

ESSEX SPANIEL GET-TOGETHER
Constitution and Rules

CONSTITUTION

1. **NAME OF THE CLUB** The name of the club shall be the 'ESSEX SPANIEL GET-TOGETHER.
2. **MANAGEMENT** The affairs of the club shall be conducted by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Social Secretary and the Committee of Members not exceeding seven in number, in addition to the above named Officers, who shall be members ex-officio of the Committee. Hon. Members shall also be entitled to be Officers or ex-officio members of the Committee. Five members shall form a quorum. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held conjointly by one person. Officers and committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. **PURPOSE OF THE CLUB** The object of the club shall be to help members train their spaniels to be better shooting companions.

RULES

1. **MEMBERS** The club shall consist of members whose name and addresses shall be kept by the Hon. Secretary in a book, which shall be open to the inspection of members at reasonable times. Each candidate for admission must apply to the Hon. Secretary, either in writing or in person, giving his name, address and telephone number. Membership may be closed after the second or third meeting if the Committee thanks fit. The Committee reserve the right to refuse admission to the club without notice or explanation.
2. **SUBSCRIPTION** Any changes in the annual subscription must be proposed by the committee and approved by vote at the Annual General Meeting and are payable to the 30th April. Any members failing to pay his subscription by that date shall ipso cease to be a member of the club, but may be reinstated after paying all outstanding sums owed to the club upon a resolution of the committee. No member whose subscriptions are in arrears shall be entitled to participate in any club competitions.
3. **GENERAL MEETING** The Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held at a date and venue fixed by the committee at least twenty one days written notice thereof shall be given and such notice shall include an Agenda. The Hon. Secretary shall be bound to call an Extraordinary General Meeting, should he be required to do so, in writing whenever it thinks it is desirable. Any resolution passed, either at the Annual General Meeting or at the Extraordinary General Meeting can only be altered or rescinded at a subsequent General Meeting with due notice having been given to members. At every Annual General Meeting the Minutes of the previous meeting shall be read and approved. One quarter of the membership shall be present to form a quorum. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at every meeting and shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie taking place. The ruling on any point of the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall be binding on the meeting.
4. **ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND RETIRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Nominations and seconds for officers and committee members shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. No nominations shall be accepted from the floor. Officers seeking re-election shall automatically be reinstated if unopposed. Committee members stand for three years, but are eligible for immediate re-election following that period. Voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting by secret ballot, and will be counted by two tellers selected from the Committee.

5. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS** Meetings of the Committee shall be held not less than once a year.
6. The accidental omission to give notice to any members of the club or of the Committee and not affect the validity of the proceedings of such meetings.
7. **ACCOUNTS** A banking account shall be opened in the name of the club into which all revenue of the club shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signatures of two or more officers, one of whom shall be Treasurer. The accounts will be duly audited by two persons. One of whom shall be a qualified auditor and shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. Donations may be made to charitable organisations at the discretion of the Committee.
8. **EXPENSES** Any expenses other than normal club running cost must be submitted and approved by the Committee. The Hon. Secretary shall be able to claim an annual Honorarium of £300. This is reviewable annually at the Annual General Meeting.
9. **RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS** Any member may withdraw from the club at any time on giving notice to the Hon. Secretary, provided always that such member shall be liable for his subscription for the current year in which he gives his notice and shall have no further claim on the property or funds belonging to the club.
10. **TRAINING** Location, dates, times and instructors of classes shall be decided by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to alter time and/or venue if necessary. One dog per person only shall be allowed at each training class. All dogs shall be kept on leads except when under supervision. Members and their guests shall respect the generous hospitality of the club's hosts by not dropping litter, and keeping children and all dogs under control. No bitches in season, nor any dog that has knowingly been in contact with contagious or infectious conditions within the previous three weeks, shall be allowed on the ground.
11. **WORKING TESTS** The club shall hold annually a Novice Test and a Senior Test for members only. The Novice Test shall be open to dogs of instructors and members' dogs who have attended three training classes in that same year. A novice dog is one that has not won an award in a field trial or 1st in a working test. Novice dogs can only be entered and handled by the member that has handled them during training classes in the year. The Senior Test shall be open to dogs of instructors and members who have attended three training classes. Any member is able to enter a maximum of two dogs per Test.
12. **CUPS** Senior Test – Cup for 1st place, best handler, most stylish dog, and best hunting dog. Novice Test – Cup for 1st place, best hunting dog, best under 18 months dog, best first time novice handler
13. **INTER-CLUB COMPETITIONS** The first five dogs in the Novice Test and the first five dogs in the Senior Test shall represent the club for inter-club competitions. If, for any reason, the first five dogs are unable to represent the club there will be a count-back to tenth position. If the team is still incomplete, the Committee shall choose the replacement(s). This can be via choice or by invitation to a Selection Test. The dog must have been eligible to take part in the original Test.
14. In the event of the club ceasing to exist for any reason, the property and assets of the club, including all Challenge Cups, shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Committee.
15. In the foregoing rules the word dog includes both sexes. Also, the words he and his may be read as she and her, where appropriate.