



Light Aircraft Association

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE DEVON STRUT OF THE LIGHT AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION**

### **1. TITLE AND AFFILIATION**

1.1 The Club shall be called The Devon Strut, hereafter to be referred to as 'the Club'.

1.2 The Club shall be a member club of the Light Aircraft Association (LAA) and of no other body without written approval from the LAA Board.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

2.1 To organise a range of activities on a regular basis for Club members and others, providing:-

- a local focus for recreational light aviation activities
- enjoyable flying and social activities
- improved safety knowledge and understanding
- opportunities to acquire/enhance aircraft building and maintenance skills

2.2 To promote the aims and ideals of the LAA.

2.3 To encourage non-members to join LAA.

2.4 To advance the cause of light aviation.

2.5 To attract through appropriate publicity both LAA members and non-members

2.6 To maintain awareness concerning local threats or potential restrictions on light aviation activity (e.g. strips/airfields facing opposition or needing planning support) and report such information to the LAA.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to any person of good standing, regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or ability, who completes a Membership Application Form and pays the relevant membership fee as determined by the Club. Membership will become effective upon an applicant's name being entered into the Membership Register.

3.2 The Members of the Club from time to time shall be those persons listed in the Membership Register (which shall be maintained by the Club Membership Secretary). Membership of the Club is available in the following categories:

3.2.1 Full Member

3.2.2 Junior Member (who are under 16 years of age)

3.2.3 International Member

3.2.4 Temporary Member

*Note: The Club may, from time to time, define other categories it considers necessary.*

3.3 Annual Membership Fees. An annual fee payable by each member shall be determined from time to time by the Club Committee. The Club Committee may set different fees for different membership categories. The Club membership fee is in addition to any LAA membership fees. Any fees shall be payable on a successful application for membership and annually by each member. Fees shall not be repayable.

3.4 Resignation of Members. A member shall cease to be a member of the Club if, and from the date of which, he/she gives notice to the Club Committee of their resignation. A member whose annual membership fee is more than three months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

3.5 Misconduct and Expulsion. Any Member or Officer deemed guilty of misconduct may be cautioned or expelled from the Club by a majority decision of the Club Committee. Any person expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Club Committee within twenty-eight days.

Note: The LAA should then be informed.

3.6 No member shall purport to speak or act on behalf of a Club or the LAA without specific authority to do so.

## **4. CLUB OFFICERS**

4.1 The Officers of the Club shall be the:

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Safety Officer
- National Council Representative
- Newsletter Editor / Webmaster
- Event Organiser
- Other officers may be co-opted on to the committee.

*Note 1: At least three elected officers are required, of whom the Chairman, NC Representative and Club Safety Officer, if appointed, must be LAA members and beneficial shareholders. All officers of the Club must be set out in the Constitution.*

*Note 2: Responsibility for safety rests with the Chairman. However, if a Club organises flying activities, then a Club Safety Officer must be appointed from the membership, and appropriate safety procedures must be developed and followed. If a Club organises other activities, such as barbeques or visits, and especially whenever non-Club members are involved, then a Club Safety Officer should also be appointed, to comply with good defensive practice. LAA HQ must be informed of the name and contact details of the current Club Safety Officer.*

*Note 3: If a Club organises events which may be attended by children and vulnerable adults, steps must be taken to comply with the relevant legislation, which may include the appointment of a Children and Vulnerable Adults Officer. LAA HQ must be informed of the name and contact details of the current Officer.*

## **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

5.1 All Officers, who must be LAA members and beneficial shareholders, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club from, and by, the Full Members of the Club.

5.2 All Officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year.

## **6. THE CLUB COMMITTEE**

6.1 The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a Club Committee comprising the Club Officers elected by the Annual General Meeting. The Club Committee shall meet at least once per year for an AGM, otherwise at agreed intervals.

