

# MANX LOAGHTAN SHEEP BREEDERS' GROUP

## CONSTITUTION (revised 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022)



### 1. Scope

The Constitution sets out parameters of the work and procedures of the Manx Loaghtan Sheep Breeders' Group. The original Constitution was put in place in 1988 and has been the subject of amendment at AGMs in 1990, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018 and 2022. The Constitution can only be amended at an AGM.

### 2. Name

The Group is called the Manx Loaghtan Sheep Breeders' Group "the Group".

### 3. Membership

- a. Membership of the Group is open to all those who have an interest in Manx Loaghtan sheep and a desire to promote the breed, subject to payment of an annual subscription and in accordance with all prevailing Equal Opportunities legislation. There are two categories of membership: single, or family (in one household)"
- b. The membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June and membership subscriptions fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> July each year in line with the Group's financial year. Members who join mid-year will be charged at the full annual rate if joining before 31<sup>st</sup> March. For new members joining after 1<sup>st</sup> April, the remainder of the membership year will be deemed non-chargeable until the subscription falls due on 1<sup>st</sup> July for membership to continue for the following whole year.

### 4. Aims and Objectives

The Group will work to support Manx Loaghtan sheep breeders and those who are interested in Manx Loaghtan sheep and will promote Manx Loaghtan sheep generally, in close association with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust "RBST" and other Manx Loaghtan Sheep Breed Societies by:

- a. Demonstrating the full potential and versatility of Manx Loaghtan sheep including as a commercially viable sheep, as a producer of meat and wool and as a conservation grazer;
- b. Encouraging compliance with appropriate and satisfactory procedures for the registration of pedigree Manx Loaghtan stock in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and abroad;
- c. Defining Manx Loaghtan breed characteristics encouraging genetic diversity within those characteristics;
- d. Insofar as the Group is reasonably able to do, the Group will use its best endeavours to ensure the defined breed characteristics are applied in the context of the birth notification and registration of pedigree stock and at shows and in all breed promotion.

### 5. The Group Committee

- a. The Committee will manage the affairs of the Group.
- b. The Committee will comprise the following four Officers:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer

and up to eight additional ordinary Committee members. The Committee will also have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members, as appropriate.

- c. The majority of Committee members will be breeders of Manx Loaghtan sheep.
- d. Committee Officers will serve for a maximum term of four years, followed by a break of one or more years, when the former officer can serve as a committee member, if so elected.
- e. The Committee is empowered to appoint sub-committees as necessary and appropriate.
- f. Any Committee member may retire at any time by giving, as far as is reasonably possible, at least three months' notice to the Chairman. In the event that mid-term retirement takes place, the duties of any retiring Officer or the designated work of any retiring ordinary Committee member will be absorbed by the remaining Committee

members. In the case of the mid-term retirement of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman will assume overall responsibility for the management of the Group until the next AGM

- g. Any Committee Member who fails to attend three consecutive Committee meetings will be deemed to have resigned from the Committee and will not be eligible for re-election at the next AGM
- h. The membership will elect officers and committee members for a three-year term of service on the committee, at the AGM, approximately one third of the committee retiring each year. Retiring committee members can offer themselves for re-election.
- i. An Officer, whose elected term of three years exceeds their fourth year in that particular Officer post, will revert to being ordinary Committee Member for the rest of their elected term, unless elected to an officer post after a year's service as a Committee Member.
- j. Nominations for committee membership are to be received by the Breed Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> July each year. Nomination by a fellow member or self-nomination are equally acceptable.
- k. Elections for Committee membership will be determined by confidential and secure postal vote amongst all eligible paid-up members. The RBST will be asked to provide a Returning Officer for scrutiny and the outcome of the postal vote will be announced at the AGM. Individual members will be able to cast one vote per vacancy, Family members will be able to cast two votes per vacancy.

## **6. Committee Duties**

- a. The Committee will meet at least four times in any twelve month period, with a quorum of at least 4 voting members being present, to make any decisions. The format of meetings will be decided by the Committee Members. The format chosen should be one that promotes active participation by all Committee Members, whilst being time and resource efficient.
- b. The duties of the Officers and the ordinary Committee members are to work in a manner which is consistent with the aims and objectives of the Group and procedurally include the following:
  - i. Encouraging increased membership of the Group and welcoming new members;
  - ii. Maintaining a database of all members of the Group for the purposes only of the Group and its aims and objectives and to be held securely and operated in accordance with prevailing Data Protection legislation;
  - iii. Recording Minutes of all Committee Meetings, all Annual General Meetings and all Extra-Ordinary General Meetings;
  - iv. Keeping the Group's members included and informed;
  - v. Arranging the Group's Annual Show & Sale or other suitable and appropriate event for all members;
  - vi. Producing and circulating the Group's newsletter to all members as appropriate;
  - vii. This list is not exhaustive.

## **7. Management**

- a. The Group will hold an Annual General Meeting each Autumn at a time and place agreed by the Committee. All paid up members of the Group will be eligible to attend the AGM and will be eligible to vote.
- b. At the AGM the Committee will report on its work in the preceding year and its plans for the following year. All those present at the AGM will have the opportunity to discuss issues including but not limited to the Manx Loaghtan breed, the activities and management of the Group and the Group's relationship with RBST and other relevant bodies.
- c. All nominations for Committee membership and any items to be included on the AGM Agenda will be received by the Secretary no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July. Agenda and any supplementary papers setting out details of those items for discussion and decision at the AGM together with details of candidates for election to Committee membership and relevant voting papers will be circulated to all eligible paid up members to be received by them by 15<sup>th</sup> August. Any documents (other than returned voting papers) requiring return by members, to be received by the Group's Secretary no later than midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Any voting papers requiring return to be received by the Committee's appropriately appointed confidential and secure third party recipient no later than midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

- d. Any other business for the AGM which has not been scheduled for discussion in advance will be dealt with at the discretion of the Chairman.

#### **8. Finance**

- a. All funds obtained by, amongst other things, subscription, merchandise sales and the Group's activities will be used solely for the purposes of promoting the Manx Loaghtan breed.
- b. In the event that the Group is wound up, any residual sums will be transferred to RBST to be used, as far as is reasonably possible, for the same purpose.
- c. The cost of all levels of membership will be confirmed at the AGM. Any increase to the cost of any level of membership subscription will be determined at the AGM.
- d. The Group's financial year will run from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Group will appoint an independent Examiner who will inspect the Group's accounts annually to 30<sup>th</sup> June and the Treasurer will present a report on the Group's financial affairs for the preceding financial year at the Group's AGM.

#### **9. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting**

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting may be arranged at any time, upon the request of at least 12 eligible paid up members of the Group and all eligible paid up members will receive not less than 21 days' notice of the date and venue of such a meeting.

**MLSBG AGM 9<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2022**