



STANDARD RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

1. TITLE

The Club shall be known as the Wye Valley Riding Club

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Club shall be to:

- a) promote participation in and provide facilities for the amateur sport of riding in the Wye Valley and environs
- b) encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders and to improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
- c) organise training sessions, instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further the objects.
- d) be affiliated to the British Horse Society and to support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- e) investigate the subject of bridle tracks and rights of way with a view to opposing those that have been closed and maintaining and more clearly defining those that are in existence.
- f) concern itself with any object which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.

3. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years and, having been accepted by the Committee, have paid the due subscription for the current period. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club.

4. A member shall complete the application form as prescribed by the committee. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy. The committee may refuse membership only for good cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members.
5. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year. Any member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears shall have his or her name removed from the Membership List after written notice to that effect has been sent to him or her.
6. The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has breached any of the rules of the Club, or who has in the opinion of the Committee have been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of the Club, provided that before expelling him or her the Committee shall allow the member to appeal the decision to the members and provide an explanation of his/her conduct and allow a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him/her.
7. Members shall be correctly turned out at all Club events. Any protective clothing required by current British Riding Clubs rules must be worn. (See current BRC Rulebook)

ADMINISTRATION

8. The Committee
 - a) All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and up to 6 other Committee members. 5 shall form a quorum.
 - b) At the Annual General Meeting each year, one third of the members of the Committee shall retire, the members to retire being those who have been longest in office. Those who have been in office for the same length of time shall determine retiring members by lot. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
 - c) The Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually by

- the Committee from amongst their number.
- d) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
 - e) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything relating to the club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.
 - f) The Committee may formulate byelaws for the detailed running of the Club and elect subcommittees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
 - g) The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next following Annual General Meeting and then shall be eligible for re-election.
9. The Committee may appoint annually a President and Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in February of each year to transact the following business:
- (a) To receive and, if approved, to adopt a Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the preceding year.
 - (b) To fill vacancies on the Committee
 - (c) To appoint an independent professional to audit or verify the accounts
 - (d) To deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to bring to the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
11. A special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by a request signed by not less than five members specifying the business to be discussed. The Secretary shall give all members ten days' notice of the date of such a meeting and shall specify in such notice matters to be dealt with at the meeting.
12. Notice may be given to members by email or by post using the contact details registered in the records of the Club. If any member has no address in the United Kingdom such member shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.
13. These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon and provided that prior notice has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendment.

FINANCE

14. The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1st January and end on 31st December in each year.
15. The annual subscription shall be determined by the Committee, taking into account the BRC affiliation fees and other outgoings. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. Any member joining the club after 1st October will be charged the BRC affiliation fee for that year, but the additional club subscription will be waived.
16. The Accounts of the Club shall be audited or verified each year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting. Accounts must be audited or verified by an independent professional.
17. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.
18. The committee shall seek and obtain the consent of the Club members before any sum exceeding £1000 is spent on any item. The consent may be obtained at any monthly, Annual General or Special meeting provided that at least 2 weeks' notice has been given in writing to all members, by email or by post, and that the majority of least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon are in favour.
19. In the event that dissolution of the Club shall occur, the assets of the Club shall be used first to discharge all liabilities of the Club. The remaining assets will be held for a period of 12 months. If the club is not reformed within this time, then these will be given or transferred to a horse related registered charity. The charity will be decided by the Committee at that time.