

# MEON RIDING CLUB CONSTITUTION

- 1) The Club shall be known as the "Meon Riding Club".
- 2) The objectives of the Club shall be:
  - a) To encourage riding as a sport and re-creation: to promote good fellowship amongst riders: and to improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
  - b) To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events, and other activities deemed to further the objectives.
  - c) To 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.
  - d) To investigate the subject of bridle tracks and rights-of-way, with a view to opening those that have been closed, and maintaining and more closely defining those that are in existence.
  - e) To concern itself with any objectives which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.
- 3) Membership
  - a) Full members shall be persons who have attained the age of 18 years, and have been elected by the committee, and have paid the subscription for the current year.
  - b) Non-riding membership shall be based on full membership, but these members will not be entitled to take advantage of training provided by the Club or to reduced entry fees at Club competitions. These members shall not be eligible to represent the Club in any riding competitions. Communication from the Club shall be by electronic means only.
  - c) Honorary membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any persons deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club.
  - d) Temporary membership may be granted at the discretion of the Committee.
- 4) Anyone who wishes to become a member shall complete and sign the appropriate Application Form and send this to the Hon Secretary of the Club. The application will be considered at the following Committee Meeting. *(This rule was amended at the Meon Riding Club Committee Meeting on 5 March 2013 –previously it stated that the applicant should be proposed and seconded by another member of the Club – this requirement is now considered to be out of date and it is hoped the amended rule 4 will be ratified at the AGM 2013.)*
- 5) The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year. Any member joining the Club on or after 1st January shall be deemed to have paid his or her subscription for the ensuing year.
- 6) The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has wilfully disobeyed any of the regulations 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.
- 7) The Committee
  - a) All powers of management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and eight committee members. Six shall form a quorum.
  - b) At the Annual General Meeting each year, the members of the Club will elect the Committee. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
  - c) The Chairman, 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 by a General Meeting.
  - e) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Regulations, or of anything relating to the Club not provided herein, and its decision shall be final and binding on the members.
  - f) The Committee may formulate bye-laws for the detailed running of the Club, and appoint sub-committees for any special activities of the Club which it authorises.
  - g) The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring on the Committee. Any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next Annual General Meeting, and shall then be eligible for election.
- 8) The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1st April each year.

- 9) Subscriptions
  - a) The annual subscription for full membership shall be £27 (electronic communication) and £30 (postal communication). Non-riding members shall pay £12 (electronic communication only). These subscription rates shall be reviewed annually and agreed at the AGM.
  - b) When two or more full members live at the same address, the second and subsequent subscriptions may be reduced by an amount decided by the Committee.
- 10) The Committee may appoint annually a President and Vice-president. These shall not by virtue only of these appointments become members of the Committee.
- 11) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of October in 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 financial year.
  - b) To fill the vacancies on the Committee.
  - c) To deal with any matter which the Committee may desire to bring before the members, and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than fourteen days before the meeting, and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
- 12) 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 such meeting.
- 13) If the Statement of Accounts fails to be adopted at an AGM, or if required by members present voting at an AGM, the accounts will be submitted for inspection by an Independent Examiner.
- 14) Notice may be given to any member by sending it by whichever means he/she normally receives communication from the Club. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
- 15) This Constitution may be added to, or amended by resolutions at any Annual or Special General Meeting, providing 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.
- 16) The Club, its Committee, or persons acting on its behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person or property howsoever caused.
- 17) If the Committee fails to maintain the usual activities of the Club over a 6-month period, a Special General Meeting shall be called to decide the future of the Club. If this is not done by the Committee, or the membership acting under Section 12, a suitable person may be appointed by the Area 17 Liaison Committee or the British Riding Clubs' Head Office to act on their behalf.
- 18) If it is decided at a General Meeting that the Club should be wound up, a Steering Committee shall be formed to settle its affairs. This Committee will take charge of all the Club's assets, and shall be empowered to:-
  - a) settle outstanding accounts;
  - b) call in debts;
  - c) sell goods and chattels belonging to the Club, or donate them to another Riding or Pony Club, as it sees fit.
- 19) When the Steering Committee has wound up the Club's financial affairs, it will appoint one (or more) person(s) to act as Trustee(s) in respect of any remaining funds. If a new Club is formed within the boundaries of the present Meon Riding Club it may apply for financial assistance from the Trustees. Applications for funds must be supported by the Area Liaison Committee, or the British Riding Clubs' Head Office. If no application is received within a period of two years from the date of the fund becoming available, the Trustees shall close the funds and donate the proceeds to equine charities.