

Bray Harriers Hunt Club

Rules

Adopted in General Meeting 21 June 2022

Bray Hunt Rules (as amended 21 June 2022)

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1. Unless the context otherwise requires it, in these Rules

Cap	means the fee due from Members to enable them to Hunt on a particular day, such fee to be decided at the discretion of the Committee on a per membership category basis;
Chairperson	means the chair of the Committee selected in accordance with these Rules;
Club	means the Bray Harriers Hunt Club;
Committee	means governing body of the Club which operates in accordance with clause 4;
Day Member	means a day member of the Club as described at clause 3.7
General Meetings	means either or both the annual general meeting organised in accordance with clause 8 or any special meeting organised in accordance with clause 9 as the context so requires;
Honorary Member	means an honorary member of the Club described at clause 3.5;
Land Owners	means a land owner member of the Club described at clause 3.4;
Member	means any individual who is a member of the Club pursuant to these rules regardless of membership category;
Membership	means all the Members;
Membership Fee	has the meaning ascribed to it in clause 3.2.1;
Proposed Candidate for Membership	means an individual who wishes to become a member of the Club and has completed the relevant membership form pursuant to clause 3.2.4
Officer	means the Chairperson, the Secretary and/or the Treasurer;
Ordinary Member	means an ordinary member of the club described at clause 3.3;
Rules	means these rules which govern the conduct of the Club;
Secretary	means the honorary secretary of the Club selected in accordance with these Rules;
Social Member	means a social member of the Club as described at clause 3.6;
Treasurer	means the honorary treasurer of the Club selected in accordance with these Rules; and
Whips Member	means a whips member of the club as described at clause 3.8.

1.2. Any requirement in these Rules for something to be provided in writing may be complied with by providing such in electronic form.

1.3. All questions as to the interpretation of these rules will be referred to the Committee whose decision will be final.

2. NAME AND OBJECTS

- 2.1. The name of the Club will be 'The Bray Harriers Hunt Club'.
- 2.2. The Club will be affiliated to the Irish Masters of Harriers Association.
- 2.3. The objects of the club are to hunt the counties of Wicklow and Dublin and to organise such activities as the committee will decide.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. The Committee will determine the categories of membership from time to time. Effective from the adoption of these rules there will be the following categories of membership:

- 3.1.1. Ordinary Members;
- 3.1.2. Land Owners;
- 3.1.3. Honorary Members;
- 3.1.4. Social Members;
- 3.1.5. Day Members; and
- 3.1.6. Whips Members.

3.2. Membership Fees and New Members

- 3.2.1. The Committee will from time to time set the annual membership fee due from each member for each category of membership as the committee will determine at it sees fit (the "**Membership Fee**") and the applicable Cap connected to that category of membership.

- 3.2.2. The Committee is free to choose and amend the due date for such Membership Fees as it sees fit on a per season basis. Subject to clause 3.4.2 each year the Committee may set a day after which if any Member fails to pay his or her subscription for the following hunting season before that day in the year he/she will cease to be a Member of the Club. Unless another day is chosen pursuant to this clause that day will be 1st day of December.

- 3.2.3. Any Member other than a Whips Member unless otherwise specified herein may renew their Membership by presenting a completed membership form and submitting it to the Secretary. Such membership form will be prescribed by the Committee. Any Membership Fee will be due by the date selected in accordance with clause 3.2.2. For the avoidance of doubt any Member renewing their membership will otherwise continue to be a full member of the Club where they have not paid their Membership Fee until the date selected in accordance with clause 3.2.2 has passed.

- 3.2.4. Subject to clause 3.7, clause 3.8 and clause 5 new candidates for membership of the Club will complete a membership form prescribed by Committee (a "**Proposed Candidate for Membership**"). Where an individual presents as:

- 3.2.4.1. a Proposed Candidate for Membership; and
- 3.2.4.2. has the applicable Membership Fee with them or has already paid the applicable Membership Fee,
any Officer will be entitled to accept that Proposed Candidate for Ordinary Membership with immediate effect, this person will become a full member of the relevant membership category they applied for.

- 3.2.5. Where an individual becomes a member pursuant to clause 3.2.4 any member of the committee may object to the membership by serving written notice on the Chairperson within 30 days of that individual becoming a Member. This person will remain a Member until a meeting of the Committee can be called and a vote is taken on the matter. Such matter to be settled by a simple

majority of those present at the Committee meeting at which the matter is discussed and voted on.

3.2.6. The Committee is entitled to waive the Membership Fee for any individual as it sees fit.

3.3. Ordinary Members

3.3.1. Ordinary members will be entitled to vote, attend General Meetings and receive all correspondence.

3.3.2. The Committee will be entitled to charge a lower rate for members under a certain age or attending full time study (junior members) however such junior members will be considered full ordinary members despite such lower rate being paid.

