



Ardingly Riding Club Constitution

Title

The Club shall be known as **Ardingly Riding Club** ('the Club')

Objects

The objects of the Club shall be:

- a. To encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders and to maintain and improve the standard of riding and horsemanship.
- b. To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further these objects.
- c. To be affiliated to British Riding Clubs (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.

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.

Anyone desirous of becoming a Non-riding or Riding member shall send his or her name and address to the Membership Secretary of the Club on the appropriate Membership Application Form. The Committee shall have the right to reject any application for membership it deems unsuitable. It is a condition of membership that each member shall carry out duties at least once a year in relation to events being held by the club or such other service to the Club as may be deemed acceptable by the Committee. Any Members benefiting from subsidised entry fees, either as an individual or as part of a team, may be required to offer additional helping duties.

The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of January each year. Any member whose subscription is more than one month in arrears shall have his or her name removed from the Membership List after written notice to the effect has been sent to him or her.

In recognition of their contribution to the Club, committee members receive their subscription free. Additionally the Committee has the power to reduce other individual membership fees if it considers there are special circumstances.

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 been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, provided that before expelling him or her the Committee

shall call upon him or her for an explanation of his or her conduct and provide a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him or her.

Administration

1. The Committee:
 - a) All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and other Committee members. Three shall form a quorum.
 - b) No more than two members of the same household shall be Committee members at the same time.
 - c) The Committee shall call an Annual General Meeting of the Club to be held in November of each year.
 - d) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
 - e) The Committee may formulate rules for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub-committees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
 - f) 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.
 - g) The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst Officers or 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.
 - h) The committee will publicise any known Officer vacancy so that members may put forward nominations. In the event that a member who is not currently on the committee should be interested in taking on one of the Officers roles then the committee may ask that they join as a committee member for the rest of the term until the next AGM. All nominations must be sent to the Hon Secretary at least 7 days before the next AGM.
 - i) All positions of the Club must be approved by a majority of the members present at the AGM.
2. The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1st October in each year.
3. The annual subscription shall be such sum as shall from time to time be determined by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The Committee may appoint a President and Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
5. Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and may specify the matters to be dealt with. At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- a) Receive the Chairman's report
 - b) Receive and if approved to adopt a Statement of the Club's Accounts to the end of the preceding year.
 - c) Appoint an external examiner of the accounts
 - d) Elect Officers and Committee for the ensuing twenty four months.
 - e) Consider any other relevant business.
6. A 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.
 7. The Accounts of the Club shall be externally examined each year by the person appointed by the Committee and noted at the previous Annual General Meeting, being either a suitably qualified professional person or a Member of the Club (other than a Committee Member or close associate thereof) holding equivalent qualifications. The financial year shall run from the 1st October to the 31st September.
 8. Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him or her at his or her address in the United Kingdom or to his or her email address 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.
 9. This Constitution 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.
 10. The Club's Team Manger may claim all appropriate expenses for attending any Championship competition on behalf of the Club and to the extent agreed by the Committee for attending Area Qualifiers.
 11. With the agreement of the Committee the Club may invest in equipment and facilities to further the Objectives of the Club in an economically efficient manner. All monies and assets are retained under the sole ownership of Ardingly Riding Club and are to be disposed of as agreed by the Committee.
 12. The Committee will be responsible for all social media relating to the Club and no member shall be allowed to use social media to bring the reputation of the Club into disrepute.
 13. In the case of dissolution of the Club all assets are to be donated to The Mark Davies Injured Riders Fund, Sussex Air Ambulance and a group catering for the Riding for the Disabled scheme.