

**BELTEX SHEEP SOCIETY
CLUB RULES**

**Approved by the council of the Beltex Sheep Society 28th April 2006.
Amended Council Meeting 11th May 2009.
Amended Council Meeting 7th September 2010.**

1. THE CLUB

- a) The name of the Club shall be _____ hereafter called "The Club".
- b) The Club-is affiliated to the Beltex Sheep Society.
- c) The affairs of the club shall be managed by an Executive committee, hereafter called "the committee."

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- a) To complement and support the Beltex Sheep Society, hereafter called the "Society".
- b) To promote and encourage the breed development and sales of Beltex Sheep within the regions of the club.
- c) To identify the needs of Beltex breeders, resident in _____, and to respond to them and in addition, to provide a social and educational focal point for the Club membership. The Society reserves the right, in future, to redraw the geographic boundaries of area clubs as if considered expedient.
- d) To encourage the development of new ideas in order to promote the merits of the breed more widely.
- e) To forward the views of Beltex Breeders, resident in _____, to the Council of Management of the Society.
- f) To encourage Agricultural Shows and Societies, industry representatives and other organisations, in _____ region, to provide suitable classes for pedigree Beltex Sheep. To undertake to encourage adequate entries of good breeder's type sheep, for the classes so provided in co-operation with the Society.
- g) To authorise and organise, in _____, as and in co-operation with the Society, shows and sales of Pedigree Beltex Sheep, under the rules, regulations and bylaws laid down by the Council of the Society. These shows and sales to be open to all members who are both fully paid up members of the Society and Club.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall be open to all persons, who are members of the Society, on payment of the initial joining fee and the annual membership subscription.
Non members of the Society may become affiliated members who will have the same rights as full members except they will not have the right to vote at meetings of the society or club nor to show or sell sheep at events organised by the society or club.
- b) The Secretary shall register an applicant as a member unless he/she refers the application to the Committee, when at their next meeting after the referral, the application shall be considered by the Committee. In the event that the committee wishes to refuse the prospective member, this must then be referred to the council of the Society for approval or otherwise.
- c) Each member shall receive a copy of these "Rules", which shall be binding on him/her and acceptance of which is a condition of membership. If the prospective member refuses to accept these rules then he/she will not be accepted into the club and any fees received will be returned.
- d) Renewal of club membership shall be at the discretion of the Committee. In the event that the Committee wishes to refuse the renewal of membership, this must be referred to the Council of the Society for approval or otherwise.

4. Disciplinary Procedure

Where the Committee wishes to take disciplinary action against a member of that regional club, the

Secretary must advise the member of such proposed action in writing, stating clearly the reasons for this action. A copy of this document will be sent by the Committee to the Council of the Society along with a background report. The council will then call a meeting as soon as practicable where representatives of the committee will be asked to present the case to the Society. The member against whom the action is being taken will then have the right of reply in person. The case will then be considered by the Council of the Society in private and appropriate action decided. If in the opinion of a majority of the council the member has acted in a way which is not in the best interest of the Society his membership of the society may be terminated. Notice of termination of membership shall be sent to the former member as soon as is reasonably practicable after the disciplinary hearing. The Council of the Society shall not be obliged to inform the former member of the reason for its decision.

5. MANAGEMENT

- a) The affairs of the club shall be managed by a Committee of up to twelve, which will include the following office bearers, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, who will be elected annually from the Committee.
- b) The Committee shall submit a report of its work and publish a financial statement for members at the Annual General Meeting. These financial details should be lodged with the Society within 28 days of the AGM.
- c) A meeting of the Committee may be called at any time on the authority of the Chairman, or at the request of three (3) members of the Committee.
- d) At least ten (10) clear days notice in writing, specifying the place, day and hour of the meeting and nature of the business shall be given of any Committee meeting.
- e) A member or members may request an issue to be included on the agenda of the next Committee meeting either at a General Meeting, or by notifying, either the Chairman, or Secretary, at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the next Committee meeting.
- f) A member or members may request an item to be included on the agenda of a future General Meeting, by notifying the Secretary at least fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
- g) Items to be included on the agenda of a Committee meeting or General Meeting shall be at the sole discretion of the Chairman or at the request of at least 25% of the club members.
- h) The Chairman of the Committee shall preside over all General Meetings of the Club or in his absence the Vice Chairman will take the chair.
- i) In the event of a dispute within the Club, the majority decision of the Committee shall be final, except in the case of a resolution passed by a 75% majority at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- j) The Club, being affiliated to the Society, must abide by all the rules, regulations and by-laws of the Society. In the event of a dispute between the Club and the Society, the decision of the Council of Management of the Society shall be final.
- k) Every issue of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes and if votes are equal the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his own vote as a member.
- l) The principal duties of the Secretary are:-
 - a. To summon and attend all meetings of the Club and Committee and keep the minutes thereof.
 - b. To keep a register of members.
- m) Safety shall have the highest of priorities when organising a club event of whatever nature.
- n) The Club shall submit to the Society, whenever requested, a current list of members and the Society shall submit to the club, whenever requested, a current list of members in that area.

6. APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) Members of the Committee shall be members of the Club and the Society, each of whom shall be elected for a three year period. A member of the committee appointed at the AGM shall retire from office at the AGM held in the third year after his/her appointment. The retiring committee member shall be eligible for re-election.
- b) New candidates for election to the Committee must be proposed by one member of the club and seconded by another, along with confirmation from the candidate of his/her willingness to serve. This

nomination may be received verbally at the Annual General Meeting if the nominee is present, however if the nominee cannot attend, it must be received in writing by the Secretary, before the start of the Annual General Meeting.

- c) The Committee shall have powers to co-opt additional members to the Committee if they so desire.
- d) A quorum of the Committee shall be five (5) members or 40% of the committee, whichever is the lesser.
- e) The Scrutiniser, for election purposes, shall consist of two people approved by the majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting.
- f) In the event that there are more candidates than committee seats the committee shall be elected by ballot.
- g) Voting will be confined to club members who are also fully paid up members of the Society. In any vote or election called by the club, each such member shall have one vote. A business or partnership which is registered as a member shall have one vote.
- h) The Chairman will hold office for a maximum of 3 years and shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.
- i) The Committee shall conduct the business of the Club and shall exercise all such powers of the Club, as are not, by these rules required to be exercised by the Club in a General meeting.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) An *Annual* General Meeting shall be held in each calendar year, as soon as is possible after the financial year-end, and shall be held at such time, day and place as may be decided by the Committee.
- b) The business of the *Annual* General Meeting shall only be to receive and consider accounts and reports of the Committee and to elect the Committee for the forthcoming year.
- c) At least fourteen (14) clear days notice in writing, specifying the place, day, and hour of the meeting and the nature of the business, shall be given of any General Meeting of the Club.
- d) The quorum of a General Meeting, *Extraordinary* General Meeting or *Annual* General Meeting shall be ten (10) members or 50% of the membership, whichever is lesser.
- e) The Committee shall, whenever it deems necessary, convene an *Extraordinary* General meeting or not less than 25% of the fully paid up members of the Club may petition the Chairman and, or the Secretary to convene an *Extraordinary* General Meeting.

Notice of such intention must be given in writing with the precise nature of the business to be discussed. Such a meeting must then be called within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the petition.

Only fully paid up members of both the regional club and the Beltex Sheep Society are eligible to vote. No business shall be transacted unless the requisite quorum is present at the commencement of the business.

A resolution can only be passed at an Extraordinary meeting by a 75% majority of the fully paid up members present at the meeting. In addition Clause 10, "Alteration of Rules", must be taken note of.

- f) No issue shall be raised or a resolution proposed at any meeting or gathering of the club which can be construed as discriminatory on the ground of gender, political affiliation, ethnic origin or religious belief.

8. FINANCE

- a) The management of the finance and property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee.
- b) A complete and up to date set of accounts and an inventory of assets shall be kept by the treasurer.
- c) A bank account shall be maintained in the name of the Club. All cheques drawn on the Club's account shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other office bearer.
- d) Club funds may only be used in pursuit of the objectives of the Club. (Section 2)
- e) Surplus financial assets of the Club may be securely invested at the absolute discretion of the Committee.
- f) Annual accounts will be present at the Annual General Meeting and copies will be made available for all members.

g) It is recommended that the financial year of the Club shall run from 1st January to 31st December.

9. SUBSCRIPTION AND FEES

- a) The annual subscription shall be payable to the Treasurer, on a due date decided by the club, each year. All subscriptions shall fall due on the same date.
- b) The annual subscription will be reviewed by the committee each year.
- c) If any annual subscription is not paid by 1st March the membership shall lapse and the names(s) of the member(s) shall be removed from the register of members. A rejoining fee and any arrears due to the Club, being paid before that lapsed member can be reinstated.
- d) No subscription refunds will be made if a member resigns prematurely from the club.
- e) The Committee may introduce any other fees or charges only after agreement with council.
- f) No member shall receive any fees or bonus, but it is in order for a member to receive a payment to cover the cost of any personal expenditure incurred on behalf of the Club.

10. ALTERATION OF RULES

If the club wishes to make any changes to these rules approval from the Society must be obtained beforehand. It is the aim of the Society for all area clubs to have the same set of rules.

11. WINDING UP OF THE CLUB

- a) Dissolution of the Club will only be as a result of an Extraordinary General Meeting called specifically for that purpose. The resolution being passed by a 75% majority of fully paid up members present at the meeting.
- b) On winding up of the Club the assets of the Club shall be passed over to the Society.

12. CLUB SALES

- a) If the Club seek to hold a Club Sale permission from the Beltex Sheep Society must first be obtained.
- b) The sale must be held under the Auspices of The Beltex Sheep Society and abide by the rules and regulations of the Society including an inspection.
- c) The Rate of commission and Entry Fees should be set by the parent Society. Currently entry fees are £5 for females and £10 for males.

The auctioneer will collect 1% commission, equating the sale value net of the auctioneers commission. (Usually a 20% share of the commission). This will be spilt equally between the club and the Society.

13. Club Logos

The most prominent feature of a club logo should be the Society Logo. It is recommended that the Society Logo should be green. All logos should be forwarded to the Beltex Sheep Society for approval.