3.4. Land Owners

3.4.1. The Committee will permit a category of membership entitled Land Owners for individuals who may their land available to the Club and wish to join the Club. Applications for membership under this category will only be accepted where the Club has hunted or the land owner has otherwise made land available to the Club in the previous 5 years.

3.4.2. Notwithstanding clause 3.2.2, individuals who were previously accepted as Land Owners but over whose land the Club has not hunted in the previous 5 years will automatically revert to being ordinary members of the Club. A failure to pay the higher membership fee applicable to ordinary members will not prevent an individual who paid the Land Owner Membership Fee from being considered an ordinary member. Nothing in this clause 3.4 will prevent the Committee from removing an individual affected by this clause 3.4.2 as a Member of the Club on the basis they have not paid the higher Membership Fee pursuant to clause 11 as a result of the operation of this clause 3.4.2.

3.4.3. Land Owners will be entitled to vote, attend General Meetings and receive all correspondence.

3.4.4. Land owners will at all times be considered full members of the Club during the time period for which they are a land owner member.

3.5. Honorary Members

3.5.1. In recognition of outstanding and long-standing service to the Club, the Committee is authorised on receipt of a recommendation duly proposed and seconded by a Member to appoint at its discretion a Member to be an Honorary Life Member who will be a full Member subject to the approval of the Members.

3.6. Social Members

3.6.1. The Committee will permit a category entitled Social Membership for members who have retired from the hunting field or for those who wish to maintain a connection with the Club.

3.6.2. Subject to clause 3.6.3 social members will otherwise be considered full members of the Club but will not entitle them to hunt in the field.

3.6.3. Social members will not be entitled to vote but are entitled to attend General Meetings and to receive all correspondence.

3.7. Day Members

3.7.1. The Committee will permit a membership category entitled Day Membership to allow individuals to take part in events run by the Club.

3.7.2. The fee will be determined by the Committee from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt the Committee may provide for different fees for day members depending on the activity being undertaken.

- 3.7.3. Day members will not be entitled to vote, attend General Meetings or receive any correspondence from the Club.
- 3.7.4. The Committee may draft a separate set of bye-laws governing the requirements that apply to day members, including how they may be proposed, the duration of the membership and any special rules that might apply to them.
- 3.7.5. Subject to clause 3.7.3, Day Members will otherwise be considered full members of the Club during the time period for which they are a day member.
- 3.7.6. For the avoidance of doubt the Committee will be entitled to empower any individual with the power to accept day members in any manner it sees fit pursuant to bye-laws drafted in accordance with clause 3.7.4.

3.8. Whips Member

- 3.8.1. The Committee will permit a membership category entitled Whips Membership which will be for any individual who is working under the direction of the huntsmen to look after the hounds while on the field.
- 3.8.2. Where an individual acts as a whip for the huntsmen under the huntsman's direction and they are not already a member of the Club they will be considered a Whips Member for the duration of the season in which they acted as a whip regardless of frequency. Such membership will be automatic and not require the payment of any Membership Fee or the submission of any form unless specifically prescribed by the Committee.
- 3.8.3. Subject to clause 3.8.4 a Whips Member will otherwise be considered a full member of the Club.
- 3.8.4. A Whips Member will not be entitled to vote but is entitled to attend General Meetings and receive all correspondence.
- 3.8.5. The huntsman will automatically be a Whips member of the club for the duration the time they act as huntsman of the Club unless the Committee decide otherwise.

4. THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1. The governing body of the Club is the Committee.
- 4.2. The Committee will consist of the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Master/Masters of the Hunt and the other elected Members.
- 4.3. The number of elected members to committee will not exceed 10 and will be elected for a term of 3 years, all of whom will be eligible for re-election.
- 4.4. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will hold office for a period of three years and will be eligible for re-election.
- 4.5. Subject to clause 4.6 election will be held by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Each Committee candidate must be proposed and seconded by a Member of the Club and such proposals (which have been seconded) must be in writing to the Secretary 24 hours before the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.6. In the event of sufficient candidates for the Committee not being nominated prior to the Annual General Meeting, nominations may be received from Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.7. In the event of two or more names receiving an equal number of votes, the candidate will be elected by lot. The Committee will have power to co-opt not more than two additional individuals to the Committee, such individuals to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 4.8. Other than for elections to Committee and for Officers, the Chairman will have an ordinary vote and a casting vote at all Committee and General Meetings.
- 4.9. The Committee may appoint an Honorary Legal Advisor, an Honorary Veterinary Surgeon and an Honorary Medical Advisor, all of who may be invited to attend

Committee Meetings but will not be entitled to vote at Committee Meetings, unless they are already Members of the Committee in their personal capacities.