6.2 The duties of the Club Committee shall be:-

6.2.1 To control the affairs of the Club on behalf of the Members and in accordance with the LAA Rules & Regulations.

6.2.2 To keep accurate accounts of the finances of the Club through the Treasurer. These should be available for reasonable inspection by Club Members and should be examined by the appointed accounts examiner before every Annual General Meeting. The club shall maintain a bank current account. Any withdrawal against Club funds should be approved by the Treasurer and by one other Officer.

6.2.3 To co-opt additional members of the Committee as the Committee feels necessary.

6.2.4 To appoint Sub-Committees as necessary to fulfil the Club's business.

6.2.5 To appoint Officers of the Club to act with the authority of the Club Committee in the organisation and control of events.

6.3 The Club Committee shall make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. In the case of equal votes, the Chairman shall be entitled to a casting vote.

*Note: the appointment of an accounts examiner is optional but recommended.*

## **7. GENERAL MEETINGS**

7.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of February each year. Twenty one days' written notice shall be given to members of the Annual General Meeting by either circulating a copy of the notice to members at their home address, by email or by posting the notice on the website. Members must advise the Chairman in writing of any business to be considered at the Annual General Meeting at least fourteen days before a meeting. The Club Chairman or Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda for the meeting to Members not less than seven days before the meeting.

7.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:-

7.2.1 Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting.

7.2.2 Receive the accounts for the year from the Treasurer.

7.2.3 Receive the annual report of the Committee.

7.2.4 Elect the Officers of the Club.

7.2.5 Elect an accounts examiner

7.2.6 Transact such other business received in writing by the Club Chairman from Members fourteen days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.

*Note: The agenda may well provide for "Any Other Business", but it is good practice to encourage Members to refer any significant "AOB" items to the Club Committee in advance with the required notice for inclusion on the Annual General Meeting agenda.*

7.3 Special General Meetings may be convened by the Club Committee or on receipt by the Chairman of a request in writing from not less than five Members of the Club. At least twenty one days notice of the meeting shall be given.

7.4 Nomination of candidates for election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Club Chairman at least fourteen days in advance of the Annual General Meeting date.

7.5 At all General Meetings, the Chair will be taken by the Chairman or, in their absence, by a Deputy Chairman, or by a member appointed by the Members attending the meeting.

7.6 Decisions made at a General Meeting shall be by a simple majority of votes from those Members attending the meeting. In the event of equal votes, the Chairman shall be entitled to a second and additional casting vote.

7.7 A quorum for a General Meeting shall be 25% of the Full Membership of the Club or 25 Members, whichever is the lesser.

7.8 Each Member of the Club shall be entitled to one vote at General Meetings.

*Note: It is the expectation of the LAA that the democratic processes in LAA Clubs remain firmly in the hands of those who are also LAA Members. Any Clubs where this is not the case run the strong risk of being de-affiliated.*

## **8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CLUB CONSTITUTION**

8.1 Any proposed alterations to the Club's Constitution may only be considered at an Annual or Special General Meeting convened with the required written notice of the proposal. Any alteration or amendment must be duly proposed and seconded by Members. Such alterations shall be passed if supported by not less than two-thirds of those Members present at the meeting, assuming that a quorum has been achieved.

*Note: The footnote to Section 7 applies equally to Section 8 and Section 10 (below).*

## **9. INDEMNITY CLAUSE**

9.1 If a member has been authorized to undertake duties on behalf of the Club and in so doing, they incur costs, expenses or liabilities in the proper execution of these duties, the member shall be entitled to be indemnified out of Club funds, except in any case where the actions arise from gross negligence, default or breach of duty or trust.

## **10. DISSOLUTION**

10.1 If, at any General Meeting of the Club, a resolution be passed calling for the dissolution of the Club, the Secretary shall immediately convene a Special General Meeting to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.

10.2 If, at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Members present, the Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Club.

10.3 After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club, the remaining assets shall not be paid or distributed amongst the Members of the Club, but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having similar objects.

**Signed:..... Chairman**

**Date:.....**

**Signed:..... Officer of the Club**

**Date:.....**

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