

NATAL FALCONRY CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. NAME OF THE CLUB

The name of the Club is "THE NATAL FALCONRY CLUB" (hereinafter referred to as "the club").

2. OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

The objects of the Club are :-

- (a) To encourage and stimulate interest in and knowledge of Falconry.
- (b) To conduct, encourage, foster or in any way assist ornithological field work, research and/or photography.
- (c) To protect and assist in the protection of birds of prey, their breeding areas, nests, eggs and/or young.
- (d) To breed birds of prey.
- (e) To procure, collect, produce and publish publications, films, etc., of ornithological interest as regards birds of prey and to make sure publications, films, etc., are available to Members and interested bodies.
- (f) To promote and encourage correspondence and interchange of ideas and views with visits to and from like organizations in the Republic of South Africa and elsewhere and to take any suitable measure to achieve this.
- (g) To co-operate and/or otherwise acquire movable or immovable property and/or to sell, let, hire, hypothecate or otherwise deal in such movable or immovable property.
- (h) To borrow money for the furtherance of the interests and objects of the club.

3. CLUB YEAR

The Club Year shall be from the first day of January of each year to thirty first day of December of the next year, both dates inclusive.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) The membership of the Club shall consist of :
 - (i) Ordinary Members
 - (ii) Honorary Members
 - (iii) Associate Members
 - (iv) Junior Members
- (b) Application for any class of membership other than Honorary Membership shall be in writing and proposed and seconded by members of the Club. Such application shall be deemed to be an acknowledgement to be bound by this Constitution and any amendments thereto, as also the Rules and Regulations of the Club.
- (c) Each application shall be considered by the General Committee at its next meeting following the lodgment of the application. Election shall be effected by ballot. Two objections shall exclude the applicant from membership. The decision of the General committee shall be final and such Committee shall not be obliged to give its reasons for declining any application for membership.
- (d) All provisions of this Constitution shall apply equally to all class of members except where otherwise stated herein.
- (e) All subscription shall become due and payable on the first day of January of each year.
- (f) All subscriptions of Members joining on or after the first day of June of any year, shall be half the annual subscription for that year.
- (g) Membership and Entrance Fees shall be as agreed by the Members in General Meeting for time to time.

5. **ORDINARY MEMBERS**

Ordinary Members, shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings provided their subscriptions are fully paid.

6. **HONORARY MEMBERS**

The General Committee shall have power to invite suitable persons to become Honorary Members of the Club for a period at the discretion of such Committee. Such invitations shall e confirmed or otherwise, at the next general meeting.

Honorary Members shall be exempt from the payment of subscriptions and entrance fees. Honorary Members shall have the same voting rights as Ordinary Members.

7. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

The General Committee may at its discretion accept any new member as an Associate Member. An Associate Member shall have no vote and shall not keep a hawk. At any time the Committee may elevate an Associate Member to full membership. To determine the eligibility of an Associate Member for full membership, the committee may take into consideration information brought to its attention by an Ordinary Member or may apply a test of knowledge of falconry and wildlife as it sees fit.

8. **JUNIOR MEMBERS**

A Junior Member shall be anybody under the age of 18 years and shall have no vote. Junior Membership shall cease on the day of the Member's eighteenth birthday and the Member shall then elect whether he wishes to become an Ordinary or Associate Member. Subscriptions at the rate applicable to Ordinary or Associate Membership shall only become due and payable from the first day of July following the Member's eighteenth birthday.

9. **DISCIPLINE**

(a) Any Member who:

- (i) is in breach of any rules or regulations of the Club relating to the keeping or acquiring of birds of prey; or
- (ii) is guilty of conduct which is unbecoming a Member; or
- (iii) is guilty of conduct which may bring the Club into disrepute; or
- (iv) is guilty of conduct which is rude or offensive to other Members; or
- (v) is guilty of conduct contrary to what is required by Members of this constitution;

Shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this constitution.

