

Three Counties Sporting Club

Constitution

Issue 4: April 2013

1. Name.

The name of the Club is 'Three Counties Sporting Club', hereafter referred to as the 'Club'.

2. Objectives.

The objectives for which the Club is established are:

2.1 To encourage skill at arms and marksmanship among her Majesty's subjects. To provide instruction and practice in arms, so that it's members may be better fitted to serve their country in the armed forces, or any other organisation required by the Crown, either for the defence of the realm or other purposes.

2.2 To foster all forms of rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting.

2.3 To organise shooting competitions calculated to promote the Club's objectives.

2.4 To carry out coaching and training of its members or prospective members.

3. Membership

3.1 The number of members is unlimited and shall be open to all British nationals who can affirm that they have never been prohibited from possessing a Firearms Certificate.

3.2 Membership of the Club shall be open to all persons, subject to 3.1 above, upon being duly proposed by an existing member and receiving the votes of a majority of those present at a Committee Meeting.

3.3 Application for Membership shall be made to the Secretary in such manner as specified by the Committee. Such application shall when possible be considered at the next Committee Meeting.

3.4 Guests and visitors must abide by the Club's Constitution..

4. Grades of Membership.

4.1 Provisional Members.

Persons allowed to attend Club meetings, but not yet qualified to become a probationary member.

4.2 Probationary Members.

Persons allowed to attend Club meetings for instruction in safe and accurate use of Rifles, Pistols or Shotguns, but not yet qualified as Full Members.

4.3 Full Members.

4.3.1 Probationary Members who have attended Club Meetings for a minimum period of three months may apply to become Full Members, or

4.3.2 A Member of another Approved Club, or someone who holds a current Firearms Certificate (F.A.C.), may be admitted as a Full Member at the Club's discretion.

4.3.3 The Committee may confer Honorary Full Membership on anyone who has rendered special service to the Club. In addition to their honorary status, they will have the same status as Full Members.

4.4 The Committee shall have the power to refuse an application for membership without assigning a reason.

5 **Expulsion or Suspension.** Any member, who

5.1. Behaves in a manner that will injure or discredit the Club, or

5.2 Ignores any resolution of the Committee, or

5.3 Acts in a manner contrary to the spirit of the Constitution

May be expelled or suspended from the Club by resolution of a majority of the Committee. Such Member shall be allowed to appeal to a Meeting of the Committee, to be held not later than 21 days after the date upon which notice of the appeal is given to the Secretary. The decision of the Committee shall be final.

6 **Subscriptions.**

6.1 Every Member shall pay an annual Subscription of an amount determined by the committee. The exception is an Honorary Member, whose membership is free.

6.2 Subscriptions shall be due within six weeks of notification by the Secretary, of the amount ratified at the AGM. Anyone who has not paid by the end of the sixth week will be required to make a payment of £50 plus the subscription, otherwise they shall be deemed to have resigned. Members should be aware that it is a Home Office requirement that the Secretary inform the police of any lapsed memberships.

7 **Cash Received.**

Any Officer or Member receiving any money on behalf of the Club shall within a reasonable time hand it to the Treasurer.

8 **Officers**

8.1 The Officers of the Club shall be Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. There shall be in addition up to six Committee members. A quorum for a committee meeting shall be two Officers and two Committee Members.

8.2 The Committee shall have the power to appoint working parties.

8.3 The Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the Committee shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, together with two ex-officio auditors.

8.4 Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected for one year only, but shall be eligible for re-election.

8.5 Any Member of the Committee may be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of the Committee. Any Committee Member who is removed may require the Secretary to convene a Committee Meeting within 21 days in order that an appeal may be heard. The decision of the Committee will be final.

8.6 All nominations for Officers shall be made in writing by a Full Member, counter-signed by the nominee, and sent to the Honorary Secretary no later than the 31st day of March.

8.7 In the event of a vacancy of the Officers, the Committee shall fill it if necessary.

8.8 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep an account of all moneys received and shall pay all accounts approved by the Committee. An Audited Statement of Accounts will be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

8.9 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not later than 30th April. The Committee may convene Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) to consider important or pressing matters and upon receipt of a requisition in writing by a minimum of fifteen percent of Full Members, the Honorary Secretary shall convene such a meeting to be held within 21 days. Not less than 21 days notice will be given in writing, by the Honorary Secretary for all General Meetings.

8.10 Every Full Member of the Club shall have one vote, which will be by a show of hands. A requisition as described in 8.9 above shall be taken by ballot including by proxy. Only Full Members shall be entitled to vote at any meeting.

8.11 When a ballot is to be taken, two persons shall be appointed as tellers, who shall count the number of votes and report the result in writing to the Chairman of the Meeting, who shall declare the result of the ballot to the Meeting. The Chairman shall only have a casting vote.

9 **Notices of Motion.**

Every Full Member of the Club has the right to submit a motion in writing to the Secretary, which shall be placed on the agenda for the next General Meeting.

10 **Affiliation.**

The Club may be affiliated to any Associations decided by the Committee.

11 **Prohibition of Contracting.**

No Officer or Member of the Club has the power to bind the Club in contract, unless granted by the Committee, in writing. In the case of credit exceeding half of the Club's realisable assets it must be granted by the membership in General Meeting. In each case, the authority is to be entered in the Meeting's minutes, together with a list of the members who agreed to its grant. This provision is not intended to prevent the Treasurer from carrying out his normal duties in the running of the Club.

12 **Winding Up.**

The Club may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a simple majority at a General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which 21 days' notice has been properly given. Such Resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of the Clubs assets. Anything remaining, after all debts and liabilities have been met, shall be distributed among the members, up to a maximum value of the amount of the annual subscription for that year. Any remainder will go to charities or institutions determined by the members at the meeting.

13 **Safeguarding**

The Club recognises that there is an increasing need to take responsibility for the protection of young adults i.e. junior members under the age of 18 years old from bullying, intimidation or any other behaviour that is deemed detrimental to the individual's well-being.

The Club requires that any junior member, whether full or trainee, must be accompanied by an adult while on range who is a direct family member i.e. a parent/ relative or is known to both the Club, the 'junior' member and is trusted as a guardian.

Firearms instruction may involve guiding the trainee by positioning them into recognised postures or positions. Where the trainee is under the age of 18 then it is a requirement that a family member will be present and the trainee physically touched/ guided only after permission has been requested and granted.

As an additional support, Club assigned Instructors performing firearms training will wherever practicably possible, have undergone an advanced CRB check by a recognised agency and hold current validation. Such validation will be sponsored the Club.

14 **Amendment to the Constitution;**

This Constitution shall be subject to ratification at an Annual General Meeting.