



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The name of the Society, hereinafter called "The Society", is THE COTSWOLD SHEEP SOCIETY.
2. **OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY**
  - (A) To develop the breed of sheep known as the COTSWOLD breed, to maintain the purity and to encourage the improvement and expansion of the breed.
  - (B) To arrange for the compilation and maintenance of a flock book register, entries in which shall only be open to members of the Society.
  - (C) To sell, purchase, import and export COTSWOLD Sheep.
  - (D) To hold shows, exhibitions or competitions for furthering the objects of the Society and to offer prizes at such shows, exhibitions or competitions.
  - (E) To carry out and support research into the breeding and production of COTSWOLD Sheep.
  - (F) To compile and publish information and statistics relating to the breeding and management of COTSWOLD Sheep and to investigate the pedigree of any animal submitted to the Society.
  - (G) To undertake arbitration upon questions relating to or connected with COTSWOLD Sheep.
  - (H) To provide rooms and other facilities for the holding and conducting of meetings for the objects or work of the Society.
  - (I) To accept gifts and donations of all kinds, to undertake and execute trusts and to borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as may be thought fit.
  - (J) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.
  - (K) In the event of the Society winding up, any remaining funds to be given to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust or any other charity responsible for the fostering of rare farm livestock.
3. **MEMBERS**
  - (A) Any person taking an interest in COTSWOLD Sheep may become a member of the Society by applying to the Council in writing indicating his or her desire to become a Member, which shall be submitted to Council, and, if approved, entered on the Register of Members.
  - (B) Any member may at any time retire from membership on giving written notice to that effect to the Council or its Secretary.
  - (C) Every Member shall pay an annual subscription due on 1st April of an amount, as agreed at an AGM of Members; or such other annual fee as the Council may from time to time prescribe.
  - (D) Associate Membership shall pay an annual subscription, due on 1<sup>st</sup> April, of an amount as agreed at an AGM or such other annual fee as the Council may from time to time prescribe. An Associate Member would be entitled to all the benefits of full membership, excepting that they would not be allowed to vote at any AGM or EGM, would not be entitled to a complimentary copy of the annual Flock Book and would not be entitled to register their sheep.
  - (E) Junior membership shall be available to young people until 1st April following their 18th birthday. Junior members shall pay an annual subscription, due on 1<sup>st</sup> April of an amount as agreed at an AGM or such other annual fee as the Council may from time to time prescribe.

Junior members shall not be entitled to vote on Society matters. Full membership shall be available only on and after their 18th birthday.

- (F) Life Membership of the Society shall be available on payment of a single fee as agreed at an AGM.
  - (G) Honorary Life Membership may from time to time be awarded at the Annual General Meeting to suitable persons.
  - (H) Every member of the Society shall, provided he has paid his annual subscription for the current year, be entitled to a copy of each of the publications of the Society without further charge, and to register sheep with the Society.
  - (I) Every member shall observe all by-laws, regulations and orders of the Council for the government and work of the Society and for Shows held by or in connection therewith and pay all fines and forfeits which the Council shall in the pursuance of their powers impose.
4. It shall rest with the Council to admit or refuse to admit any person to membership of the Society and the Council shall not be under any obligations to give any reason for its refusal.
  5. If any member make default in payment of any sum due to the Society for subscription for more than six months the Council may suspend such member from all rights and privileges of membership.
  6.
    - (a) If a member shall have committed a breach of any regulation or bylaw of the society otherwise than in respect of the payment of a subscription or entrance fee; or
    - (b) If the council considers in its absolute discretion that any member has committed any act or acts that may bring the society into disrepute; then such a member may be expelled from the society by an extraordinary resolution passed by an extraordinary meeting of the society. Such a member shall be given no less than 21 clear days' notice of such a meeting at which their expulsion is to be considered and may attend and be heard at such a meeting in his/her defence either personally or by representative.
  7. The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting at such time and place as may be determined by the Council, not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting may be held electronically, if deemed necessary.
  8. All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.
  9. The Council may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, and Extraordinary General Meetings shall also be convened on request of six members in writing.
  10. Twenty-one days' notice at the least must be given in writing for every Annual General Meeting and for every meeting convened to pass a special resolution, and fourteen days' notice in writing at the least must be given for every other General Meeting.
  11. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of such notice by, any person entitled to receive thereof shall not invalidate any resolution passed, or proceeding had, at any meeting.
  12. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of three members is present.
  13. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the holding of a General Meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.
  14. At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by the Chairman or by at least three members present. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to a second or casting vote. Every full member shall have one vote.