- (b) A committee of not less than 5 members nominated by the General Committee (which need not consist solely by members of General Committee and which, if no committee meeting is due to take place at a conveniently near time, may be appointed by the Chairman and two other members of the General Committee), shall constitute the Disciplinary Committee.
- (c) Any member of the Disciplinary Committee shall summon any Member against whom a complaint has been lodged to attend a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at a stated time and place. Such summons shall give a detailed indication of the nature of the complaint.
- (d) At the hearing of the matter before the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may at its discretion dispense with any of the rules of evidence and establish any relevant fact in any way it sees fit.
- (e) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power after such hearing (or if the Member summoned does not attend such hearing) to:
 - (i) expel a Member' or
 - (ii) suspend the membership or a Member for such period as they may see fit and on such terms as they see fit; or
 - (iii) reprimand a Member
- (f) A Member who has been expelled, suspended or reprimanded under the provisions of the a foregoing sub-clause shall have the right to appeal to the next General Meeting of the Club; provided he gives notice of his intention to appeal within ten days of being so expelled, suspended or reprimanded. At such General Meeting, the chairman or any person nominated by him may address the meeting concerning the matter. The Member may then address the meeting and the Chairman or his nominee may reply to the Member's address. A secret ballot of Members shall be taken and a decision on a secret ballot shall be final and binding.
- (g) The General Committee may deprive any Member of membership who has not paid his subscription within three months after due date; provided that a letter has been sent to him by registered post at his last known address calling on him to pay such indebtedness and he has not paid within twenty-one days of the date of posting of such letter.

10. **MANAGEMENT**

The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a General Committee, duly elected, and consisting of the following:-

Chairman, Honorary Secretary/Treasurer and not more than seven Members, as decided by the Annual General Meeting.

11. **ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

- (a) The General Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the club. If the nominations exceed the vacancies, election shall be by secret ballot. Each term of office before re-election shall be 2 years. The Chairman and Secretary are only elected from the existing Committee in alternate years.
- (b) No Member shall be elected chairman of the general Committee unless he is a member of the General Committee or has been a member of the General committee previously.
- (c) The General Committee shall have the power to co-opt any Member of the Club to fill vacancies occurring on such Committee. Any Member so co-opted shall only serve until the end of that Club year.

12. **EVIDENCE OF MINUTES**

- (a) The Honorary Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of all meetings; such minutes to be read and confirmed at the following meeting of the same body, and shall be responsible for the finances of the Club and shall keep the necessary books and accounts.
- (b) A certificate signed by the Honorary Secretary and two other members of the General Committee shall be sufficient proof of the truth and accuracy of the matters contained therein, to any Registrar of Deeds, Manager of a Bank or any other person or body.

13. **POWER AND DUTIES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

The General Committee shall direct and manage all the affairs of the Club and shall do all matters and things which it may consider conducive to the interests, good management of the Club and the furtherance of its objects which are not specially required to be done at a General Meeting, or not expressly required to be otherwise performed, and without in any way limiting the above general powers, the General Committee shall have power :-

- (a) To convene meetings;

- (b) To acquire and dispose of, to hold and have the custody and control of the funds and other movable property of the Club;
- (c) To open a banking or savings account, which shall be operated under the joint signatures of the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer and Chairman with one Committee Member as alternate, appointed at the first meeting of any new General Committee;
- (d) In its discretion, to invest the funds of the Club in recognized trustee investments and to change, cancel, add to or vary such investments;
- (e) The Committee shall with the sanction of the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting of Members of the Club have the power:
 - (i) To purchase and /or otherwise acquire immovable property and/or to sell, let, hire, hypothecate or otherwise deal in immovable property;
 - (ii) To borrow money for the use of and benefit of the Club;
 - (iii) To institute or defend legal proceedings by or against the Club.
- (f) The General Committee shall meet at least once in eight weeks and shall consider:
 - (i) the questions arising out of membership;
 - (ii) visits to Mews;
 - (iii) audit of the Club's Accounts prior to the Annual General Meeting;
 - (iv) any other matters connected with the Club's affairs or objects.
- (g) If any member of the General Committee other than the Chairman is absent from three consecutive meetings without obtaining the prior permission of the General Committee, or an apology has not been received from that Member, he shall forfeit his seat upon the Committee and the vacancy shall be filled in terms of Rule 11.c.
- (h) To appoint sub-committees;
- (i) The quorum at any meeting of the General Committee shall be three members of such Committee.

