

The Constitution of

The East Anglian
Sheepdog Society



(as of)
18th November 1994 and
active from
1st January 1995

Revised Edition - November 2024

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be the East Anglian Sheepdog Society (EASS), hereinafter referred to as “the Society”.

2. OBJECTS

The Society is established for the following purposes:-

To promote and foster, within East Anglia, the breeding, training and management of all breeds or strains of sheepdog, to secure the better management of stock by improving the shepherd's dog, and to achieve these main objects by such means as the Society may from time to time determine and in particular (but without limitation on the generality of the foregoing) by:

- a) The promotion or organisation of sheepdog trials, exhibitions, either competitive or non-competitive and either in association or not in association with any other societies, bodies or persons, like or suitable occasions or events.
- b) Affiliation to the International Sheep Dog Society, and if requested, assistance with the organisation of their association.
- c) The encouragement and assistance by advice, guidance or information, of shepherds in their calling, farmers or stock breeders or keepers in regard to all matters pertaining to the sheepdog and the shepherd's craft in relation to his dog.

3. INCOME

The income and property of the Society, where so ever derived, shall be applied solely to the promotion of the objects of the Society as herein before stated and no portions thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the members of the Society, providing that nothing herein shall prevent:

- a) The payment in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration and/or expenses to any member of the Society, in return for services
- b) The presentation by the Society to any member of the Society of any prize money 'bona fide' competed for and won by such member in any trial or other competitive event duly promoted and held by the Society in accordance with its objects.
- c) The subscription to, or the making of, any presentation to anyone who has rendered special services to the Society or any organisation to whom the Society so desires.

4. CONSTITUTION

The Society shall consist of the following members:

- 1) A President
 - 2) Patrons
 - 3) Honorary Members
 - 4) Annual Members (East Anglian)
 - 5) Annual Members (Associate)
 - 6) Non-Dog Running Honorary Member
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- a) The President and Patrons shall be donors or subscribers whose patronage the Committee shall invite. Patrons shall have the rights and privileges of ordinary members.
 - b) Honorary Members shall be such persons who (whether as members of the Society or not) shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be worthy of being appointed as such by the Committee.
 - c) Annual membership shall be open to any member of the public interested in furthering the objects of the Society.
‘East Anglian’ members will reside within the four counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire or Essex.
‘Associate’ members reside outside these four counties.
Associate Members are not eligible for certain Trophies awarded by the Society, at the discretion of the Committee.
The Membership Fee for every member will commence on a yearly basis from 1st November 2019 onwards.
Members under the age of 18 years old, as at 1st November, are free.
 - d) Every application for Annual Membership shall be lodged with the Membership Secretary and shall be on the appropriate form and shall be accompanied by the annual subscription for the current year.
 - e) The President, Patrons and Honorary Members shall not be liable to pay any subscription.
 - f) The amount of the annual subscription shall be sufficient to cover the administrative costs of the Society as well as providing a donation to its funds.
 - g) The Committee of the EASS shall have the authority to award free annual membership to any non-dog running member who, in the Committee’s view, works above and beyond for the Society. This will only be awarded by unanimous decision of the Committee.

5. ADMINISTRATION

- a) The conduct and administration of the affairs and funds of the Society shall be in the hands of the Committee and Officer of the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall be:-

- 1) The Chairman.
- 2) The Vice-Chairman.
- 3) The Honorary Secretary.
- 4) The Honorary Treasurer.

- b) The committee of the society shall consist of at least eight persons, being members of the Society and in addition the President. The committee will contain no more than four members who reside outside of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex. Four members of the committee shall constitute a forum.
- c) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any person having special skill, knowledge or qualifications, but in relation only to the consideration by the Committee, where such special skill, knowledge or qualification would be of assistance.
- d) The Committee shall elect from its own membership the Officers to hold office for one year but to be eligible for re-election.
- e) The members of the Committee shall each have one vote on issues arising at meetings of the Committee; where there is an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have the right to use a casting vote.
- f) The existing Committee shall continue to act for the Society until the next Annual General Meeting of the Society at which these rules will be adopted.
- g) The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
- h) The Honorary Secretary shall do all such things as the Committee may by resolution direct, shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, convene and attend all meetings of the Society and the Committee, take minutes of all such meetings, and generally undertake such duties as the Honorary Secretary of such a society normally performs.
- i) The Honorary Treasurer shall receive all monies payable to the Society and pay such monies into the bank account of the Society, keep proper account of all monies received or expended, present all accounts to the Committee for approval and make up the annual accounts of the Society to the end of the financial year, and submit the same to the Annual General Meeting.
The Honorary Treasurer shall open a banking account with a bank to be approved by the committee, such account to be in the name of the Society, all transactions and cheques to be signed and approved by any two of the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer or the Honorary Secretary.
- j) The financial year shall end on 31st October in each year.

