

THE POULTRY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The Charity shall be called The Poultry Club of Great Britain.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Club shall promote high standards in the keeping, breeding and exhibiting of pure bred and domestic poultry. Poultry is defined as large fowl, bantams, true bantams, ducks, geese, turkeys and their eggs.

In pursuit of the aims and objectives the Charity and its Council shall:

2.1 Promote public awareness of the worth of Standard Bred Poultry.

2.2 Encourage, assist, and advise fanciers and domestic poultry keepers

2.3 As guardians of the the standards, keep up to date the British book of Poultry Standards and govern the administration of new breed or colour varieties to standardisation.

2.4 To advance and protect the interests of poultry breeders and exhibitors.

2.5 Co-operate with affiliated specialist breed clubs

2.6 Formulate rules for the conduct of affiliated shows and provide panels of qualified judges through a judging test system.

2.7 Assist and actively support other poultry organisations provided there is no conflict of interest.

2.8 Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons in the form of subscription, donation and other activities in raising funds for its charitable objects.

2.9 Foster international collaboration in poultry matters.

2.10 Promote and administer a ringing scheme.

2.11 Conduct any other lawful activities which will further the club's aims.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Club shall consist of members in the following categories:

Junior	- open to those aged 16 years or under on 1st October.
Adult	- open to those aged 17 years or over.
Senior Citizens	- open to those in receipt of a state pension on 1st October.
Overseas	- Europe and the rest of the world
Family	- open to those families of at least one adult and one child.
Judges Panel	- open to those who have passed a judging test or judged a breed club show and are members of the poultry club.
Honorary Life	- appointed by the council
Breed Club	- open to a club which the Council acknowledges to represent a breed, group of breeds or colour
Affiliated Society	- open to agricultural societies and poultry clubs who hold Shows held under Poultry Club rules
Trade Membership	- open to other organisations that have links to poultry.

All categories of member shall be elected according to Clause 4.

4. QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Any application for membership, except Honorary Membership, shall be made on the appropriate form and shall be accompanied by the appropriate membership fee.

4.2 Nominations for Honorary Life Membership shall be considered by the Council. Candidates for Honorary Life Membership shall have performed meritorious service to the Club or the poultry fancy.

4.3 Any member, breed club or affiliated society whose subscription is not paid by 1st January will no longer be considered to be a member of the Poultry Club and shall be excluded from the list of members.

4.4 Any member, breed club or affiliated society joining the Club during July, August or September of any year shall not be liable for a second subscription on the following 1st October.

4.5 Nominations for associate membership shall be considered by the council.

4.6 The PCGB reserve the right to refuse anyone membership to the club.

5. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

5.1 Any member who shall have paid the current subscription appropriate for their category shall be entitled to:

(a) Attend all general meetings of members with power to speak and vote on matters included on the agenda.

(b) Request and receive all the services rendered by the Club to its members.

(c) Compete for cups, trophies, special prizes and awards offered by the Club or the Scottish Branch of the Poultry Club at shows and similar events which are granted Club support.

(d) Receive a free copy of each issue of the Club's year book and news letters plus other literature supplied free to its members by the Club from time to time.

(e) Nominate member(s) for election to the Council and the office of President and to vote in said elections.

(f) Accept nomination and election for office in the club after a minimum of one year's membership and being aged 17 years and over.

(g) Appeals to the council must be made in writing to the General Secretary.

(h) Submit items for inclusion in the agenda of annual general meetings on giving five weeks notice of such items in writing to the General Secretary. With a report to cover the issues in the submitted item for the AGM agenda, so that Council can give a considered and informed response to the members at the AGM.

5.2 An Honorary Life Member shall be entitled to every right, privilege and service accorded to annual fee paying members including eligibility to hold office.

5.3 Junior members shall have rights equivalent with (a) to (g) above in this rule, except (e) and (f).

5.4 Breed Clubs, Affiliated Societies and Trade members whose current subscription is duly paid shall be entitled to the rights contained in (b), (c), (d), (g) and (h) in the foregoing part of this rule. Each such organisation can be represented by its chosen representative at all general meetings of members but shall have no voting rights.

6. OFFICERS

6.1 The President shall be an honorary position and shall be elected annually and be able to serve for a maximum of three years. The President is not eligible for re-election after that period. The President is an ex-officio member of the council with no voting rights. The President will take the chair at the September Council meeting while the Chairman is elected. The President can attend Council meetings but only in his role as ex-officio. Should the President be a serving Council member then they retain their role as a Council elected member.

