

APPENDIX A

RULES AND ORDERS FOR COCKING *

Imprimis. It is agreed That every man having Cocks to fight, shew and put them into the Pit with a fair Hackle, not too near shorn or cut, or any other brand, under pain of forfeiting, for every time so offending, Three shillings and Four pence; and his Cock to be *put by* from Fighting that Year

II Item. That every Cock matched shall fight as he is first shewed in the Pit, without *sheering* or *cutting* any Feathers afterwards to a Disadvantage, without the consent of both Parties that made the Match, upon pain of forfeiting, for every time so offending, ten shillings

III Item. That when two Cocks are set down to fight, *and one of them run away* before they have struck *three Mantling Blows*, it is adjudged *no Battle to the Bettors*

IV Item. That in all Matches none shall presume to set to, but those appointed by the *Masters of the Match*

V Item. That when a *Battle* come to setting to, and both Cocks refuse to fight ten times, according to the Law, then a *fresh Cock* to be hovell'd and set to each Cock; and if one fight and the other refuse, then the fighting Cock to *win the Battle*; but if both fight or both refuse, then to be a *drawn Battle*

Item. That the crowing of a cock on Mantling in his *Battle*, shall be adjudged *no fight*: and if both be

*From *An Historical List of Horse Matches Run in 1751.* Reginald Heber. It is not possible to say for how many years these rules had then been in force

blind, although they peck and fight, yet they shall be set to, telling the Law betwixt every time

VI Item. That when Cocks are far spent and come to setting together, it is ordered, That they shall be set to as followeth (that is to say) *Bill to Bill if they both see* : but if either be blind, then the *blind Cock to touch* ; if either be drawn neck'd, then his *Head to be held fair*, and even with the other Cock, so that the Party do his best in setting to, to make his Cock fight : *Provided* That after they come to be set thus as aforesaid, between every setting to they shall stay till one tell *Twenty* before they are set to again, until the *Law* of two times are forth, and then to tell *Ten* but ten times

VII Item. It is ordered that when a Cock is so hurt that any of the Pit shall lay ten Pounds to five shillings, that after the Cocks fighting shall be told twice twenty, and if no Man will take that Lay, then the *Battle* to be adjudged won on that Cock's side the Odds is on

VIII Item. That no Man shall make any Cavil or Speech about Matching of Cocks, either to the Matchers or the Owners of the Cocks after the Cocks be once put together ; upon pain of forfeiting five shillings for every time so offending

IX Item. That all Losses in the Cockpit be presently paid down at the End of every Battle before any other be fought ; or else that the Party winning be satisfied before the party losing go out of Doors : and also that every Man pay good current Money

X Item. Whosoever they be which shall put any Lay or *Bett* to Judgment, being in variance, they both shall stake down the Money laid on either side, and Sixpence a piece over, and the Party that is adjudg'd to be in the wrong shall pay his *Bett*, and lose his Sixpence : *Provided* That every man speak freely before

Judgment given, what he thinks thereof: and if any Man speak afterwards, he shall, for every such offence in speaking, pay Sixpence

XI Item. That all Betts made either within or without the Pit shall stand good: and that one cannot go off without consent of the other, and all Betts undemanded before the next Battle fights, to be lost

XII Item. If any Man have made a *Lay* or *Bett*, and cannot tell, or call to mind with whom he laid or betted such a *Lay*, then if he desire openly in the Pit that the Party with whom he laid would give him the one half of the same, if he doth not confess it, and give him the one half of the same, then it is allowed anyone that knows the Bett to declare it, and the Party so *refusing to confess* it, shall pay the whole Bett: *Provided* That no Man may tell before the Party said he is contented to take as aforesaid; but if any man do tell him before the Party said he is content to take the Half of his *Bett* then the Party so telling is to pay the said *Lay* or *Bett*

XIII Item. If any Man lay more Money than he hath to pay, or cannot satisfy the Party with whom he hath laid, either by his Credit or some Friend's Word: the which if he cannot do, then he is to be put into a Basket to be provided for that purpose, and to be hanged up in that Basket in some convenient Place in the Cock-pit that all men may know him, during the time of Play that Day; and also the Party so offending never to be *admitted* to come into the *Pit* until he hath made satisfaction

XIV Item. That if any Man in a Pit shall profer a *Bett* and the Party that lays with him say *Done*, and he answers *Done* to him again, it shall be judged a lawfull Bett

XV Item. It is ordered, That Persons of the better Rank and Quality of the *Cockers*, *Cock Masters* and

Gamesters, such as are appointed to set to Cocks and put them fair in and no others (*without permission of the Master of the Pit*) shall set in the lower Ring; and that the said Master of the Pit shall have Authority at all times to remove such as he thinks not meet to set in the lower or second Ring: and also make room for those that are of the better sort and to place them there at his pleasure according to his Discretion

XVI *Item.* It is ordered, That all *Controversies* which arise or come by means of the *Sport of Cock-fighting* upon any of the Orders above written, or otherwise between Party and Party, shall be determined by the Master of the Pit where the said *Controversy* did arise, with Six or Four of the ancient and best experienced *Gamesters* there, being called by the *Consent* of both *Parties*, to assert him therein

XVII *Item.* That none shall strike or draw Weapon to strike any Man upon pain, for every time so offending of Forty Shillings

XVIII *Item.* For the better observation of all the Orders before written, *It is ordered and agreed* That if any Person shall offend in any of the said *Premises*, he presently pay his *Forfeiture*; the which being adjudged, if he shall refuse to do, then the Party so refusing to be banished; until he *satisfy* the *Forfeiture* by him so committed or the Party so offended

XIX *Item.* *It is ordered, That the Forfeitures above said shall be equally divided, the one Moiety thereof to be paid to the Use of the Poor of the Parish, and the other Moiety to be distributed and disposed of, as the Master of the Pit shall think fit, unto such Feeders and Ancient Breeders of Cocks as are or shall be decayed*