- k) The accounts of the Society shall be audited by auditors to be appointed by the Committee and the report and certificates of such auditors shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

6. MEETINGS

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on such convenient date after 31st October each year as the Committee shall resolve. Fourteen days notice in writing shall be given to all members together with the Agenda for such meetings.
- b) A General Meeting of the Society may be convened at any time on fourteen days' notice in writing to each member, either by the Committee or by a written requisition to the Chairman signed by 66% of ordinary members, which requisition shall state the reason for such meeting, and no other business shall or may be dealt with.
- c) Every member shall be entitled to receive notices and attend and speak at each General Meeting.
- d) A quorum at any General Meeting shall be 15% of ordinary members.
- e) At every General Meeting each member present shall have one vote and in the event of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- f) Unless the meeting otherwise resolve, the Chair at any General Meeting shall be taken by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Chairman.

7. THE RULES FOR TRIALS

Entries to Open and Open/Novice qualifying trials will be taken from any person subject to the running order still being open.

Entries to all Cradle, Nursery and Novice trials will be restricted to paid up members of the EASS.

All trials will be pre-entry, with no entries accepted on the day of the trial, and a running order will be circulated prior to the trial where appropriate. The committee reserves the right to make changes to a published running order to aid the management of a trial.

The rules for the winter series of trials will start on 1st of October and end on the 1st of April, regardless of when the first or last winter series trials take place. The rules for the summer series of trials will start on 2nd April and end on the 30th September regardless of when the first or last summer series trials take place.

CRADLE

The Cradle class is only open to Novice Handlers. A cradle course will have an outrun of at least 150 yards, lift, fetch, drive and pen. The drive will be around an obstacle placed at least 50 yards from the handler. The handler may leave the post to assist the dog with the drive but will incur a 5-point penalty.

On 1st of October a cradle dog will not have been placed in any trial other than Cradle and will not have run in any other trial other than a Nursery.

After the 1st of October, a Cradle dog may be placed in a Nursery without affecting the Cradle status until 1st of April when it will take on a Nursery status.

On 2nd of April, for the summer series, a cradle dog will not have been placed in any trial other than Cradle and will not have run in any other trial other than a Nursery.

After the 2nd of April, a Cradle dog may be placed in a Nursery without affecting the Cradle status until 30th of September when it will take on a Nursery status.

NURSERY

A Nursery course will have an outrun of at least 150 yards, lift, fetch, drive and pen. (There will also be a shed in the Nursery Championship trial, and we also reserve the right to add a shed at need to any Nursery trial.) The drive will be a national style. A Nursery dog will not have been placed in a Novice or an Open class prior to 1st of October, but after that date the dog may be placed in Novice or Open classes without affecting its Nursery status until 1st of April when it will take on its new status.

NOVICE

A Novice course will be the same as the Nursery course but with the addition of a shed. A Novice dog will not have been placed in an Open trial prior to the 1st of October, but after that date the dog may be placed in an Open class without affecting its Novice status until 1st of April when it will take on its new status.

OPEN/NOVICE

An Open/Novice trial will have an unrestricted outrun, lift, fetch, drive, shed, pen and occasionally a single. All dogs are eligible for the Open class but there will also be placings for the highest placed Novice dogs within the trial. A Novice dog will not have been placed in an Open class.

OPEN

An open trial course will be similar to the Open/Novice.

There will only be one class of competition and all classes of dogs are eligible to run. An Open dog will have qualified out of all other classes.

NOVICE HANDLER

A Novice Handler will not have been placed in any Open class.