14. **GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held within a period of three months of the close of the financial year. Notice of the date of that meeting shall be dispatched to all members at least fourteen days and notice of the Agenda at least seven days before the date of that meeting.
- (b) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be :-
 - (i) To read and confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meetings held during the year;
 - (ii) To receive the report of the Chairman of the General Committee for the year;
 - (iii) To receive a statement of the financial position of the Club;
 - (iv) To consider and vote upon any alteration or addition to the Constitution of which 14 days notice has been given;
 - (v) To elect the Chairman of the Club and the General Committee of the Club for the year in terms of Rule 11.
 - (vi) To elect Honorary Members if considered desirable.
 - (vii) To consider and if necessary to vote upon any other competent business.
- (c) A Special General Meeting may be called by the General Committee whenever it thinks fit. The General Committee shall call such a meeting on receipt of a request in writing to do so, signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the Members in good standing, not being Associate Members. The provisions of clause (a) shall apply as regards notice of such meeting, subject to the right of the General Committee to give shorter notice if it shall deem it advisable to do so. Such shorter notice shall be not less than three days and shall state the purpose of the meeting. A Special Meeting shall be competent to deal only with the particular business of which due notice has been given.
- (d) In the absence of the Chairman of the Club, the Secretary of the General Committee shall preside at any General Meeting and in the absence of both of them; the meeting shall elect its own Chairman.

- (e) Except where otherwise specifically laid down in the constitution, a majority vote of those present and entitled to vote shall be decisive and voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise provided herein or unless a ballot is demanded by a majority of those present and entitled to vote.

15. **QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The quorum at any General Meeting shall be seven members entitled to vote at such meeting.
- (b) Should the requisite number of members to comprise a quorum not be present within thirty minutes of the hour fixed for holding a General Meeting, the meeting in question shall stand adjourned until a date to be agreed on at such meeting. At such adjourned meeting, those Members present shall be deemed to form the requisite quorum.

16. **CHANGE OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- (a) No amendment of or addition to this constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting, notice of which General Meeting shall have been dispatched to Members at least fourteen days prior to the date of such meeting. Such notice shall set out the proposed amendment or addition.
- (b) Any proposal to amend or to add to this constitution shall be in writing and shall be signed by both the proposer and seconder.
- (c) Any such amendment or addition shall only be passed by a majority or two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

17. **CHAIRMAN'S DELIBERATIVE AND CASTING VOTE**

At all General and General Committee Meetings, the Chairman of that meeting shall have both a deliberative and casting vote.

18. **NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

Any notice to a Member shall be considered duly delivered when posted to, or delivered by hand at the address of that Member as furnished on his application for membership or as subsequently advised to the Honorary Secretary in writing by or on behalf of the Member. The onus of the Member is to notify the Club immediately of any change of address.

19. **FINANCE**

- (a) The financial year of the Club shall run concurrently with the Club year.

- (b) At the Annual General Meeting copies of the financial statement for the preceding year shall be circulated.

20. **INTERPRETATION**

In the case of doubt as to the meaning of interpretation of this constitution, the General Committee shall be the final arbiter and its decision shall be binding upon Members.

21. **DISSOLUTION**

If, upon winding up or dissolution of the Club, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Club but shall be dealt with otherwise as may be determined by Members assembled at a General Meeting.

22. **LIMIT OF LIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

The liability of Members of the Club is limited to the amount of their respective unpaid subscriptions.

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