- 4.10. All meetings of the Committee will be called by the Secretary, on the instructions of the Chairman. Where such meeting is to deal with an objection raised pursuant to clause 3.2.5 such meeting must be called by the Chairperson within 30 days of receiving the notice of objection.
- 4.11. The Committee may meet at such times as may be deemed necessary; one Officer and two elected members form a quorum. The Committee may from time to time regulate and transact all matters essential to the well-being of the Club and, subject to Rule 6, will have absolute control over the retention, dismissal and management of the Club's staff, sub-contractors and appointees. The conduct of the above foregoing will not, in any case, be a matter of personal reprimand by any member and all complaints against them must be made to the Committee.
- 4.12. Any member of the Committee (including for the avoidance of doubt any Officer) may resign by sending a written letter of resignation to the Chairperson or where the Chairperson is resigning another Officer of the Club. The Chairperson or other officer will not have the discretion to refuse to accept such letter.
- 4.13. Where an Officer or elected committee member resigns the Committee will have the right to co-opt another individual as a replacement on a temporary basis by simple majority. Such temporary appointment to last until the next General Meeting of the Club.
- 4.14. The Committee will have the power to create sub-committees as the Committee sees fit. The Chair of those sub-committees may be able to appoint further members to the Sub-Committee as that Chair sees fit. Such members of the Sub-Committee need not be Members of the Club.
- 4.15. The Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary of the Club will be appointed by the Members.
- 4.16. The Committee will have power to make, alter or revoke such bye-laws as it considers necessary for the good governance and well-being of the Club.
- 4.17. Notwithstanding clause 3.4.2 a person whose membership has lapsed under clause 3.2.2 will forfeit all positions which he/she holds on the Committee of the Club.

5. MASTER OR MASTERS

- 5.1. At the Annual General Meeting, the Members will elect a Master or Masters of the Club. In the event of the Master or Masters being temporarily unable to act s/he/they may appoint a deputy, to be approved of by the Committee. In the event of the person/s so elected not being members of the Committee, s/he/they will, ipso facto, become a Member(s) thereof during the time s/he/they remain in office. A prospective candidate for the position of Master or Joint Master will be proposed and seconded by Members of the Club and the proposal must be in writing to the Secretary of the Club fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2. The outgoing Committee may nominate and recommend to the A.G.M. the name or names of a Master or Masters or Joint Master or Joint Masters. The Committee may consider the following criteria when forming such nomination and recommendation to the A.G.M.
 - 5.2.1. Candidates access to hunting land and organisation of hunts.
 - 5.2.2. Candidates contribution to the organisation of Hunter Trials, Hunt Ball, Point to Point, Fund Raising by being part of Working Committees.
 - 5.2.3. Financial contribution

- 5.3. In the event of the A.G.M. rejecting the recommendation and nomination of the outgoing Committee the A.G.M. may elect the Master or Masters or Joint Master or Joint Masters.
- 5.4. In the event of such an election by the A.G.M. the members will elect a Master or Masters or Joint Master or Joint Masters of the Club. In the event of the person or persons so elected not being members of the Committee or Committees such Master or joint Master will ipso factor become a member or members of the Committee or Committees thereof during the time he/she/they remain in office. A prospective candidate for the position of Master or Joint Master will be proposed and seconded by fully paid up members of the Club and the proposal must be in writing to the Secretary twenty one days prior to the A.G.M.
- 5.5. A Master or Masters or Joint Master or Joint Master will hold office for three years from the date of the A.G.M., at which he/she/they is/are elected and will be eligible for re-election at the end of such period. In the event of the tenure of the three masters expiring at the same time, the committee at its discretion may extend the period of office of up to two masters by one year.
- 5.6. In the event of the death or resignation of a Master or Masters or Joint Master OR Masters between the A.G.M. the Committee will have authority and be entitled to appoint a Master or Masters or Joint Master or Joint Masters. Such Master or Joint Masters so elected by the Committee will be eligible for re-election at the next A.G.M.
- 5.7. A Field Master/Masters and one, but not more than two, Honorary Whips may be appointed by the Committee and may be relieved of their duties by the Committee.
- 5.8. The Master or Masters so elected will ipso facto become an Ordinary Member of the Club during the time they remain in office. No Membership Fee will be due from the Master during the time they remain in office.
- 6. THE HOUNDS AND FIELD**
 - 6.1. The control and management of the hounds, horses and staff of the Hunt in the field and those hunting will be in the hands of the Master or Masters exclusively.
 - 6.2. S/He/They will enforce the Rules with impartial justice and ensure that breaches will not be allowed to pass without taking appropriate action.
- 7. PROPERTY VESTED IN TRUSTEES**
 - 7.1. All property of the Club will be and is hereby vested in two Trustees nominated by the Committee and held by them in their joint names, upon trust for the general body of the Members for the time being, subject to the disposition of any General or Special Meeting of the Members
 - 7.2. Trustees will keep an up-to-date inventory of all property of the Club.
- 8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
 - 8.1. The Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) of the Club will be held annually where any business relating to the well-being of the Club may be brought forward and the Treasurer's Report will be presented. Fourteen days' notice in writing will be given to all Members together with a copy of the Annual Accounts and of all proposals and nomination forms for election to the Committee. If any in given year the AGM is not held by the 31st of May of that year, any member may write to the Chair and request a meeting being held. The Chair must hold a meeting within 30 days of receipt of that letter.
 - 8.2. The Chairperson will act as chair of this meeting.
 - 8.3. The majority of Members present entitled to vote can require the meeting to consider any issue they see fit by requiring the Chairperson to take a vote opening a discussion on the matter.
- 9. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 9.1. A Special General Meeting of the Club may be called on a requisition to the Secretary, signed by the lower of either at least ten members or 20% of the Members of the Club. Upon receipt of such requisition, the Secretary will summon such Meeting, giving at least fourteen days notice thereof and specifying the object or objects for which the Meeting is called.
- 9.2. The Chairperson will act as chair of this meeting
- 9.3. The majority of Members present entitled to vote can require the meeting to consider any issue they see fit by requiring the Chairperson to take a vote opening a discussion on the matter

