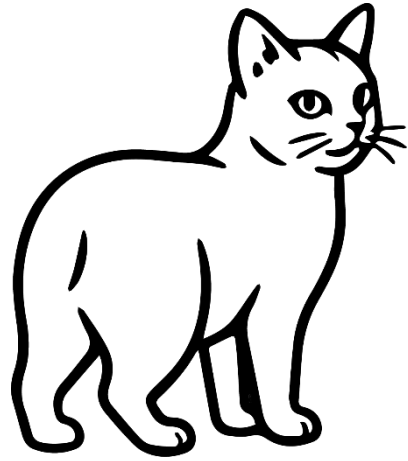




Manx Cat Club

CONSTITUTION (2026)

ADOPTED

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1) DEFINITIONS

“The Manx Cat Club” means the organisation governed by these Rules.

“the Club” means The Manx Cat Club.

“GCCF” means the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

“Committee” means the governing body of the Club consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and up to five (5) other elected Committee members.

“Committee Member” means any elected member of the Committee, including Officers.

“Officer” means a Committee Member holding the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.

“Chair” means the Officer elected to preside over the Committee and General Meetings of the Club.

“Vice Chair” means the Officer elected to act in the absence of the Chair.

“Secretary” means the Officer responsible for receiving notices, nominations, appeals and correspondence on behalf of the Club.

“Membership Secretary” means the person appointed to receive applications for membership.

“Treasurer” means the Officer responsible for the financial affairs of the Club.

“AGM” means the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

“SGM” means a Specialist General Meeting of the Club.

“General Meeting” means an AGM or SGM of the Club.

“Delegate” means the person elected by the Club to represent it at GCCF Council meetings.

“Substitute Delegate” means the person elected to attend GCCF Council meetings in the absence of the Delegate.

“BAC” means the Breed Advisory Committee.

“Financial Year” means the period from 1 January to 31 December.

“Fully Paid-Up Member” means a member whose annual subscription has been paid and whose membership has not lapsed.

“Lapsed Member” means a member whose subscription has not been paid by 1 May in the relevant calendar year and whose membership is therefore deemed to have lapsed.

“Subscription” means the annual fee payable by members, due on 1 January in each calendar year.

“Entrance Fee” means any joining fee determined by the Committee and approved at the AGM.

“Quorum” means the minimum number of members required to be present for a meeting to be valid, as specified in these Rules.

2) NAME AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The Club shall be called **“The Manx Cat Club”**. The objectives of the Club are to promote interest in the breeding, showing and ownership of Manx cats.
- b. Furthermore, the Club shall:
 1. Maintain a welfare fund to care for Manx cats in need and liaise with other welfare organisations;
 2. Encourage friendly relationships between breeders, owners and exhibitors;
 3. Offer support, advice and assistance to breeders, owners and exhibitors;
 4. Promote the care and protection of all cats;
 5. Represent the interests of all Club members in a fair and impartial manner; and
 6. Seek affiliation to the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) and abide by its rules and regulations.

3) MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership shall consist of ordinary, honorary, family, joint and junior members, as set out below:
 - **Joint memberships** must consist of two (2) adult members from the same household.
 - **Junior membership** shall apply to anyone under the age of 18. Junior members have no voting rights, but have the same benefits as ordinary members.
 - **Family membership** may consist of two (2) adults and up to two (2) children (under the age of 18);
 - **Honorary members** may be recommended by the Committee in recognition of their service to the Club. They will not have voting rights but shall have the same rights as ordinary members.
- b. Applications must be submitted to the Membership Secretary, or if that office is vacant, to the Secretary.
- c. All applications for membership must be approved by a majority of the Committee.
- d. The Club reserves the right to refuse membership to anyone without granting a reason for such refusal.
- e. Any member whose membership is terminated by the Committee shall have the right of appeal at a General Meeting. Notice of appeal must be given in writing to the Secretary within 28 days of notification of termination.

4) SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a. The annual subscription and entrance fee (where applicable) shall be determined by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting (hereafter known as the 'AGM') annually.
- b. Subscriptions are due on 1 January in any given calendar year.
- c. Members who have not renewed their membership by 1 March in any given calendar year will be sent a reminder by email/letter.
- d. If payment is not received by 1 May in any given calendar year, memberships shall be considered lapsed.
- e. A lapsed member may either pay the outstanding subscription for the current year or re-apply for membership at a later date in accordance with the membership application procedure.
- f. A Member whose Subscription has not been paid by 1 May shall be deemed a Lapsed Member and shall cease to be a Fully Paid-Up Member. A Lapsed Member shall not be entitled to vote at any General Meeting, stand for election, or propose or second any nomination or resolution until their Subscription has been paid in full.

5) OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

- a. The Club shall be managed by a Committee consisting of:
 - Chair;
 - Vice Chair;
 - Secretary;
 - Treasurer; and,
 - Up to five (5) other elected Committee members.
- b. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be five (5) Committee Members.
- c. Every Committee Member present at the meeting will have one (1) vote, excluding the Chair whom shall have no (0) votes ordinarily.
- d. The election of Committee members shall take place at the AGM. Officers shall be elected by and from the elected Committee members at the first Committee meeting following the AGM.
- e. No member shall be eligible for election as an Officer or Committee Member unless they have been a Fully Paid-Up Member of the Club for a continuous period of at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date of election.
- f. Notwithstanding clause 5(e), where the Committee considers that exceptional circumstances make it necessary or desirable to fill a vacancy in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or any other Committee position, the Committee may, by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote at a quorate Committee meeting, co-opt a member who does not satisfy the twelve (12) month qualification. Any such decision shall operate only as a dispensation for that appointment on that occasion and shall not create a precedent or amend these Rules generally.
- g. Committee Members shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

- h. Elections shall be arranged so that, as far as practicable, the terms of office are staggered, with approximately one-third (1/3) of Committee Members standing down each year and being eligible for re-election or replacement.
- i. All nominations to serve as a Committee Member shall be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the AGM.
- j. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by two (2) adult Fully Paid-Up Members.
- k. The Committee reserves the right to arbitrate in any dispute within the Club, and to deal with any issues not specifically outlined in the Club Rules.
- l. The AGM shall be held between 1 April and 1 June each calendar year.
- m. All matters for the AGM Agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the agreed date of the AGM.
- n. The agenda, together with any relevant papers, shall be sent to all members no less than 7 days prior to the meeting.

6) MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

- a. All subscriptions are to be paid into the same bank account in the name of the Club.
- b. The Committee shall authorise up to four signatories for the Club's bank account, and any two of those signatories shall be required to authorise withdrawals/payments.
- c. The Chair shall call meetings with the agreement of the Committee, and preside over all meetings of the Committee.
- d. The Club's financial year shall run 1 January to 31 December annually, in line with subscriptions being due.
- e. The Club accounts are to be examined annually by a suitable independent person appointed at the AGM.
- f. If the appointed examiner is unable to act, the Committee shall appoint a replacement until the next AGM.
- g. Once finalised, the Club accounts shall be made available to all members and circulated either on paper, email and/or published on the Club website before the AGM.

7) MEMBERSHIP OF THE GCCF

- a. The Club shall seek and maintain membership of the GCCF.
- b. Once the Club has obtained GCCF membership, it shall nominate and elect its Delegate and Substitute Delegate in the same manner as Committee members.
- c. The Delegate shall hold office for a period of one (1) year from the date of election, unless circumstances arise that prevent the Delegate from continuing in the role.
- d. If the Delegate is unable to attend a GCCF Council meeting, the Substitute Delegate shall attend in their place. The Delegate or Substitute Delegate shall report the outcome of the meeting to the Committee.
- e. Following the Club's affiliation to the GCCF, the Club and its members will be bound by the Rules and disciplinary powers of the GCCF.

- f. Following membership to the GCCF, Officers and Committee members will participate in BAC meetings.
- g. The number of BAC representatives from the Club will be as determined by the GCCF, in accordance with the number of Clubs participating in the BAC.