A Novice Handler class will only be run on a Cradle course, but any standard of dog may be used. Any placing received will not affect the status of the dog. After 1st of October a Novice Handler may be placed in an Open class without affecting their status until 1st of April when they will lose that status.

After 2nd April for the summer series, a Novice Handler may be placed in an Open class without affecting their status until 30th of September when they will lose that status.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

The intermediate class is open to those who are not novice handlers.

An intermediate dog will not have been placed in nursery, novice, or open classes before the current season.

The intermediate class will be run on a cradle course.

Placings in Intermediate classes will not affect the status of the dog.

PLACINGS

In all classes of trials 'placed' will mean first to sixth.

Any awards given to the 'highest placed EASS member' will not affect the status of that dog or handler.

Any member who knowingly competes in any class with a dog of the wrong standard will be required to forfeit any prize or placing received.

Any member who knowingly competes in any trial with a dog of the wrong standard will be required to forfeit any placing or prize received and the matter will be reported to the Committee for further consideration.

In the Novice class, within an Open/Novice trial, 'placed' will mean first place only.

RECORDS

We keep a record of placings received within our own trials, but competitors are reminded that placings received outside our area will be valid within our rules.

AGGREGATE COMPETITIONS

All our aggregate competitions will be scored on the same system.

First place is awarded 6 points down to 6th place which is awarded 1 point.

In regard to team selection for the English Nursery Team, the selection criteria will be decided by the Committee at the beginning of September, prior to the start of the nursery season.

CONDITIONS OF TRIAL ENTRY

- a) The judges decision will be final.
- b) A tie of points will be determined on the best outrun, lift and fetch.
- c) A dog which injures a sheep may be disqualified and the owner held responsible for the damages.
- d) No dog will compete wearing an electrical collar or an unnecessarily laden collar, the removal of which shall be at the course director's discretion.
- e) No-one will approach the judge whilst the trial is in progress other than the course director.
- f) The committee reserves the right to refuse entry of any dog or the admission of any individual to any event organised by the society.
- g) The committee and the EASS will not be responsible for any accident, however caused.
- h) Competitors must agree to let sheep out if asked to do so.

8. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- a) The Committee will investigate any complaint which is received by the Secretary, in writing, and accompanied by a £10.00 investigation fee, refundable if the complaint is upheld.
- b) Any person, whether a member of the Society or not, who is found guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is prejudicial to the interests or objects of the Society will be penalised at the discretion of the Committee.
- c) Any person who wishes to appeal against a penalty imposed by the Committee may appeal to the International Sheep Dog Society, who will investigate the matter. The East Anglian Sheepdog Society will assist them with their investigation and be bound by their findings.

Appeals should be made in writing and addressed to:-

The Chief Executive,
International Sheep Dog Society,
Clifton House
4a Goldington Road,
Bedford
MK40 3NF

9. AMENDMENT OF RULES AND CONSTITUTION.

No rule of the Society shall be made, varied or rescinded except by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of such members as are present at a General Meeting.

Such a General Meeting shall be called as in Rule 6(a) or 6(b).

Rule changes so made or rescinded will incorporate a date from which they will become effective.

The notice of the meeting shall incorporate a copy of the proposed alteration.

The accidental omission of notice of a meeting to any member shall not invalidate the meeting.

10. RESOLUTION

If at any General Meeting of the Society a resolution for the winding up or dissolution of the Society shall be passed by not less than two-thirds of such members as are present, then the Society shall be wound up and if, after the satisfaction of all outstanding liabilities, any assets shall remain, they shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Society; cups and special prizes to be returned to donors where this is practicable.

11. NOTICES

Notices referred to in these rules shall be deemed to be served when posted to the last known address of the member.

NOTES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scale of Points

Cradle - Total 80 points

Nursery - Total 90 points

Novice - Total 100 points

Open - Total 100 points - (110 incl. single)

Thus:-

Outrun - 20

Lift - 10

Fetch - 20

Drive - 30 (Cradle 20 (15 if assisted))

Shed - 10

Pen - 10

Single - 10

Championship - Total 170 points.

Thus:-

Outrun - 20

Lift - 10

Fetch - 20 (x 2, double gather)

Drive - 40

Shed - 20

Pen - 10