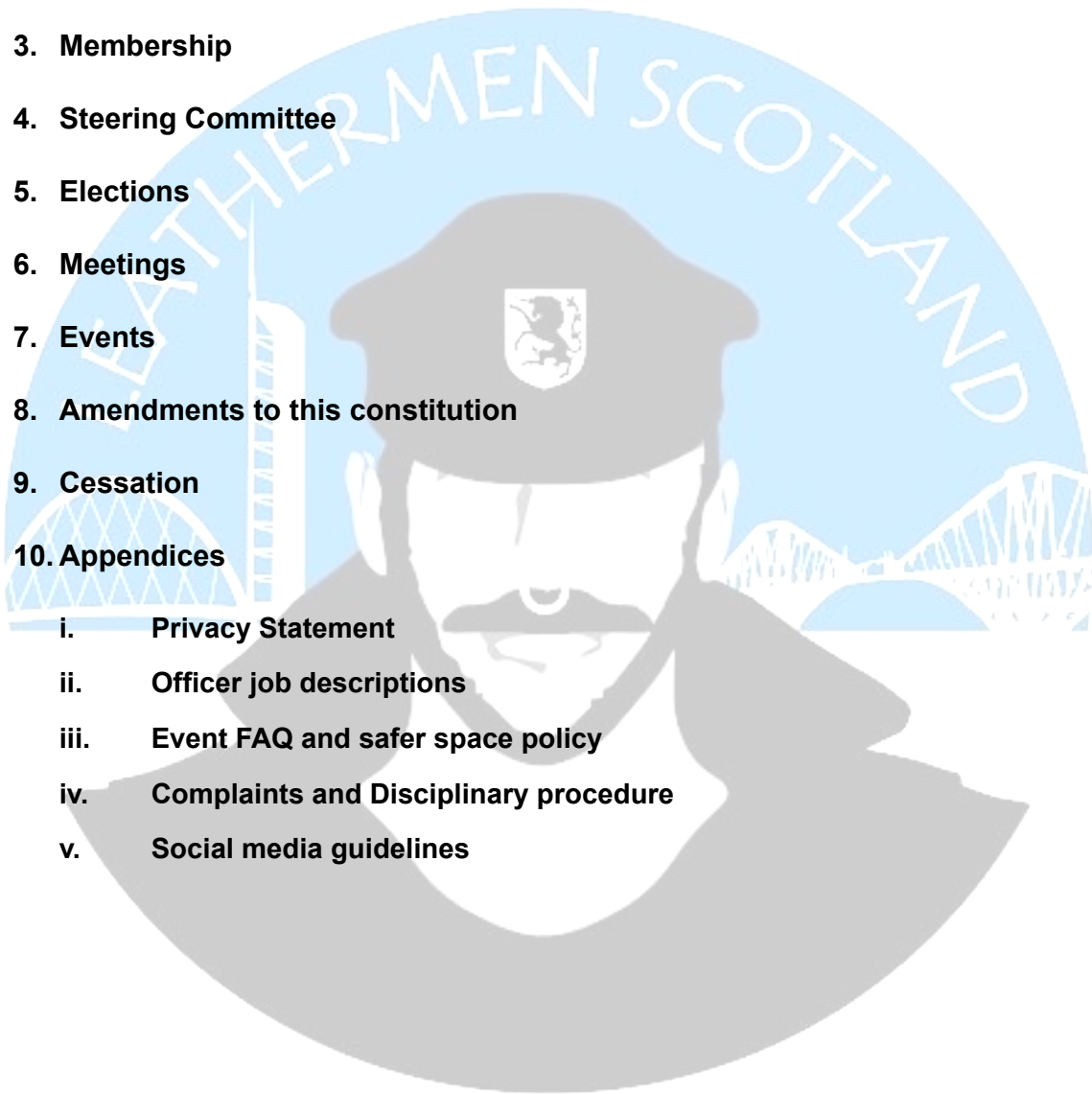


# Constitution of Leathermen Scotland

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## 1. Name

Formed on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020 the name of the club shall be “Leathermen Scotland”, henceforth referred to as “The Club” throughout this constitution.

## 2. Aims

- a. The Club aims to be an open and diverse community which celebrates and encourages the wearing and appreciation of Leather and other fetish clothing. This includes but is not limited to Rubber, Lycra, Skin, Military and Puppy gear.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, Nazi uniforms, and any other symbols of hate and/or anti-Semitism are explicitly forbidden.
- b. The club aims to hold events both physical and virtual to support and bring together the Leather community across the length and breadth of Scotland.
- c. The club aims to promote a positive image of Leather within the LGBTQ+ community, the wider Scottish community and beyond.
- d. The club operates on a not-for-profit basis.

## 3. Membership

- a. Membership of the club is open to anyone with an interest in Leather regardless of Sex, Sexuality, Gender, Gender expression, Race, Religion, Socio-Economic background, or Disability.
  - i. The minimum age to join the Club shall be the legal age of consent in Scotland, currently 16 years of age.
  - ii. it should be noted that some events may have a minimum age restriction placed upon them due to the activities taking place and/or the venue in which the event is held.
- b. Membership lasts for 12 months; from the date an application form is submitted, and membership fee (if any) is paid in full.
- c. All members must agree to abide by this constitution and any policies agreed by The Club.
- d. Membership may be discontinued upon the following situations.
  - i. The member requests to discontinue their membership.
  - ii. A member dies.

- iii. A decision by the disciplinary committee
- e. The membership fee shall not be reimbursed except in exceptional circumstances agreed by the Steering Committee.
- f. All enquiries relating to membership, cancellation and renewal is the responsibility of the Membership Officer.
- g. The Steering Committee hold the right to reject any membership application at its discretion.
- h. The Club's privacy statement can be found in Appendix i.

