



The Rules of Helpston Pig Club

Helpston folk keep coming up with some amazing relics of the past. Phyllis Crowson has followed up her story of pig killing in the 1920's with a membership card, in the name of George Crowson, dated June 1st 1943, for a pig club. This was evidently an enterprise driven by war time shortages and the well-known investment value of the Pig.

What seems most remarkable about it is the extent to which the members of the club defined their rules and regulations so as to prevent anyone from 'taking advantage' or neglecting his responsibilities.

Rules of the Pig Club

1. The business of the Pig Club shall be transacted at the Exeter Arms, Helpston and there will be four Quarterly Meetings in each year on dates as notified.
2. Each member shall pay an entrance fee of 1/6 to join the pig club and 1/6 per quarter for each pig. There shall be a Committee of five elected yearly by a majority of its members, likewise a Secretary and Treasurer whose duty it will be to manage the business of the Club.
3. No person with 10 acres or more of arable land and no pig dealer shall be a member.

A member wanting his pig or pigs making shall give notice to the markets within 7 days, who shall attend as early as possible after each notice. The markers shall mark only healthy pigs. If the marker has any doubt of the pig's health he shall call in some member of the Committee.

Any member neglecting to give due notice for the marking of his pig, or pigs, if such die he shall not claim benefit from the Pig Club.

4. Should any member's pig be taken sick he shall give notice to the Committee immediately who shall attend and give instructions as they may think necessary. Benefits: If fat or store pigs should die or have to be killed, the pig shall be weighed and market values for the time being shall be paid to the owner. Pigs under five stones will be valued by a Valuer and if the Valuer cannot agree an Arbitrator shall be called in by the Valuer, whose decision shall be final. The Pig Club will pay full value

- ten days after the death or decision of the Arbitrator. When fat or store pigs die 4lb from 5 stones up to 12st and 7lbs from 12st to 20st and over 20 stones, 1 lb for every 3 stones shall be deducted from the weight of the pig or pigs for waste through the pig not being dressed. 6d each from 5 to 12 stones and 1s from 12 stones and upwards shall be paid by owner of pigs for opening and weighing to the person doing it. Limit of liability £8.
5. No pig shall be marked until it has been cut 14 days. If a sty is found to be in bad sanitary condition or the owner neglects a proper mode of treatment the Committee shall have a right to deduct 25 per cent off the value of the pig.
 6. Should any member kill his pig or pigs he shall pay the same contributions as if he kept them so long as he continues a member, but should a member withdraw from the club when he kills his pig or pigs and wishes to enter again he shall pay the same entrance fee as a new member.
 7. Any member not having paid his quarterly contribution on Quarter night shall take his own loss of pig or pigs for that quarter.
 8. If a member has a pig die he shall clean out and limewash the sty and remove all manure before he has another pig or receives the benefit of the club.
 9. Members must own or rent their sty. Each member or someone in his household must feed and look after the pig or pigs. Pig-keeping 'by proxy', that is payment to someone to look after the pigs is not permitted.

Chairman: Mr Geo Crowson
Secretary: Mr W Wade
Treasurer: Mr J Blyton

Committee: Messrs. Gent J Butterworth, G. Gray, P. Wootten, A. Roberts

Markers: W. Gent and J. Wedge

