committee will publish guidelines of the judging experience and other considerations they would expect to be met by applicants wishing to be included on the Judges List and reserve the right to amend such guidelines as they feel appropriate.

(d) All applicants for inclusion on the List will be given written confirmation of their inclusion, or failed applicants will receive a written explanation in the form of guidance from the Secretary to enable them to attain the status required in due course.

Club Show Judges

21 (a) Judges for the Club's annual shows shall be nominated by Members and shall be included in the postal ballot papers for the Annual General Meeting. Such nominees shall be contacted beforehand by the Proposer and Seconder to ensure their willingness and availability to judge and shall not have been nominated in the same year to judge at another Gordon Setter breed society show in the United Kingdom. The Proposer and Seconder shall not be husband and wife or related or in any other form of partnership.

(b) Any person nominated to judge either or both sexes at a Championship Show of The British Gordon Setter Club shall be required to have judged the Gordon Setter breed at Championship Show level on at least two previous occasions.

(c) Judges for the Club shows shall only be selected from the Club Judging Lists, with the exception of those from overseas.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 22(a), 22(b) and 22(c) the Committee may from time to time but not more frequently than once in every four years and subject to Kennel Club approval appoint without ballot an overseas judge for a Club show.

(e) In the case of judges who are nominated from overseas countries they shall be required to provide to the Club Committee and the membership that evidence of their experience in the country from which they come is equivalent to that contained in the Club's guidelines.

TROPHIES

22 (a) The Committee shall have overall responsibility for the Club's trophies and prizes and shall ensure adequate insurance cover against their loss whilst in the keeping of the Trophy Steward.

(b) There shall be a number of trophies or special prizes available for presentation. For a dog to be eligible for a Club trophy or prize, the owner(s) must be fully paid-up member(s). In the case of the Annual Club Points awards, the owner(s) must be fully paid-up member(s) at the time of winning the points.

(c) A list of dogs eligible for Club trophies and prizes shall be published in the Club Yearbook or Newsletter(s), irrespective of whether the dogs' owners are Club Members to ensure accurate breed records. An explanatory note shall be made in such a list if an owner is not a Club Member and the trophy or prize were therefore not awarded.

(d) If a trophy or prize so offered for a special quality is not confined to any class, the Judge shall be asked to make the award separately.

(e) Recipients of trophies or prizes which are Club property shall on signing for the trophy or prize become liable to ensure their safe retention whilst in their keeping. In the event of loss or damage occurring the recipient shall be expected to reimburse the Club with either the current value or a suitable replacement of the trophy concerned.

(f) Recipients of Club trophies or prizes who fail to ensure their safe return by the due return date as advised by the Trophy Steward shall render themselves, at the discretion of the Committee, for a five pound fine and be ineligible to receive any further Club trophies or prizes for a period of one year.

(g) On return of the trophy the recipient shall be awarded a suitably inscribed Certificate commemorating the award of the trophy.

YEARBOOK/NEWSLETTER(S)

23 Each Club Membership shall receive a Yearbook and occasional Newsletter(s), containing Club notices, details of trophies and awards, judging lists, membership fees and other matters appertaining to Gordon Setters.

GENERAL CLUB MATTERS

Annual Returns to the Kennel Club

24 The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, the Maintenance of Title fee shall 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 the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.

Financial Contributions

25 The Club shall not employ any full or part-time paid employees but Members may at their discretion make a financial contribution towards expenses to such Members who volunteer their services in aid of the management of the Club. Such financial contributions to be agreed and voted on under normal Annual General Meeting procedures.

Restrictions on Members

26 (a) No Member of the Club, either ordinary or honorary, shall incur any liability, financial or otherwise, in the name of the Club. Such liabilities can only be incurred by the Secretary or Treasurer of the Club with the authority of the Committee.

(b) No Member shall make use of the title of the British Gordon Setter Club either for purposes of private or trade advertisement other than to acknowledge the award of an official Club trophy or prize, or for use in personal letters to the Canine Press and Media in general, or for gain of any sort.

(c) No Member shall give information to or gain publicity from the Canine Press and Media in general on matters or details concerning the management or organisation of the Club or on proceedings at meetings which are private to the Club.

(d) Only the President or Secretary with the authority of the Committee shall be empowered to give official reports or statements on Club matters to the Canine Press and Media in general, or to any other external body.

(e) All Members shall be eligible to enter their own or handle other owners dogs at all Club shows, other than the Show Manager, the Show Secretary and the Show Stewards for those shows who shall be able to enter their dogs but shall not handle them.

(f) Dogs owned or exhibited by the Judge(s) or Referee at Club shows shall not be eligible for showing as by so doing they will be in contravention of Kennel Club Rules.

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

UNITED GORDON SETTER REHOMING AND SUPPORT

27 (a) The Club is a joint sponsoring body of the United Gordon Setter Rescue and as such, the Club Committee shall ensure two of its elected Club Committee members to serve on the controlling committee of the United Gordon Setter Rescue. This is in accordance with the rules, objectives and constitution of the United Gordon Setter Rescue.

(b) The Treasurer of the Club shall expect to be advised regularly during each year on the financial position of the United Gordon Setter Rescue by the Treasurer of the United Gordon Setter Rescue.

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KENNEL CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

28 Members will abide by the Kennel Club Code of Conduct which has been developed to set out the Kennel Club's expectations for all those taking part in or attending events under its jurisdiction along with general guidelines on the use of social media.

The British Gordon Setter Club 1991

(Amended 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011 & 2013)