## **OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

16. The principal officers of the Society shall be a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

### **17. CHAIRMEN AND PRESIDENTS**

- (A) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be recommended by Council and shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting and shall each hold office until the close of the Annual General Meeting following the election of a replacement. They shall be eligible for re-election up to a maximum of three consecutive years.
- (B) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected from amongst the membership of the Society.
- (C) The Council may authorize the Society to appoint a Life President, a President and a Vice-President if thought fit at any Annual General Meeting.
- (D) A President or Vice-President shall hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (E) Any casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman may be filled by the Council at any meeting of the Council.
- (F) Any casual vacancy arising in the office of President or Vice-President may be filled by the Society at any General Meeting.
- (G) Any person appointed to fill a casual vacancy in the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, President or Vice-President shall hold office only during the residue of the term for which the person to whose office he succeeds was elected.

### **18. COUNCIL**

- (A) The Council shall consist of the principal officers and elected members, and may also include co-opted members. The President and Vice-President may attend as non-voting members.
- (B) The elected members of Council shall be such number of persons (which shall be not less than THREE or more than SEVEN) as shall be elected by the Society at the Annual General Meeting from the individual members and nominated members of the Society. They will retire in rotation every three years and be eligible for re-election.
- (C) Nominations for Council must be submitted to the Secretary in writing by 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by members of the Society and must be signed by the nominee.
- (D) The co-opted members of the Council shall be such persons not exceeding three in number and shall be elected by a majority vote of the elected members of Council present. Co-opted members will have full voting rights, other than voting for co-options. Co-opted members will retire at the Annual General Meeting following their election and may be re-elected after the Annual General Meeting.
- (E) In the event of a contested election members of the council shall be elected by members of the Society through a ballot which can include balloting by post and the results shall be notified at the AGM. The ballot by post shall be conducted on the following terms: -
  - 1. The Secretary shall send ballot papers to all members of the Society at least 21 days prior to the AGM.
  - 2. The ballot papers shall contain the name of the nominees together with the names of the respective proposers and seconders.
  - 3. All nominees may submit an election address of no more than 100 words to be included with the ballot papers.
  - 4. Ballot papers to be received by the secretary in a sealed envelope marked "ballot" to arrive at least three working days prior to the AGM **OR** members may vote in person at the AGM.

5. The ballot paper must be signed by the voting member.
6. The envelopes will be opened and counted at the AGM
7. The Chairman & Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of the count.
8. There shall be one vote per full membership fee. Only fully paid up members may vote.
9. A register of all members who voted whether by post or in person, but not showing their voting preferences shall be kept by the Secretary for 12 months and will be available to any member upon request.
10. The voting at the AGM should be by a secret ballot.

### **POWERS OF THE COUNCIL**

19. The business of the Society shall be managed by the Council who may pay all such expenses of the Society as they think fit, nominate judges, arrange for inspection of registered sheep, ensure that sheep offered for sale at Official Society Sales are up to breed standards and may exercise all such powers of the Society and do on behalf of the Society all such acts as may be exercised or done by the Society.

In the event of any dispute it shall be decided by a meeting of not less than three members of Council whose decision shall be final.

### **SECRETARY AND TREASURER / REGISTRAR**

20. A Secretary and a Treasurer/Registrar shall be appointed by the Council for such time, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit, and any Secretary or Treasurer/Registrar so appointed may be removed by them. The Secretary may also hold the office of Treasurer/Registrar.

### **PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

21. The Council may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit for the transaction of business. Three shall be a quorum. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority.
22. The Council may delegate any of their powers (other than in relation to the making, variation and repeal of by-laws) to committees consisting of such members of the council as they think fit, and any committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any regulations imposed on it by Council.
23. The Council shall cause proper minutes to be made of all appointments of officers made by Council and of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society and of the Council and of the committees of the Council, and of all business transacted at such meetings. Any such minutes of any meeting signed by the Chairman of the succeeding meeting shall be sufficient evidence without any further proof of the facts therein stated.

### **ACCOUNTS**

The Council shall cause proper books of accounts to be kept with respect to: -

- a) All sums of money received and expended by the Society and the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place.
- b) All sales and purchases of goods by the Society.
- c) The assets and liabilities of the Society.

At the Annual General Meeting in every year the Council shall lay before the Society a proper income and expenditure account for the period since the last preceding account, made up at a date not more than four months before such meeting, together with a proper balance sheet made up at the same date.

## AUDIT

Once at least in every year the accounts of the Society shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure account and balance sheet ascertained by one or more suitable auditors who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

### 1. THE REGISTRATION PROGRAMME

The Registration Programme is administered by the Cotswold Sheep Society for all lambs born after 1st January, 1987, having been administered by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Limited for animals born and registered prior to that date. It is *only* open to paid up members of the Cotswold Sheep Society. *All animals must be registered in accordance with the requirements of the Registration Programme as detailed below.* Applications will *not* be accepted if full details are not provided on request.

