

RULES OF THE VINE & CRAVEN HUNT

INTRODUCTORY

1. The object of the Vine & Craven Hunt from 18 February 2005 is to work for the re-introduction of lawful hunting generally, as well as in its own country, and to that end to maintain an establishment as a kennel to breed foxhounds in order to retain the bloodlines and to meet biodiversity responsibilities, to undertake hound and equestrian activities to facilitate that end and to provide support for these objectives through social intercourse by members. Any profit or surplus may only be applied to these objects.
2. The Hunt shall be called the Vine & Craven Hunt and shall consist of a President, Members and Honorary Members.
3. The hunting year runs from 1st May to 30th April, that being the term of office of the Master or Joint Masters.

ANNUAL GENERAL & OTHER MEETINGS

4. The meetings of the Hunt shall either be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).
5. Those entitled to vote shall be Honorary Members and Members whose subscriptions are not overdue and have reached the age of 18 by the date of the meeting.
6. Notice of such meetings shall be given to all those entitled to attend not less than 21 days before the meeting.
7. All matters to be decided at the meeting of the Hunt or the Committee shall, subject as otherwise be provided in these rules, be decided by the majority of those present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting, in addition to his ordinary vote, shall have a casting vote.
8. No new rule or alteration to any existing rule or rules shall be made except at the AGM or an EGM specially called for that purpose and unless agreed by at least 75% of the Members then present and voting.
9. The AGM shall be held before the 1st August in each year. Except as provided elsewhere in these Rules, the business of the AGM shall include:
 - (a) A report by the Committee of their proceedings during the preceding year
 - (b) A report from the Master(s)
 - (c) Consideration and approval of the audited accounts
 - (d) Election of Committee members
 - (e) Election of the President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Hunt
 - (f) Election of new Members of the Hunt
 - (g) Appointment of an Auditor to audit the accounts for the subsequent year
10. Any ten Members acting together may at any time call an extraordinary general meeting by giving four weeks' notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary of their intention. The Honorary Secretary will then send notice to all those entitled to attend in accordance with these rules.

COMMITTEE

11. The Committee will be responsible for:-
 - (a) The general management of the Hunt and agrees to be bound by the rules, instructions and Public Relations directions of the Masters of Foxhounds Association.
 - (b) The appointment of Master or Joint Masters, who shall be, or shall become, Members of the Masters of Foxhounds Association and comply with its rules. The Committee will have an annual agreement with the Mastership.
12. The Committee shall have full power to make such regulations as may be necessary in respect of Members, Subscribers and followers of the Hunt as it shall deem expedient, and all payments by such Members and Subscribers shall be at the rate or rates determined, from time to time, by the Committee.
13. The Committee will make recommendations to General meetings on other matters including conduct of Subscribers and followers.
14. At meetings of the Committee 5 elected members shall form a quorum.
15. The Committee shall have powers to form one or more sub committees for whatever purpose it shall consider appropriate and shall appoint the members of such a sub committee some who may not be members of the Committee.
16. The officers of the Hunt, who shall be members, shall comprise the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary or Secretaries and Honorary Treasurer who shall be Committee members. The President, Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be proposed, seconded and elected at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting when they shall retire but be eligible for re-election from year to year. The Honorary Secretary or Secretaries and the Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the Committee and shall hold office until they resign or until the Committee appoint a successor or successors.
17. The Hunt shall be managed by a Committee which shall comprise the officers of the Hunt and 9 elected members of the Hunt, at least 3 of whom should be regular riding members, together with a representative of the Hunt Supporters Club *ex officio*. The Masters or Joint Masters appointed for the season may attend the Committee meeting *ex officio*. *Ex officio* members of the Committee do not have a vote. One third of the Committee members other than *ex officio* members shall retire by rotation at each AGM and shall be eligible for re-election. Co-opted members shall retire at the AGM following their appointment but shall be eligible for election at that AGM. In the event of any vacancy occurring in the Committee, the Committee may co-opt a member to fill the vacancy until the next AGM of the Hunt.
18. The notice of the Annual General Meeting will include the names of those members retiring from the Committee and state whether they are willing to continue to serve. Further names for the Committee must be received by the Secretary not less than seven days before the meeting, giving names of the proposer and seconder who must be members of the Hunt, and stating if they are willing to serve, if elected. If necessary, a ballot will be held at the meeting. A copy of the annual accounts for the previous year shall accompany the notice.
19. The representative of the Hunt Supporters Club shall be appointed by their Club.

