

East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling and Conservation: Constitution and Rules

1. **Name:** The Club shall be called the East of Scotland Association for Wildfowling and Conservation, hereinafter "the Club", and this title shall be strictly adhered to at all times for official purposes.
2. **Objects** The objects of the Club shall be:
 - To promote the interests of wildfowling and wetlands conservation in general and within the geographic area of south-east and east-central Scotland in particular.
 - To secure, by lease or by purchase, such land, shooting rights and other facilities as the members in General Meeting may consider appropriate.
 - To uphold high standards of sportsmanship and ethical conduct in wildfowling and in shooting sports in general.
 - To organise events related to sporting shooting and other country sports for the benefit of members.
 - To promote a better public understanding of wildfowling and wetlands conservation.
3. **Membership:** The membership of the Club shall not exceed 500 full members or such other number as the Club may determine at an Annual General Meeting. In addition to full members, the Club may admit junior members and supporter members.

The Committee may set admission criteria to be met by new applicants for membership. Such criteria shall not include any irrelevant factors such as race, creed or gender.

By virtue of membership, all full and junior members shall become and remain members of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. (subject to affiliation being granted by that organisation).

4. **Entrance Fees and Subscriptions:** Entrance Fees (if any) and Annual Subscriptions shall be set each year at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions are due each year on 30 April and must be received by 1 April.
5. **Resignation:** A member shall cease to be a member if he/she gives written notice of his/her resignation to the Secretary or if he/she fails to renew his/her subscription by the due date.
6. **Discipline:** Every member must comply with the rules of the Club and any infringement may result in the implementation of the Club's disciplinary procedures. The Committee, on proof to its satisfaction and in its absolute discretion, shall have the power to expel any member whomsoever, whose conduct, whether by actor by omission, it considers to be contrary to the best interests of the Club or detrimental to the good name of the sport of shooting. This is subject to the member's right of appeal to an Appeals Committee comprising the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
7. **Committee:** The Club shall be managed by a Committee until and unless determined otherwise by the Club in General Meeting. No resolution in General Meeting shall invalidate any actions based on prior decisions of the Committee that would otherwise have been valid. The Committee shall comprise the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer plus at least three other members. The officers and other Committee members shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting and shall serve until the completion of the next Annual General Meeting. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Committee. Furthermore, the committee may co-opt another club member into an acting committee position, including office, subject to approval at the following AGM, then either replaced or allowed to continue in office.

Committee meetings shall be held at such a frequency as it may decide to be necessary for the smooth conduct of the affairs of the Club. The quorum at Committee meetings shall be four.

Decisions of the Committee shall be by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

The members of the Committee shall be indemnified by the members of the Club against all liabilities properly incurred by them in the administration of the affairs of the Club. The Committee may appoint sub-committees for specific functions. Each sub-committee shall be chaired by a Committee member.

8. **Officers and Honorary Members:** The officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other functional officers as may be agreed at the Annual General Meeting. The officers shall be full members of the Club and shall be proposed and seconded by full members at the Annual General Meeting and elected by a show of hands. The Club may, at an Annual General Meeting, elect a President and Vice-Presidents who will become honorary members of the Club. The Club may also, in Annual General Meeting, elect honorary life members who have given exceptional service to the Club. Any President, Vice-President or honorary life member shall be entitled to attend any meeting or social event of the Club but will not be entitled to vote nor to participate in any shooting activity unless they have paid a full member subscription (to ensure that insurance is in place).
9. **Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held each year on the last Sunday of February. The date, place and time of the Annual General Meeting, together with an agenda of the business, must be notified to each member in writing or by e-mail at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The meeting shall transact the following business:

- Report of previous year's activities by Chairman
- Membership status report by Secretary
- Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Set subscription levels for coming year

- Any resolutions of which notice was given on the agenda
- Any other competent business by permission of the Chairman
- Any member wishing a resolution to be considered at an Annual General Meeting must obtain a seconder and provide the Secretary with written copy of the proposed resolution before 28 February in order that it may be included upon the agenda. At an Annual General Meeting voting shall be by a show of hands and, in the event of equality, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

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10. Special General Meetings: The Chairman or a majority of the Committee or not less than 20% of the total number of full members may request that a Special General Meeting be convened to discuss a specific item of business which is considered too urgent to wait until the next Annual General Meeting. On receiving such a request, the Secretary shall give each member in writing or by e-mail at least 14 days notice of the date, place and time of the meeting, together with full details of the business to be discussed. No other business shall be discussed at the meeting. At a Special General Meeting voting shall be by a show of hands and, in the event of equality, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

11. Other Meetings: The Committee may decide to hold other meetings of the members for social or information purposes. Each member should receive 14 days notice of such meetings in writing or by e-mail. If appropriate, such a meeting may be convened on the same date as an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

12. Finance and Property: All financial transactions of behalf of the Club will be conducted by the Treasurer. Funds will be maintained in a Bank Account(s) arranged to maximise the interest payable on credit balances. Cheques and other withdrawals, together with all other operations on the Club's bank account(s) or other investments shall require the authorised signature of the Treasurer plus one other officer designated by the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Treasurer shall maintain adequate financial records from which accurate income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets can be compiled. The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March and the audited accounts for that year shall be presented at the following Annual General Meeting.

In the event that the Club borrows money or purchases heritable property, legal advice shall be taken in regard to trusteeship to provide proper protection for the Club's assets and to indemnify the officers and members of the Club against claims arising from such transactions and ownership.

13. Amendments to Constitution and Rules: The Club's Constitution and Rules may only be amended at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, notice of the proposed amendment having been given in the notice convening the meeting, and must be carried by a majority of at least 60% of the full members present and voting at the meeting.

14. General Rules: No person shall be allowed to participate in any shooting activities organised by the Club unless he is a fully paid up member or is otherwise covered by insurance organised by the Club.

When engaged in Club activities, every member shall carry a current membership card and must produce that card, on request, to any Club officer or other authorised person.

Every member shall hold such licences, certificates or permissions as may be required for any Club activity in which they are engaged.

Every member must, at all times, obey the law in relation to the possession and use of guns and firearms and observe the laws relating to wildlife protection. Members must also familiarise themselves with, and abide by, the ethics of wildfowling and other shooting sports as embodied in BASC Codes of Practice. Any member breaking such laws or codes may be considered to have brought the Club and the sport into disrepute.

In the event of the Club obtaining leases or ownership of land over which members may shoot, specific rules will be designated in respect of each such area of land.

It is a duty of every member to bring any case of a breach of these rules to the attention of a Committee member.

15. Dissolution: Apart from enforced dissolution due to insolvency, the Club may only be dissolved by a resolution of a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. At such a meeting the resolution must be supported by at least 75% of the members present and voting.

In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining after the payment of creditors shall be disposed of and the proceeds donated to an organisation with similar aims and objectives, such organisation to be determined at the dissolution meeting. In the event of no agreement being reached, the net assets will be donated to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

As approved at ESAWC AGM April 2015