

RULES AND CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH DEVON RIDING CLUB

1. **TITLE** the Club shall be known as the South Devon Riding Club

2. **OBJECTS** the objects of the Club shall be:

(a) To promote participation in and provide facilities for the amateur sport of riding in South Devon

(b) To 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) To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further the objects

(d) 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

(e) To 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) To concern itself with any object that benefits the horse and horse user in the district.

3. **MEMBERSHIP** this shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years old by the 1st January of the year they want to join 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. **Please note** that anyone whose eighteenth birthday falls after the 1st January of any year cannot join until the following year.

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, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other benefits. 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 committee. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. The annual subscription shall be payable by the thirty first of December; or a new subscription will have to be taken out and paid for in full. All subscriptions will be kept to the lowest possible amount needed to cover the mandatory British Riding Clubs (BRC) payment for each member, plus any extra needed to cover costs. Any changes to the subscription will be announced at an AGM in the November preceding any increase at the end of the next December.

6. All members will be regularly updated on health and safety matters and also asked to read the Club's Health and Safety Policy (a separate document to the Constitution) and abide by its terms.

Additional notices regarding membership terms (e.g. relating to BRC insurance, etc) will be regularly posted in the Club's Newsletter.

7. 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.

8. ADMINISTRATION (the Committee)

(a) All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Health & Safety and Safeguarding Officer and 6 other Committee members. Five shall form a quorum

(b) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from amongst their number

(c) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting

(d) 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

(e) The Committee may formulate bye-laws for the detailed running of the Club and elect subcommittees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise

(f) The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee. 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 financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1st November in each year.

10. The Committee may appoint annually a President and Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.

11. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November 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 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 10 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

12. A special General Meeting may be called by the Committee 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.

13. The Accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by a person experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the Club.

14. Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him at his address in the United Kingdom 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.

15. 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.

16. Members shall be correctly turned out at all mounted club events. Hard hats must be worn to at least the minimum standard with harness properly adjusted and fastened. The current standards for hats worn for BRC affiliated competitions and therefore desirable for clinics and events are:

- 1) PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) with BSI Kitemark
- 2) VGI 01.040 (2014-12) with BSI Kitemark
- 3) ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) with SEI mark
- 4) SNELL E2001 with official SNELL label and number
- 5) AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) with SAI global mark

Please note also, that from 2016, hats with: EN1384 or BSEN1384 markings which are not accompanied by any of the standards above as well are NOT allowed for BRC competitions and are therefore not desirable for other BRC use. Plus for cross country, BRC now only allows a "Jockey Skull" cap of an even round or elliptical shape with a smooth or slightly abrasive surface, having no peak or peak type extensions. Noticeable protuberances above the eyes or to the front, not greater than 5mm, smooth and rounded in nature are permitted. A removable hat cover with a light, flexible peak is permitted. Head Cams are strictly prohibited for BRC affiliated competitions (including cameras affixed to the head, chest, bridle or any part of the horse or rider).

17. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club or donated to charity. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

18. In the event of the Club disbanding, a steering committee will be formed to settle its affairs. This will include: (a) Call in all debts and settle outstanding accounts. (b) Sell or donate any goods belonging to the Club as they see fit. (c) Appoint one or more Trustees to take care of any remaining funds. If a new Club is formed, they may apply for funding from the Trustees if approved by BRC and

the Area Liaison Committee. (d) If no such application is received within 2 years, any remaining Club funds will be donated to the Area Liaison Committee.

Last amended October 2016. Adopted by the AGM in November 2016