MEMBERS

20. A copy of the rules of the Hunt shall be issued to each member.
21. Admission of new Members shall be by ballot of the Members and admission of the Honorary Members shall be by election of the Committee.
22. No person shall be eligible for election as an honorary member unless he/she is a landowner or a farmer, or has, in the opinion of the Committee, some other special qualification for election.
23. Every candidate for admission as a member shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the next Committee meeting and at such meeting the Committee shall decide whether or not the candidate's name should go forward for election at the next Annual General Meeting. At the Annual General Meeting a two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for election.
24. All Members must be fully paid members of the Countryside Alliance, or such similar organisation as the Committee may determine.
25. All Members undertake that when participating in the Hunt's activities that they will:
 - (a) Conduct themselves with care towards themselves and all other persons and property
 - (b) Take such reasonable steps as are necessary to ensure that they have adequate public liability and personal insurance cover.
26. The Hunt subscription shall be such sum as shall be agreed by the Committee, and shall be payable to the Hunt by all members not later than 1st November each year.
27. If any Member shall fail to have paid their Hunt subscription by 31st December then he/she *ipso facto* shall cease to be a member.
28. If the conduct of a member shall in the opinion of the Committee be injurious to the character of the Hunt, the Committee shall summon an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Hunt and if two-thirds of the members of the members present and voting at such a meeting agree to expel such Member, then he/she shall be expelled and his/her name erased from the Hunt membership.
29. Any Member expelled in accordance with the rules or otherwise ceasing to be a Member of the Hunt shall forfeit such rights to or claim upon the Hunt and its property and funds as he otherwise would have by reason of membership.
30. In the event of a dispute between members of the Hunt in any case regarding hunting matters, that dispute shall be referred to the Masters of Foxhounds Association in accordance with their rule 14(a).

TRUSTEE AND PROPERTY

31. The property of the Hunt has been vested in the Hunt Trustees to be dealt with subject to Rule 33 below as they in their absolute discretion shall determine.

32. There shall be no less than two nor more than four Trustees of the Hunt. The Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee. The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of Hunt assets. The Trustees shall hold office until age 70 or until removed from office by a vote at a Committee meeting at which at least 75% of the Committee must be present.
33. In the event of winding up, each Member of the Hunt shall be entitled to participate in the net proceeds of sale of all the Hunt's assets after paying all liabilities to the Hunt's creditors, in the proportion to which the sum of his/her subscriptions due and paid in respect of the three years immediately preceding the date of the winding up bears to the total subscriptions due and paid by all Members of the Hunt in respect of the same period.

UNIFORM

34. The only persons entitled to wear the full uniform shall be Members and Honorary Members of the Hunt, whose subscriptions are not in arrears, and who have been invited to wear the Hunt buttons by the Master or Joint Masters.
35. Full uniform for Gentlemen Members shall consist of a black coat, black velvet collar with Vine Leaf in the corners with the black buttons of the Hunt and a cap with black velvet covering. Lady Members may wear either a black or dark blue coat with black or dark blue velvet covering on cap. Lady Members invited to wear Hunt Buttons may wear black velvet collar with Vine Leaf in the corners with the black buttons of the Hunt. Farming Members may wear the Vine Leaf with their black coat. The buttons of the Hunt shall bear the vine leaf and the letters VCH.
36. Evening dress shall consist of a scarlet coat with white silk facings and a black velvet collar with an embroidered vine leaf at the corners with the gilt buttons of the Hunt on the coat.

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