

SOUTHERN BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB



CONSTITUTION and RULES

1. Name and Objects

The Club shall be called The Southern Bernese Mountain Dog Club and its objects shall be the protection and furtherance of the interest of the Bernese mountain dog in Great Britain.

All profits and income will be used for the benefit and further education of the Club's members in all aspects regarding the improvement of the breed. These are namely managing, training, showing and breeding.

Members will be expected to act in the best interest of the breed. No member of The Southern Bernese Mountain Dog Club shall be involved in any way with the cross breeding of Bernese Mountain Dogs, as this would be detrimental to the breed.

2. Officers and Committee

The Club shall consist of a President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and a committee of twelve, plus an unlimited number of members. The president shall not have voting rights.

The Committee has the power to nominate an individual for consideration by the members as a Vice President. Such a person shall have been of long term and exceptional assistance to the Club.

Such nomination shall be approved by a majority of the members present and voting at the AGM. Vice Presidency shall confer no additional rights over and above that accorded to any other member.

3. Committee

The management of the Club shall be in the hands of a Committee of twelve. Three Committee members shall retire annually in rotation, but if eligible, they may offer themselves for re-election without nomination.

The Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary and six shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. Committee members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee unless a valid and acceptable reason is given for non-attendance.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members onto the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between General Meetings. Due regard will be given to unsuccessful candidates at the last election. Those co-opted shall only hold office until the next General Meeting of the Club at which an election of Officers and Committee takes place.

Should the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer resign from the position during the first three months of their term of office, nominations and a postal ballot of the members will take place to elect replacements. Should these officers resign their position after the first three months of their term of office, the Committee may appoint a temporary/acting Secretary or Treasurer.

4. Membership

All application for membership of the Club must be made in writing to the Membership Secretary on the current application form prescribed by the Committee. Applications will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting and no application for membership shall be rejected unless by a two-thirds majority of members of the Committee present and voting.

Joint members shall be two members of the same family, or two persons who own a Bernese Mountain Dog in partnership. In all other respects regarding the running of the Club, joint members shall have the same rights as two single members.

Overseas members shall be deemed to be Associate members, receiving copies of newsletters etc. but not voting papers.

Those under the age of eighteen will not be eligible for election to the Committee and shall not have voting rights.

Each member, except Overseas and Junior members, shall be entitled to one vote after three months membership.

The Club must send a list of members and their addresses and those of branch members where appropriate, to the Kennel Club with their Annual returns and, if so requested make an up-to-date list of members available for inspection by the members of the Club or by the Kennel Club.

Membership details of name, address, affix and date of payment shall be held on a personal computer. This information will not be divulged to any outside parties.

5. Subscriptions

The annual subscription, which is payable on 1st January each year, is £12.00 for single and £14.00 for joint membership. Overseas membership is £16.00 whether it is for single or joint.

No member whose subscription is not received by 31st January shall be able to attend or participate in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. They will have no voting rights and will be unable to nominate or second any person for the Officer/Committee elections for the following year.

No member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if the member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by 1st March, his/her name shall automatically be erased from the register. If the Committee shall subsequently receive a satisfactory explanation, the member may, at the discretion of the Committee, and on payment of arrears, be re-admitted to membership.

The subscription of any new member joining after 1st September is valid until 31st December the following year.

6. Expulsion of Members

Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j (5) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society for the duration of the suspension and or disqualification.

If the conduct of the member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club 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 Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

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 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.

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

7. Annual General Meeting

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st January until 31st December. The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of June to:

- Receive the report of the Committee and the balance sheets
- Announce the results of the election for Officers and Committee
- Discuss any resolution duly placed on the agenda, of which prior notice has been given to the Honorary Secretary

No business shall be transacted at an 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.

At least forty-two clear days prior to the Annual General Meeting, Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall normally be given via Bernfax, the Club magazine. Members will be requested to submit items for the Agenda. Items for Consideration must be made in writing, signed by an eligible proposer and seconder and sent to the Honorary Secretary to be received no later than twenty-eight clear days before the meeting.