6.2 The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be elected by Council members annually at the September meeting. The Chairman shall chair all Council meetings and general meetings of members. The Vice Chairman shall have precedence next to the current Chairman and shall assist and deputise for him/her. The Chairman is expected to keep the Vice Chairman fully briefed on all aspects of the Poultry Club current business, so that is possible for the Vice Chairman to chair a meeting when required.

6.3 A General Secretary/Treasurer, hereinafter called the General Secretary, shall be appointed by the Council and shall have no voting rights and whose duties are defined in Clause 9.

6.4 The Council shall also appoint an Independent Accountant whose appointment must be approved by members at the Annual General Meeting. The Independent Accountant shall be responsible for preparing the Club's accounts carrying out an independent examination required by the Charity Commission and for producing year-end accounts which are to be submitted to the annual general meeting. A full audit will be undertaken if considered necessary by Council.

7. GOVERNMENT OF THE CLUB

The Council shall be responsible for all business relating to the management of the Club. The Council shall refer amendments to the Constitution to the membership at the Annual General Meeting or an extraordinary meeting, for their approval by a two thirds majority.

8. THE COUNCIL

8.1 The Council shall be composed of twelve members plus two Scottish members. Three members are elected annually for a period of four years. Three Council members retire each year and are eligible for immediate re-election. More seats may be available due to resignations or other reasons.

8.2 All elections are to be made by postal vote by all Club members who are eligible to vote. New Council members shall normally be installed at the November Council meeting.

8.3 The Council shall have the power to co-opt technical advisers, such advisers not to be members of the Council and consequently to have no power or part in the ordinary business and administration of the Club. Except the area of expertise they are co-opted for or advice sought by Council Members at or before Council Meetings. These advisers can attend Council meetings when required.

8.4 The Council shall normally meet in January, March, June, September and November with the date of the Annual General Meeting being decided by the Council. This list of meetings is provisional and may be altered, as circumstances demand, by the Council.

8.5 Council members are required to attend at least four Council meetings plus the Annual General Meeting each year. Extenuating circumstances for non attendance will be considered by Council.

8.6 Five members of the Council may call a special meeting of Council members of which one member must be elected chairman.

8.7 A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be five Council members of which one should be an Officer of the Club.

9. GENERAL SECRETARY

9.1 The General Secretary of the Club shall be appointed as may be necessary by the Council which shall also be the authority to terminate his/her employment, subject to an agreement which shall be arranged between the two parties.

9.2 The General Secretary shall be the Club's chief administration officer and shall carry out his/her duties in accordance with the job description now in operation and to be varied as may be desirable or necessary from time to time between the parties.

9.3 He/she shall be responsible for dealing with enquiries from the public, the registration of new members subject to Council approval, the administration of the show awards scheme and for keeping the accounts for the Club, for banking income or making payments on behalf of the Club for furnishing financial statements as may be required by the Council.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 The income and property of the Club from whatever source derived shall be applied towards the objects of the club as set forth in Clause 2.

10.2 The annual subscription and affiliation fees shall be payable on 1st October. The current rates shall be reviewed annually by the Council.

10.3 The Club's financial year shall begin on 1st April.

10.4 All monies paid to the Club, whether by way of subscriptions from members or from any other source, shall be paid into a bank account or accounts in the name of the Club with a trading bank. All cheques drawn against the aforesaid banking account of the Club shall be payable on being signed by the General Secretary and countersigned by the Club Chairman or one other subject to the Club's requirements and conditions.

10.5 No person, including the Club's officers, shall have authority to or shall pledge the credit of the Club or involve the Club in any debt except by the prior approval by resolution of the Council, or in the case of emergency, with the approval of the President and Chairman after consultation with Council members either by phone or email.

11. TRUSTEES

11.1 Three members of the Club shall be appointed Holding trustees of the Club's investments and if through death or any other cause the number of these trustees should become less than three the vacancy shall be filled by a further appointment, made by the Council.

11.2 All monies for investment on the Club's behalf shall, on instruction by the Council, be invested in the names of the trustees in trustee securities. The trustees shall sell or otherwise deal with such securities, or any portion of them, upon a resolution requiring them to do so being passed at a meeting of the council by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

12.1 The Club may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Club. Any property remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to another charitable institution or institutions that has objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Club and if this cannot be done then to some other charitable purpose.