#### **4. Steering Committee**

- a. There shall be a Steering Committee consisting of at least the following office holders.
  - i. President
  - ii. Secretary
  - iii. Treasurer
  - iv. Membership Officer
  - v. Social Convener
- b. Additional positions on the committee may be added by amending this constitution.
- c. The term of office shall be from the end of the AGM they are elected at, to the end of the next AGM. Typically, 12 months.
- d. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the day to day running of the club and its finances.
- e. The Steering committee will set the membership fee(s), which shall be ratified by the membership at the annual general meeting.
- f. The Steering committee will have the power to co-opt a member to fill any vacant role.
- g. The Steering Committee will have the power to set up sub-committees, headed by the relevant officer for a specific task(s).
- h. Each position shall have a specific job role which can be found in Appendix ii.

## 5. Elections

- a. The election of the Steering Committee shall take place annually, with the results announced during the Annual General Meeting.
- b. A returning officer shall be appointed by the Steering Committee for each election. They shall not be a candidate or propose or second another candidate in the election for which they are the returning officer.
- c. Nominations shall be open for 14 days. All candidates must be full members for the duration of the election.
- d. All candidates must be proposed and seconded by two other full members of The Club before nominations close.
- e. Voting shall be conducted before the AGM for that year via secret ballot for a period of 7 days.
- f. In the event of a tie, the Returning Officer has the authority to break the tie. It is suggested that an online random name generator be used to do this.
- g. All members of the club at the time that the election process begins will have the right to stand, nominate and vote in the election.
  - i. For the avoidance of doubt, a current member whose membership lapses but is subsequently renewed during the election period shall retain these rights, but a person applying for a new membership during the election period shall not be able to take part in the current election.

## 6. Meetings

- a. All meetings of The Club may take place either in a physical venue, virtually, or by using a mixture of both.
- b. There shall be three types of meetings of the club.
  - i. Steering Committee Meeting
  - ii. Annual General Meeting
  - iii. Extraordinary General Meeting.

### **Steering Committee Meeting**

- c. A Steering Committee Meeting must take place at least 4 times a year.
- d. It shall be called by the Secretary (or another officer in their absence) at least 14 days before it is due. Members will have until 7 days before the meeting to inform the Secretary of agenda items.

- e. All members of the Steering Committee will have the right to attend, speak and vote at the meeting.
- f. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, other members or non-members may attend and speak, but they will not have voting rights.
- g. The Secretary (or another officer in their absence) shall take minutes for all Steering Committee meetings and publicise these to the members.
- h. As a minimum, each Steering Committee meeting must receive reports from all officers and a financial update from the Treasurer.
- i. Quorum shall be 3 members.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- j. There shall be an Annual General Meeting held every April.
- k. It shall be called by the Secretary (or another officer in their absence) at least 21 days before it is due. Members will have 14 days to inform the Secretary of agenda items. All papers must be distributed to the membership at least 7 days before the AGM.
- l. All members of the club at the time that the AGM is called will have the right to attend, speak and vote at the AGM as long as they are still members on the day that AGM takes place.
- m. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, non-members may attend and speak, but they will not have voting rights.
- n. The Secretary (or another officer in their absence) shall take minutes for all AGMs and publicise these to the members.
- o. As a minimum, each AGM must receive an annual report from all officers, an annual financial statement from the Treasurer, ratify the membership fee, be the forum to amend this constitution and announce election results.
- p. Quorum shall be 20% of the current membership.

### **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

- q. An EGM may be called to discuss a specific situation upon the Steering Committee agreeing to call an EGM, or upon the Secretary receiving the written request of 10% of the current membership.
- r. Notice of no less than 7 days shall be given between an EGM being called, and the meeting taking place.



- s. All members of the club at the time that the EGM is called will have the right to attend, speak and vote at the EGM as long as they are still members on the day the EGM takes place.
- t. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, non-members may attend and speak, but they will not have voting rights.
- u. The Secretary (or another officer in their absence) shall take minutes for all EGMs and publicise these to the members.
- v. Quorum shall be 20% of the current membership.

## **7. Events**

- a. All events of The Club may take place either in a physical venue, virtually, or by using a mixture of both.
- b. The club shall endeavour to organise a variety of events which are as accessible as possible to all members.
- c. The core event of The Club shall be the Glasgow Leather Social. However, socials in other Scottish locations should also be encouraged.
- d. The Club will try to have a presence at Pride events across Scotland.
- e. The Social Convener will take the lead in organising and advertising The Club's events.
- f. The Club's Events FAQ and safer space policy can be found in Appendix iii.

## **8. Amending this constitution**

- a. This constitution can only be amended by a majority vote at an AGM or EGM.
- b. If a member wishes to amend this constitution, they must inform the Secretary in time for it to be added to the Agenda of an AGM, or to be the reason for calling an EGM.
- c. The proposed text change shall be published at the same time as the agenda is released, or an EGM is called.
- d. Any amendment shall become live at the end of the meeting it has been agreed at.
- e. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to update this constitution accordingly.

## **9. Cessation**

Only a vote taken at an AGM/EGM can disband The Club. The settlement of any outstanding debts and the distribution of any assets to charity must be settled as part of this process.

Any suggestion of cessation of the club must be clearly notified to members when notification is given of an AGM/EGM.



**Document version history:**

Date:	Version:	Notes:
20200824	1.0	Published
20200825	1.1	Added not for profit.
20210321	1.2	Re-lettered section 8
20210515	1.3	AGM amendments to sections 5 & 6
20220410	1.4	AGM amendments to sections 3 & 5
20230504	1.5	AGM amendments to sections 5e and 6k.