The Agenda will normally be circulated at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall have the discretion to give notice of the Annual General Meeting by advertisement in "Dog World" and "Our Dogs", such notice to be published at least fourteen clear days before the meeting and such notice shall give the full agenda. The audited statement of accounts will be available for inspection at the Annual General Meeting, but members may apply for a copy to be sent to them.

8. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary upon receipt of a requisition that:

- States the subject to be discussed
- Is individually proposed
- Is individually seconded
- Is countersigned by eighteen other members

No business other than that which is on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

Members shall be given written notice at least twenty-eight clear days before the date of any such meeting.

9. Election of Committee Members

The election of Officers and Committee shall be by postal ballot. A candidate for the Committee should have been a Club member for at least one calendar year prior to the Annual General Meeting.

At least forty-two clear days prior to the Annual General Meeting; the Honorary Secretary shall send a request, normally via Bernfax, the Club magazine, to all members to nominate candidates for the Committee for the ensuing year. Nomination forms are available from the Honorary Secretary and must be proposed and seconded by eligible Club members. Nominations can only be accepted on this form and must be sent by recorded delivery to the Honorary Secretary.

Any member may nominate another member, subject to the consent of the nominee.

No member whose subscription is not received by 31st January shall be able to attend or participate in the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

They will have no voting rights and will be unable to nominate or second any person for the Officer/Committee elections for the following year.

Nominations must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight clear days before the date of the meeting, together with the names of those retiring Committee members who are willing to stand for re-election. The period of twenty-eight days excludes the date of receipt and the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Each ballot paper will be accompanied by a short resume of each nominee. If the nominee is seeking re-election, their attendance record at Committee meetings will also be noted.

The members and Officers of the Committee shall hold office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting. This is subject to them fulfilling the membership requirements.

A copy of the Agenda and voting paper recording the names of the nominees shall be sent to each member at least fourteen clear days prior to the meeting. Members must record their votes on the voting form and return it by the date stated. Impartial scrutineers will count all voting forms.

The sealed envelope in which the results are recorded will be opened in the presence of the members at the Annual General Meeting. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared, by the person chairing the Annual General Meeting, the Officers and the Committee for the ensuing year. In the event of the same number of votes being recorded for any two, or more, candidates for the last place on the Committee, a ballot of the members present at the meeting will make a final decision between these candidates.

The Chairman of the Committee or a Special General Meeting, the chair shall be offered to the President if he/she is present. Should the President decline, or not be present, the elected Chairman of the Committee shall take the chair.

The Chairman of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall only have a vote, at that Meeting, in the event of an equality of votes.

10. Club Property

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, a Special General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Club's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club.

11. Club Accounts

A banking account or accounts shall be opened in the name of the Club, into which all revenue of the society shall be paid. Withdrawal from these accounts shall only be made on the signatories of any two of three from Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer or Chairman.

The accounts shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer and one qualified Auditor shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting. The accounts shall be audited annually and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

12. Kennel Club Final Authority

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to canine or Club matters.

No person, whilst an un-discharged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Club.

At the subsequent election of Officers, the Acting Secretary of Treasurer must be proposed and seconded in the usual way.

13. Annual Returns to the Kennel Club

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 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 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.

14. Judging Lists

The judges list shall be drawn up in accordance with the Kennel Club's Working Party on Judges best code of practice.

Any member of the Club may nominate a Judge for inclusion. The nomination should be sent to the Committee, via the Honorary Secretary, for approval at the next meeting. Voting upon potential judges shall be by secret ballot.

No person who has judged less than sixty classes shall be considered for "A Lists"

Each list shall begin and end on a specific date and on expiry a new list will be drawn up.

Each year, following the AGM, the Club shall forward to the Kennel Club a list of judges approved by the Club to award Challenge Certificates to Bernese Mountain Dogs.

15. Amendments to Rules

The Rules of the Club may not be altered except at a General Meeting, the agenda for which contains specific proposals to amend the Rules.

Any proposed alterations to the Rules may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alteration. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately.

16. General Code of Ethics

Members are expected to read and be guided by the General Code of Ethics.