

# CANTERBURY FARMERS' CLUB

## RULES As adopted at the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006

### 1. Name

The Club is called "Canterbury Farmers' Club".

It incorporates or is successor to the Kent Agricultural Society founded in 1793 at the Fountain Inn, Canterbury, and to the East Kent Agricultural Association, Kent and Canterbury Cattle Show and East Kent Agricultural Protection Society. It is a tradition of the Club that the Chairman calls at each meeting the current price of a variety of agricultural produce and it is agreed by all that this should continue.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the Club are to stimulate meeting, understanding and discussion between those with an interest in agriculture or rural affairs and to take such action as may seem desirable to promote and support those interests.

### 3. Membership

#### 3.1 Qualification

Anyone who is involved in or retired from agriculture or rural affairs.

#### 3.2 Admission:

Members must be admitted by election at a Meeting of the Club after all the following requirements have been satisfied:-

- Every candidate for membership must be proposed by one Member and seconded by another.
- All applications for membership must be made in writing and must be signed by the candidate, the proposer and the seconder.
- All applications for membership shall be submitted for election only if approved by the Committee.

#### 3.3 Termination:

A Member shall cease to be a Member in any of the following circumstances:-

- Upon giving written notice of resignation to the Secretary.
- Upon a decision by the Committee to end his membership upon one or more of the following grounds but subject to the following conditions:-

*Grounds:-*

- His failure to pay any subscription or other sum due from him to the Club within twelve months after the date when it became due and payable, or
- In the opinion of the Committee his conduct renders him unfit for membership of the Club.

*Conditions:-* The Committee shall not determine to end the membership of a Member

- On the ground of failure to pay unless and until the Secretary shall have sent to that Member written notice requiring payment within 28 days and warning that in default his membership may be ended, or
- On the ground of conduct unless and until the Secretary shall have given to him seven days written notice to attend the Committee and must inform him of the complaints made against him. No Member shall have his membership ended unless he has first had the opportunity to appear before the Committee and answer complaints made against him.

### **3.3 Visitors**

Every member has the privilege of introducing one or more friends at Meetings of the Club upon payment of the attendance fee for those friends who may speak by the permission of the Chairman but not vote.

## **4. Subscription and Fees**

Each member shall pay without demand, the following subscriptions and fees at the rate fixed by the Committee from time to time:-

- An entrance fee within 28 days of election to membership. The Club will pay to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution one half of each entrance fee thus received by it.
- An annual subscription on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. A Member elected between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> November in any year shall pay his first annual subscription at the same rate within 28 days of his election, but if elected after 30<sup>th</sup> November his first annual subscription shall be that due for the year following his election.
- An attendance fee, for himself and his visitors, for attending any Meeting of the Club
- The Committee at its discretion may waive the whole or any part of a sum due by a Member to the Club.

## **5. Management**

### **5.1 Committee**

The Club is managed by a Committee comprising the following:-

- Nine members elected at Annual General Meeting.
- Ex officio the Club's Chairman, senior Vice Chairman, junior Vice Chairman, immediate past Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **5.2 Appointment of officers**

The officers of the Club and their appointment shall be as follows:-

- The officers comprise a Chairman, senior Vice Chairman, junior Vice Chairman, immediate past Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Each of the Chairmen, senior Vice Chairman, junior Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer must be nominated by a Member, seconded by another and elected by ballot by the Annual General Meeting to hold office during the following year or until earlier death, resignation or dismissal by a Meeting of the Club.
- Upon retirement of a Chairman, he shall become ex officio immediate past Chairman for the following year.
- The Committee may appoint a member to fill any casual vacancy amongst officers. Any Member so appointed must retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.

### **5.3 Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep the Minutes of the Committee and of the Club, deal with notices, correspondence and programme arrangements, and hold jointly with the Treasurer and be responsible for the Club Property. The remuneration package of the Secretary shall be fixed annually by the Committee.

### **5.3 Treasurer**

The Treasurer jointly with the Secretary shall collect subscriptions and other payments due from Members of the Club, hold and administer the Club funds and keep and prepare accounts for the Club. The remuneration package of the Treasurer shall be fixed annually by the Committee.

### **5.5 Election of the Committee**

- Members elected to the Committee shall hold office for three years or until earlier death, retirement, resignation or dismissal by a Meeting of the Club.
- At each Annual General Meeting three Members of the Committee must retire but should be eligible for re-election after 1 year
- To create a sufficient number of vacancies the Members of the Committee must retire in order of seniority of service, and in the case of equal seniority, the order of retirement must be determined by lots.
- Members must be elected to the Committee to fill vacancies by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election must be nominated by a Member and seconded by another.
- The Committee may appoint a Member to fill any casual vacancy amongst the Members elected to the Committee. Any Member so appointed must retire at the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.

### **6. Byelaws**

The Committee may make byelaws that are not inconsistent with these Rules to regulate the conduct and affairs of the Club. The byelaws must be circulated to all Members and are binding on them.

### **7. Alteration to Rules**

The Rules may be altered by the Club at a meeting of which 21 days written notice has been given to Members specifying the proposed alteration.

### **8. Meetings, Notices and Votes**

- The quorum for a Meeting of the Committee is three.
- The quorum for an Annual General Meeting and for a Meeting at which an alteration to the Rules or dismissal of an officer or a Committee Member is proposed is five.
- Votes at Meetings of the Committee and of the Club shall be determined by a simple majority and the Chairman shall have a casting vote if there is an equality of votes. In the absence of the Chairman a Meeting of the Committee or Club shall be chaired by the Senior Vice-Chairman, in default by the junior Vice-Chairman and in default by a Member elected by the Meeting in each case who shall hold the Chairman's casting vote.
- The Secretary shall give the following Notices of Meetings of the Club accompanied by an Agenda of the Meeting:-

- (i) At least three days notice of Meetings

- (ii) At least 21 days notice of Meetings held at any other time and of any Meeting at which there is to be considered an alteration of the Rules or dismissal of an Officers or Committee member.
- Meetings of the Club shall be held when and where convenient at the discretion of the Committee.
- The Club must hold its first Meeting in each year as its Annual General Meeting at which it must:-
  - (i) Receive and, if approved, adopt a statement of the Club's accounts to the end of the preceding year and the Secretary's Annual Report.
  - (ii) Appoint the Officers and other Members of the Committee.
  - (iii) Appoint an Auditor or Auditors.
  - (iv) Deal with any special matter which the Committee desires to bring before Members and receive any suggestions from Members for consideration by the Committee.
- The agenda of business to be considered at Meetings of the Club shall be at the discretion of the Committee subject to the inclusion of any proposal resolution requisitioned by Members in the following manner:-

Members may requisition a proposed resolution by giving to the Secretary at least one month before the date of the Meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed, notice of the proposed resolution signed by at least five members.