London Leathermen

(Previously known as Motor Sport Club London)

Preamble

Motor Sport Club (MSC) London was founded on 17 October 1973.

By September 1976, membership was 596 full members, 200 fraternal members and one honorary life member, Tom of Finland. After 1978, membership began to decline as a matter of policy and circumstances, and the AIDS pandemic of the 1980s and 1990s devastated the Club, reducing membership to a small group of friends who continued to meet and dine together.

In 1992, the Club adopted a simplified constitution, which retained all but one of the rules for the good management of a private members club. The last of the changes made since then was in 2016, when the Club changed its name to London Leathermen. In the age of online search engines, it was thought that this new name would help new members discover the Club.

In 2020, the remaining members decided to pass stewardship of the Club to a new group of friends who could take it into its next 50 years.

In 2024, the Executive Committee reviewed the constitution, and recommended three main changes to allow for recognition of an updated membership application process, changes in financial services, and a reinstated ability for the Executive Committee's to draw up conduct procedures. In 2025, these were subsequently approved and integrated into the constitution, included below.

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Rules of the Constitution

approved and adopted by the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 15 March 2025

Name

1. The name of the Club is **London Leathermen** and the recognised abbreviation of it is **LLM** ("the Club").

Objects

2. The objects of the Club are:

(a) to promote and organise activities for the mutual enjoyment of Club Members,

(b) to develop and maintain close and friendly relations with, and to show hospitality towards, members of similar Clubs,

(c) to raise money and collect gifts for charity, and

(d) to maintain such services for the benefit of members as the Executive Committee considers desirable or practical.

Membership

3. Membership may be granted by the Executive Committee to suitable persons aged 18 or over who are in general sympathy with the aims and objects of the Club.

4. Membership is in one of three categories:

(a) **Full Membership** may be granted to a suitable person who is normally resident in London or a frequent participant in our events, has been proposed by one full or Honorary Life Member, has completed an application form, paid the joining subscription (see Rule 35), and agrees to play a full and active role in the life of the Club.

(b) **Fraternal Membership** may be granted to a suitable person who is not normally resident in London, but has been proposed by one Full Member and agrees to be bound by the objects of the Club.

(c) **Honorary Life Membership** may be granted to any person who has given outstanding services to the Club, is nominated by the Executive Committee, and is confirmed by a majority vote of not less than two-thirds at an Annual General Meeting.

A membership card will be issued to all Members and must be produced, if requested to do so, by a member of the Executive Committee.

The card must be surrendered on resignation of membership.

Executive Committee

5. The Club is administered by an Executive Committee acting in accordance with these rules and consisting of the Club Officers and four other Full Members or Honorary Life Members.

6. Members of the Executive Committee are elected by show of hands at the Annual general Meeting and serves for one year, after which they may stand for re-election, If more than one nomination for a position is received, voting will be by secret ballot.

7. Nominations for membership of the Executive Committee must be received by the Secretary at least twenty-one days before the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), showing the names and signatures of the candidate and two other Full Members and/or Honorary Life Members as proposer and seconder.

8. If only one nomination is received for any office, or if five or fewer nominations are received for any of the positions, the AGM is to be asked to approve the candidate or candidates by a show of hands.

9. If any position remains unfilled, nominations are to be called from the floor.

10. The AGM may leave any position unfilled except that of President.

11. Any Executive Committee Member who is absent from three consecutive Executive Committee meetings without showing reasonable cause is to

forfeit their position.

12. A Member who is on the committee of a similar Club may, at the same time, serve on the Executive Committee, but at each meeting, as appropriate, they must make a declaration of any conflicts of interest and duty, and whilst they may continue to participate in the discussion, they may not vote on any conflicted item.

13. The Executive Committee has the power to fill temporary vacancies and to invite such persons to its meetings as it considers will assist it in performing its duties.

Club Officers

14. Club Officers are detailed below:

(a) **President** is the chief officer and represents and speaks on behalf of the Club on all official occasions. The President presides at all Club meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee; in the event of an equality of votes on any issue, the President has a casting vote.

Where these rules are silent, ambiguous or require interpretation, the President may make a ruling to determine the matter and the ruling shall be final.

(b) **Secretary** is responsible for receiving all Club correspondence and keeping all documents and papers of the Club in such manner and for such purposes as the Executive Committee shall decide. The Secretary is also responsible for the administrative arrangements concerned with Club meetings.

(c) **Treasurer** is responsible for all Club monies and for keeping full and accurate books of account of all financial income and expenditure of the Club. The Treasurer shall report on the Club's financial affairs at meetings of the Executive Committee. The annual report must be inspected and certified by the Honorary Examiner before it is presented to the Annual General Meeting.

(d) **Membership Secretary** is responsible for maintaining full and accurate records of all Club members; for the administration of correspondence associated with Club membership and for the issue of an official membership card to all Club members. The Membership Secretary shall permit only the other Club officers to have access to confidential records of the membership.

(e) **Events Captain** is responsible for the organisation, planning and co-ordination of all official Club events. The Events Captain may invite a team to help with these tasks and with the hosting of events.