13. DISCIPLINARY POWERS

13.1 If, in the opinion of the Council, a member shall have acted dishonourably the Council shall have the power to expel him/her from the Club or to impose such other penalties as it may think fit. Any such member has the right to appeal to the Council's decision but notice of appeal must be lodged with the General Secretary within fourteen days of notification of the decision to Council by registered mail. All appeals will be dealt with by the three trustees as in 11.1 of the Constitution, these three trustees shall be known as senior advisers their decision regarding any appeal shall be final. The result of the appeal will be passed on to the secretary for posting to the person/s involved by registered letter. The trustees will have 21 days to finalise their decision. These three trustees would be completely independent of Council and not involved in everyday Council business.

13.2 If, in the opinion of the Council, any person shall have been guilty of discreditable conduct relating to poultry and arising out of a show held under Poultry Club rules, or shall be in default in regard of any transaction relating to a show under Poultry Club rules, the Council shall have the power to suspend or disqualify such person for such time as the Council may deem fit from taking part or having connection with any show held under Poultry Club rules.

13.3 The Council may withhold its show rules and awards from any show. Any member of the Club who, after due notice of the fact, exhibits at a show so disqualified, shall cease to be a member of the Club unless the Council shall decide by resolution to accept the member's explanation as satisfactory.

13.4 Any exhibitor found guilty of fraudulent practices may be disqualified from competing at any show held under Poultry Club rules for such a period as the Council may decide. An appeal may be made to the General Secretary as 13.1

13.5 The decision of the Council in relation to any case of disqualification, with the names of the persons affected, may be published in the Club's records. Any person making an entry at a show held under Poultry Club rules shall be deemed to have consented to such publication. Any exhibitor disqualified for fraudulent practices by Council shall have his/her name forwarded to the Scottish Branch Secretary and the secretaries of all shows held under Poultry Club rules with instructions to refuse any entries during the period of disqualification. Also judging engagements may not be undertaken at shows held under Poultry Club rules.

13.6 The Council shall have the power to consider any complaint between members. PCGB should not be drawn into disputes between fanciers when it is not covered in our rules and Constitution. There is an addition to cover this as mentioned under 13.1.

13.7 Any disqualification of a member within a family membership will extend to and embrace all members within that membership.

13.8 Any judge who has been found by the Council to have acted dishonourably at an affiliated show shall be removed from the Judges Panel for such a period as Council may decide. Any such judge has the right to appeal to the Council but notice of appeal must be lodged with the General Secretary in writing within fourteen days of notification of the Council's decision by registered mail.

14 THE SCOTTISH BRANCH OF THE POULTRY CLUB

14.1 The Scottish Branch of the Poultry Club exists to stimulate and maintain local interest by any means in conformity with the objectives of the club.

14.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Scottish Branch of the Poultry Club prior notice of winding up shall be given in writing to the General Secretary. Assets and trophies which are the property of the club shall be returned to the General Secretary together with the records and funds in hand, prior to the act of winding up.

15. MEETINGS

15.1. The General Secretary of the Club shall convene all ordinary and special meetings of the PCGB by giving not less than fourteen days notice.

15.2 Fifty six members of the Club may request an Extraordinary General Meeting by writing individually to the General Secretary. Five Council members may request a special Council meeting by writing individually to the General Secretary.

15.3 In the case of Extraordinary General and special Council meetings only the business for which the meeting has been called can be discussed. The time, place and date of extraordinary meetings shall be arranged by the General Secretary.

15.4 The Annual General Meeting of members shall be held at a place and time to be set by the Council. The Chairman shall chair the meeting.

15.5 For the purpose of these rules any other rules of the Club including Standing Orders, rules of procedure for meetings, show or judge's panel rules relating to breeds of poultry shall be part of these rules.

15.6 The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Council shall be required to sign the minutes of each Council meeting as a true and correct record subject to any amendments.

16. GENERAL

16.1 Every individual, club or organisation joining the Club or continuing as a member after the passing of these rules shall be deemed to have waived any rights against the Council or any members of the Council for any damage resulting to him/her from the operation or enforcement of these rules, notwithstanding that such person, club or organisation may have ceased to be a member before the alleged damage shall have resulted.

17. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

17.1 Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the agreement of two thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. The General Secretary of the Club shall receive a resolution for the alteration of the Constitution at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the General Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the proposed alteration.

17.2 No alteration shall be made to Clause 2, 12 or 17 until the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Club to cease to be a charity in law.