10. EXPULSION

- 10.1. Any Member or Officer wilfully infringing or violating the rules of the Club or whose conduct in or to the Club is considered derogatory or injurious to the interests of the Club may be subject to expulsion by a special meeting of the Committee so convened at which it will be the duty of the Committee to act either at their own discretion or on a requisition signed by at least ten Members. The opinion of the Meeting will be taken by a ballot when, if a majority of the committee voting decide that such Member has merited expulsion, he/she will thereupon cease to be a Member of the Club. Notice of such Meeting to be given to the Member concerned who will be entitled to attend such Meeting and be heard thereat.

11. DAMAGE

- 11.1. Those Members who commit damage to crops, or by their actions cause material damage to property may at the discretion of the Committee be required to pay for any damage caused thereby for which the Club is Liable. Members are requested to furnish to the Committee the name of any person or persons so causing damage. Wire cutters may only be carried by Members authorised by a Master or Field Master.

12. OFFICERS

- 12.1. Should the Committee elect an Secretary or an Treasurer who is not a full Member either or both will, ipso facto, have the rights of a full Member and, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Rules, will be a Member/s of the Committee.

13. UNIFORM

- 13.1. The Masters and staff of the Club will, at all times on the hunting field, wear the approved uniform of the Hunt. Other Members and Followers may wear a black hunting coat with appropriate headgear. The wearing of such headgear is obligatory and no person will be allowed to hunt without wearing such headgear.

14. REVISION OF THE RULES

- 14.1. The foregoing rules may be altered or amended only at the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting. Notice of any proposed change must be given in writing to the Secretary twenty-one days before the date of the Meeting and all members will be given fourteen days notice of any proposed change in writing.

15. INSURANCE

- 15.1. Members are required to maintain adequate insurance. Members accept that the Club will not accept liability for personal injury or material damage arising out of injury or damage suffered by any Member, landowner, visitor or third party whether or not such injury or damage is attributable to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or breach of contract of any Officer, Member or Servant of the Hunt.

16. INDEMNITY

- 16.1. The members of the Committee (including for the avoidance of doubt all Officers) and the Trustees will be indemnified by the Members of the Club against all

liabilities past or present properly incurred by them in the carrying out of their duties on behalf of the Club.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17.1. The Club may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a Special General Meeting specifically called for that purpose and carried by a majority of the Members present entitled to vote.
- 17.2. All assets of the Club having discharged debts and liabilities will if any property remains after the discharge of all debts and liabilities of the Club such property will be given or transferred:
 - 17.2.1. to some institution or organisation having main objects similar to main objects of this Club; and/or
 - 17.2.2. to some charitable institution whose aim or object is the promotion of animal welfare.
- 17.3. Before the time of dissolution, the Members of the Club will select the relevant institution or association to which the surplus assets will be given under clause 17.2, and in and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then the property will be given or transferred to that object.
- 17.4. The Committee will be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Club including any payments necessary pursuant to clause 17.2.
- 17.5. Before any dissolution the Committee must consider what money will be required to maintain the welfare of the hounds, such money as the Committee at its sole discretion sees fit may be transferred to the new owner of the hounds and such money will be treated as debt/liability for the purposes of clause.