

The Meconopsis Group

Constitution and Rules amended at AGM held on 28th February 2009

- 1 **Name** The Group shall be called 'The Meconopsis Group'.
- 2 **Affiliation** The Meconopsis Group is affiliated to The Scottish Rock Garden Club but is not subject to its Constitution.
- 3 **Objectives** The objective of The Meconopsis Group is to study the genus *Meconopsis* by scientific research and to promote its cultivation and conservation
- 4 **Membership** Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the genus and on payment of an annual subscription (with the exception of class (iv) below).
 - a) There shall be four classes of membership:
 - i) **UK** This includes individual, family and corporate members within the UK.
 - ii) **EU** This includes individual, family and corporate members in the EU (excluding UK.)
 - iii) **Overseas** This includes individual, family and corporate members outwith the EU.
 - iv) **Complimentary** This class is at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - b) The Management Committee shall review the membership subscription annually and any alterations recommended shall be put to the A.G.M. for decisions.
 - c) The Management Committee may determine different rates of subscription for different classes of membership.
 - d) All classes of membership are entitled to receive The Meconopsis Group's Reports, to take part in all Group activities and to vote at General meetings.
 - e) The membership year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
 - f) Subscriptions shall be payable on or before 28th February each year.
- 5 **Management** The management of the Group shall be in the hands of a Management Committee elected at the **Annual General Meeting** held normally at the first meeting of the Group each year.
 - a) The Management Committee shall comprise a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Co-ordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Website Manager, Seed Exchange Manager and up to ten other Committee members. The Management Committee will meet as often as is needed to further the aims of The Meconopsis Group. The Management Committee members will undertake various duties as appropriate.
 - b) Members of the Management Committee shall serve for a period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election on an annual basis.
 - c) The Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three members who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. These co-opted members may include previous Members of the Management Committee.
 - d) Five members shall form a quorum of the Management Committee, of which at least three shall be office bearers.
 - e) The Chairman (or whoever is appointed acting Chairman in his/her absence) shall have the casting vote.
- 6 **Trials and Assessment Subcommittee** A small team with detailed knowledge of the genus *Meconopsis* shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
 - a) Members of this Subcommittee need not be full members of the Management Committee.
 - b) The Chairman of this Subcommittee must be a member of the Management Committee.
 - c) The Subcommittee will take on assessment and naming responsibilities of cultivars within the genus *Meconopsis* on behalf of the Group. The final responsibility for making firm recommendations rests with the Trials and Assessment Subcommittee.

- d) Recommendations are to be presented to The Meconopsis Group for acceptance or rejection at the next Annual General meeting
- e) The rules laid down by the International Commission for the Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) for the establishment and acceptance of cultivar epithets are to be adhered to rigorously. A Code is published by the ICNCP.

7 Honorary Office and Membership The Management Committee shall have the power to nominate Honorary Members, who may be elected by the Annual General Meeting for life or until they resign. Only members who have rendered exceptional service to The Meconopsis Group by botanical research or by furthering the objectives of the Group in other ways shall be eligible for appointment. Honorary Members have complimentary Membership.

8 Finances

- a) The financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
- b) The funds of The Meconopsis Group shall be held in a bank/building society account in the name of the 'Meconopsis Group'.
- c) The Management Committee shall be responsible for authorising the expenditure of the revenues of the Group in the furtherance of its aims.
- d) Four signatories shall be appointed to sign cheques/withdrawal forms and two signatures are required to sign each cheque/withdrawal form issued. Signatories must be members of the Management Committee. No signatory must sign a cheque/withdrawal form made out in favour of himself/herself.
- e) A statement of the accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting.
- f) A suitably qualified member of the Group shall audit the accounts annually.
- g) All property of the Group shall be held by the Group Co-ordinator and/or other Management Committee members.

9 Alterations to the Constitution

Motions for alterations to the Constitution shall be proposed and seconded in writing and sent to the Secretary 21 days before the AGM. The Secretary shall circulate to all Members any proposed motion not less than 7 days before the AGM. Motions shall be carried if they gain a two-thirds majority of votes from members present at the AGM.

10 Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General meeting of The Meconopsis Group can be called at any time at the request of the Management Committee, or by no fewer than ten members. Such a meeting shall take place within 28 days of the date such a request is received by the secretary. Two weeks notice of such a meeting shall be given to all members.

- a) At an Extraordinary General Meeting 10% of the paid up membership shall form a quorum.
- b) Notice in writing of any resolution to alter, repeal and/or add to the existing Rules and Constitution shall be given to the Secretary 14 days before the date of an Extraordinary General Meeting and the terms of such resolution shall be stated in the agenda for that Meeting.
- c) Amendments to the Constitution may be submitted to the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- d) The Constitution can only be changed by a two-thirds majority vote of those members attending an Extraordinary General meeting.
- e) In the event of The Meconopsis Group being wound up at a final Extraordinary General Meeting the assets of The Meconopsis Group will be given to the Scottish Rock Garden Club. At such a meeting those present shall form a quorum.