The Cotswold Sheep Society will enter into the Flock Book, on entry into the UK, animals of the same breed that comply with both the breed standard and are eligible for entry under the breeds strict breed criteria as detailed in the Flock Book rules, without discrimination on account of their origin.

### 2. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

#### A. NEW FLOCKS

New owners should join the Cotswold Sheep Society and register their flock and chosen prefix. They will then be issued with a Flock Number.

#### B. PREFIX

All prefixes registered after 1st November, 1982, must be limited to ten or less letters. No suffixes will be accepted. A prefix may only be used on animals *born* in that flock.

#### C. REGISTRATION

Details of all the Cotswold lambs born in the flock should be submitted to the Registrar no later than 30th SEPTEMBER for inclusion in the next edition of the flock book. Entries received after that date will be included in the following flock book, but will incur increased fees. Details must include the sire and dam of each lamb, *both* identified by Flock Book Registration Number. Registration certificates and ear tags, and transfer certificates will be issued for all registered animals.

Applications for registration made by members under 18 years of age must be countersigned by a parent or guardian.

#### Current Fees:

Females (to 30/9 in year of birth)	£ 4.00
Females (1/10 year of birth to 30/9 following year)	£ 6.00
Males (to 30/9 in year of birth)	£ 11.00
Males (1/10 in year of birth to 30/9 following year)	£ 16.00

#### D. REGISTRATION AFTER YEAR OF BIRTH

Rams and ewes may be registered in the year of their birth or the year following (note increased fee). However, it is essential to record their birth with the Registrar in the year of their birth.

### 3. SALE OR TRANSFER

All sheep sold or transferred as Cotswolds must be *registered and ear tagged* by the owner prior to sale or transfer. Transfer slips must be completed and returned to the Registrar by the vendor. Transfers can also be completed and submitted online. This will not apply to animals sold at the Official Cotswold Sheep Society Show and Sale, when transfers will be processed automatically. A Transfer Fee of £5.00 per sheep is payable by the purchaser.

### 4. THE GRADING SCHEME

In order to help control in-breeding in the very small population, the Society purchased one registered Leicester Longwool ram in 1977 and used him on a small group of Cotswold ewes. He was used for two years.

## THE GRADES

- \* First cross progeny of the Leicester ram. 1/2 (50%) Cotswold blood. All born in 1978 or 1979. They may NOT be shown.
- \*\* Progeny of \* sheep whose other parent was or is a fully registered Cotswold. 3/4 (75%) Cotswold blood. They may NOT be shown.
- \*\*\* Progeny of \*\* sheep whose other parent was or is a fully registered Cotswold. 7/8 (87.75%) Cotswold blood. They MAY be shown.

As from January 1987, NO SONS OF GRADE REGISTER SHEEP may be registered.

The female progeny of \*\*\* ewes by a fully registered Cotswold ram will be eligible for full registration.

## 5. FLOCK RETURNS

Flock returns will be supplied to breeders annually for completion and will be required from breeders registering stock in that year.

## RECOMMENDED SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

1. Flock owners are urged to maintain an individual ewe recording system.
2. All Pedigree Cotswold sheep and lambs born to Pedigree Cotswold sheep must comply with current national tagging legislation. Application forms for registration will be sent to all owners who registered stock in the previous year. These should be completed and returned, with the appropriate fees, as early in the year as is practical, and in any event *not later than 30th September*.
3. Official Society ear tags, when issued, should be inserted on receipt or, at latest, prior to sale or transfer to another flock or owner. Tags are in two parts and normally show both the flock number and the animal's individual number.
4. Tattooing may be used instead of or as well as official ear tags. Tattooing should be carried out as soon as registered numbers are received. The Flock Number should be inserted in the *left* ear and the animal's individual number in the *right* ear.

## SUMMARY OF REGISTRATION FEES AND OTHER CHARGES

Fees:

Life Membership	£300.00
Annual Subscription (Adult)	£ 35.00
Annual Associate Subscription (Adult)	£ 20.00
Annual Subscription (Junior)	£ 5.00
Initial Flock Registration	£ 5.00
Registration fees:	
Females : to 30/9 in year of birth	£ 4.00
Females : 1/10 year of birth to 30/9 following year	£ 6.00
Males : to 30/9 in year of birth	£ 11.00
Males : 1/10 year of birth to 30/9 following year	£ 16.00
Animal Transfer	£ 5.00
Flock Book	1 free copy per member. Otherwise £3.00 (exclude. p&p)