

North Devon Riding Club - Constitution for 2024.

Title

The club shall be known as the North Devon Riding Club and may also be known as NDRC.

Objects

- To encourage riding as a sport and recreation and promote good fellowship amongst riders and to improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship in North Devon.
- To organise instructional meetings, lectures, competitive and social events as well as other activities deemed to further the Objects.
- To be affiliated to the British Horse Society and to support and cooperate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- 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.
- To concern itself with any object that benefits the horse and horse user in the district.

Membership

- This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years and persons aged seven to seventeen in the junior section, who have paid the due subscription for the current period. Honorary members may be conferred by the committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the club.
- The membership will consist of the following categories
Senior Members
Junior Members
Honorary Members
- The committee may appoint a President annually. These shall not become by virtue only of such appointment, members of the committee.
- The annual subscription shall be payable through the Sport80 platform, managed by British Riding Club (BRC). All memberships shall be 'rolling' and the renewal will be managed by Sport80, where appropriate. Any member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears shall have their name removed from the membership list.
- The committee may refuse membership only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club, the sport or the BHS into disrepute. Appeal against refusal may be made to the members, however, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
- The committee may expel from membership of the club any member who has breached 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, providing that before expelling the member in question, the committee shall call upon them for an explanation of their conduct and provide opportunity of answering the allegations against them.
- The Annual Subscription shall be determined by the committee.

Sports Equity

- The club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:
- Sports equity is about fairness in sport., equity of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society.
- The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All the club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
- The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously.

Administration

- All power of management shall be vested in the committee, consisting of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Health & Safety Officer and up to 9 other committee members.
- At the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the committee members shall retire. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election. The posts mentioned in the previous paragraph shall be specified when elected at the AGM by a member of the club.
- For the purposes of safeguarding of junior and vulnerable members, criminal record checks may be carried out on officers in position of trust, however existence of a criminal record may not necessarily result in an officer-elect being inadmissible. In the event of there being more nominations than places, the places shall be decided by secret ballot.
- The Secretary is responsible for the safekeeping of confidential personal information relating to any criminal record checks required by its officers. Such information shall be transferred on appointment of a new Secretary. On expiry, the Secretary is responsible for its confidential destruction.
- The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a register of Club assets.
- The decision of the committee is final unless overruled at a General Meeting.
- The committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules, or anything related to the club not provided therein and the committee's decision shall be final and binding on the members.
- The committee shall have the power to formulate by-laws for the detailed running of the club and elect sub-committees for any special activities of the club which the club may authorise.
- The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy arising amongst members if the need arises.
- The Club shall implement a written Child Protection Policy.

Financial

- The Financial year of the club shall commence on the first day of November and end on the last day of October in each year.
- All members of the club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the club.
- The accounts of the club shall be audited each year by the person appointed on the previous AGM.
- Surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the club or donated to charity. Surpluses that are assets will not be distributed to members or third parties.

Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November each year to transact the following business.
- To receive and, if approved, adopt a statement of the club's accounts to the end of the preceding year.
- To elect a new committee.
- To appoint an auditor.
- To deal with any special 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 Annual General Meeting shall be sent to members, not less than fourteen days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
- 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 a meeting. No other business, other than as notified to members, shall be transacted at the meeting.
- Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post or email to their address in the UK registered in the records of the club. If any member has no address in the UK, such members shall not be entitled to receive any notice. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of the notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

Competitions and Club Events

- Members shall be correctly turned out at all club events. Hard hats which meet the minimum standard set out by for BRC affiliated competitions with the harness properly adjusted and fastened must be worn at all times when mounted.
- The committee reserves the right to refuse or withdraw any entry
- No horse/pony may be ridden by more than two people at an event.
- Any senior member wishing to ride a stallion at any club event must produce a valid certificate of insurance to the Secretary each year. No junior member may ride a stallion at any club event.
- Juniors below 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person aged 16 or over at club functions. Juniors below the age of 12 years of age must be accompanied by an

adult. Committee members are not bound to be responsible for unaccompanied juniors, by virtue only being members of the committee.

- In the event of the club disbanding, a steering committee will be formed to settle its affairs. This will include: -
- Call in all debts and settle outstanding accounts.
- Sell or donate any goods belonging to the Club as they see fit.
- 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 the BRC and the Area Liaison Committee
- If no such application is received within two years, any remaining Club funds will be donated to a registered charity or the sport's governing body for use by them in related community sports.
- 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, whatever the cause.

Last amended January 2024.