15. No individual shall hold the office of President for more than three consecutive years.

16. All Club officers must account to the Treasurer for all income and expenditure in connection with their duties.

Meetings

17. A General Meeting of Full and Honorary Life Members makes the policy which is binding on the Club and its members.

18. The quorum at a General Meeting is to be 30% of the Full and Honorary Life Members residing within fifty miles of Charing Cross.

19. Only Full Members and Honorary Life Members have the right to vote.

20. Where at a General Meeting an issue is put to a vote and there is equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

21. Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

The Ordinary Business of the AGM is to:

(i) Receive and approve the Annual Report of the Executive Committee;

(ii) Receive and approve Accounts and the Honorary Examiner's report for the end of the financial year;

(iii) Appoint at least one Honorary Examiner of the accounts;

(iv) Consider estimates of anticipated expenditures for the upcoming Club year;

(v) Elect Full Members and Honorary Life Members to the Executive Committee and as Club Officers;

(vi) Decide the Membership subscription rate for the year;

(vii) Consider other items proposed by the Executive Committee or notified by Full Members and Honorary Life Members to the Secretary prior to the date of the meeting, and which the Executive Committee has decided is appropriate Club business.

22. General Meetings

General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee to consider special items of business or at the written request of at least five percent of Full Members and Honorary Life Members. On receipt of a valid request to the Secretary, the Executive Committee will discuss the issue(s) with the members. If it is decided to hold a General Meeting, the Secretary will endeavour to arrange the meeting within forty-two days of the decision, giving Members entitled to attend fourteen days' notice of the date of the meeting.

Only the specific business for which the General Meeting has been called may be transacted at the meeting.

23. Executive Committee Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings shall be held at least quarterly, and additional meetings may be called as required.

(a) The quorum at an Executive Committee Meeting is at least half the Members of the Executive Committee being present.

(b) Executive Committee Members should let the Secretary know before the date of the meeting what items they wish to raise on the agenda.

(c) A Member of the Executive Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause shall forfeit their position.

Suspension and Expulsion

24. The Executive Committee may expel any member whose conduct is such that in its opinion be injurious to the character of the Club, or the interests of the Membership, or is in breach of these rules.

25. Before exercising this power, the Executive Committee may adopt such policies and procedures to enquire into such conduct and shall give the Member a full opportunity to defend themself and to justify or explain their conduct.

26. If the enquiry is of the opinion that the Member has been guilty of such conduct and that the Member has failed to justify or explain it satisfactorily, depending upon the gravity of the offence, the Executive Committee may suspend the Member for such period as it may decide, or shall call upon the Member to resign and, if the Member does not resign, shall expel them.

27. A Member who is expelled shall forfeit all the rights of Membership and all rights against the Club.

28. The Executive Committee shall have power to settle and decide upon disputes between Members, arising in the Club, of a kind which are usually referred to the committee of a private Members' Club.

Finance

29. A banking account or banking accounts shall be held in the name of London Leatherman. There shall be at least two signatories to the account(s) and they will normally be the President, and Treasurer, but other members of the Executive Committee may be appointed if required.

30. The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

31. The AGM is to elect at least one Honorary Examiner for the ensuing year on nomination from the floor and voting by show of hands.

32. The elected Honorary Examiner's duty is to verify that the records kept by the Treasurer are a full and accurate statement of the Club's financial affairs.

33. If the liabilities of the Club exceed its assets, there is a liability on Full Members to contribute any monies over and above the annual subscription which may be needed to discharge the Club's liabilities. The Executive Committee shall call a General Meeting to approve the method in which it shall be done.

34. The Executive Committee shall make an assessment of the financial outlook for a Club year and prepare a budget based upon that outlook which will recommend subscription rates for approval by the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions

35. An annual subscription recommended as set out in Rule 34, shall be paid by all Members of the Club, with the exception of Honorary Life Members. The subscription is not refundable and it is payable in full for those who join during the year, except that the Executive Committee may at its discretion set a lower rate for anyone joining the Club during the last quarter of the Club year.

36. Membership is terminated if there is a failure to pay the subscription within one month of the closure of the AGM or from the date a person is accepted into membership.

Alterations to the Rules

37. This Constitution may be altered by motion at an AGM, if two-thirds of the Full Members present assent.

Publicity

38. No Member is to make a public statement about or to publish any matter relating to the Club and its affairs without the prior consent of the Executive Committee, which will not unreasonably be withheld.

Dissolution

39. The following special provisions are to apply in addition to Rule 22 if the Executive Committee receive a motion to dissolve the Club:

(a) A General Meeting shall be called in accordance with these rules, except that proxy voting shall be allowed.

(b) The Secretary in convening the Meeting shall, with assistance of the Membership Secretary, send appointment of proxy forms to all Full Members and all Honorary Life Members.

(c) The votes of those present and voting together with any proxy votes they hold shall be counted.

(d) If a majority of seventy-five percent of the votes counted are in favour of dissolution, the Meeting shall pass another motion approving the disposal of all assets after all liabilities have been discharged.

40. If both motions are passed, the Club is to be dissolved forthwith, and the Officers for the final year are to be responsible for dealing with remaining assets.