

# **THE BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB**

## **RULES AND CONSTITUTION (as amended November 2019)**

### **1. TITLE**

The Club shall be known as "The Bourne Valley Riding Club".

### **2. OBJECTS**

- a. 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.
- b. To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities deemed to further the objects.
- 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 paths and rights of way, with a view to opening those that have been closed, and maintaining and more clearly defining those that are in existence.
- e. To concern itself with any object which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

The Club's membership year will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Membership shall consist of persons who have attained the age of seventeen years and have paid the due subscription for the current period.

Honorary membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any persons deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club. This Honorary membership may be for life or for a period of one year. The committee reserve the right to veto.

4. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's membership 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 has been sent to him or her. A subscription paid by any member joining the Club on or after 1st September shall be deemed to cover the ensuing membership year. The fee will be set accordingly, covering the membership period of sixteen months.
5. The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has disobeyed 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 the Committee shall call upon him for an explanation of his conduct and give him a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him.

### **6. ADMINISTRATION - THE COMMITTEE**

- a. All powers of Management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and six to ten ordinary members. Five shall form a quorum.
- b. At the Annual General Meeting each year, two ordinary members of the Committee shall retire. If there are no voluntary resignations, the members to retire being those who have been longest in office and as between those who have been in office for the same length of time the members to retire shall be determined by lot. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election. Any Committee member missing two consecutive committee meetings without a valid reason may be asked to resign from the Committee.
- c. The Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected bi-annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- d. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at the General Meeting.
- e. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules or for anything relating to the Club, not provided therein and their decisions shall be final and binding on the members.

- f. The Committee may formulate bye-laws for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub-committees 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 among members of the Committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the following Annual General Meeting, and shall then be eligible for election.
7. The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1st December in each year.
8. The annual subscription for the subsequent year shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting.
9. The committee shall appoint annually a President and Vice-President. These shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year to transact the following business.
- a. To receive and if approved 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 externally qualified accountant.
  - d. 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 General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than fourteen 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.
12. The accounts of the Club shall be independently verified each year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting.
13. 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 the notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
14. These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution to 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.
15. The Club, its Committee or persons acting on their behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person or property, howsoever caused.
16. Everyone mounted at BVRC events shall wear correct riding clothes which must include 'Protective Headwear', with a harness properly adjusted and fastened. 'Protective Headwear' constitutes a hat meeting the standard specified by the current British Riding Clubs' Official Rules.
17. Young persons of sixteen may attend mounted events and children of all ages unmounted and social activities, as personal guests of members with the consent of the organiser of the activity. Members will be responsible for their guests conduct and safety.
18. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.
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 and the remaining assets shall be split equally and given / transferred to the two charities, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.