8) AMENDMENT OF RULES

- a. No new rule is to be added, nor any rules be amended or repealed, unless notice of the proposed change has been given on the agenda of an AGM or SGM.
- b. Proposed changes to rules at an AGM or SGM must have received the approval of at least two-thirds of voting members present.
- c. In the case of approved amendments, a new copy of the rules must be submitted to the GCCF, to ensure all records kept are accurate and in line with the Club where required.

9) MEETINGS

9.1) Committee Meetings

- a. The Committee is to meet no less than three (3) times in the financial year.
- b. Meetings may be held either in-person or virtually as to make them accessible to all members.
- c. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will be the Chair.
- d. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, a 'stand in' Chair shall be elected by the meeting.
- e. Notice of Committee meetings and the agenda shall be circulated at least 28 days in advance.
- f. Every Committee Member present at the meeting will have one (1) vote, excluding the Chair whom shall have no (0) votes ordinarily.
- g. In the event of equal voting, the Chair will have a singular (1) casting vote.
- h. Draft minutes of Committee Meetings shall be circulated to the Committee within 21 days of the meeting and approved at the following meeting.

9.2) General Meetings

- a. The AGM shall be held between 1 April and 1 June each calendar year.
- b. An announcement advertising this meeting must be placed with the GCCF, and on the Club website, at least 28 days in advance.
- c. Members will also be informed by e-mail.
- d. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will be the Chair.
- e. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, a 'stand in' Chair shall be elected by the meeting.
- f. The quorum for the AGM is to be seven (7) fully paid-up, adult Members, including Officers and Committee members consisting of no less than:
 - o Four (4) Officers; and,

- Three (3) fully paid-up, adult Members.
- g. All matters for the AGM Agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the agreed date of the AGM.
- h. The agenda, together with any relevant papers, shall be sent to all members no later than seven (7) days before the AGM.
- i. Every member present at a meeting will have one (1) vote, excluding the Chair, Honorary members and Junior members.
- j. In the event of equal voting the Chair will have the casting vote.
- k. All matters will be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast, except for amendments to these rules, where a two-thirds majority is required.
- l. If a quorum is not reached, the AGM shall be adjourned and reconvened within 28 days.
- m. If a quorum is not reached at the reconvened meeting, the Committee may submit the resolutions on the agenda to a postal and/or electronic ballot of all Fully Paid-Up Members, and the result of that ballot shall be final.

9.3) Specialist General Meetings

- a. An SGM may be called by the Committee or on receipt of a written request signed by at least ten (10) Fully Paid-Up adult Members, accompanied by a deposit of £100, stating precisely the business to be discussed.
- b. An SGM must be held no more than 3-months following the receipt of the request by the members.
- c. No less than 28 days written notice of an SGM is to be sent to each member of the Club by the Secretary, together with an agenda specifying the business to be discussed.
- d. Any business not included on the agenda will not be allowed.
- e. The quorum for an SGM is seven (7) Fully Paid-Up adult Members, including Officers and Committee Members.
- f. The costs associated with holding an SGM shall be decided by the outcome of the meeting:
 - 1. If the resolution is defeated, the reasonable administrative costs of the SGM shall be paid from the deposit and any balance returned to the requesting members.
 - 2. These costs may include, without limitation, paper, postage and hire of a meeting room.
 - 3. If the resolution is carried, the reasonable administrative costs of the SGM shall be paid by the Club and the deposit returned to the requesting members.

10) DISSOLUTION

- a. Any proposal to dissolve the Club is to be decided by a ballot of **all Members** which may be collated electronically.
- b. The Club may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast by Fully Paid-Up adult Members in a ballot.
- c. If the Club is dissolved, its liabilities are to be discharged, and any balance of funds donated to a charity promoting cat welfare chosen by the Committee.

- d. Should the Club's liabilities be greater than its assets when it is wound up, Committee members will be responsible for paying all the outstanding debts.