**York and District Riding Club Constitution**

1. **Title**

The Club shall be known as York and District Riding Club.

1. **Objects**

The objects of the Club shall be

* 1. 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
  2. To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further the objects
  3. To be affiliated to the British Horse Society and to support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and the use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies
  4. 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
  5. To concern itself with any object which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district

1. **Membership**

This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of seventeen 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.

1. Any person wishing to become a member of the Club shall complete an application form and send it along with payment of the correct subscription to the Membership Secretary of the Club, who shall present it to the Committee for consideration at its next meeting or by electronic circulation if no meeting is imminent.
2. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of January each year. Any member whose subscription has not been paid by 31st January will be reminded before that date and advised that his or her name will be removed from the membership list after that date should no payment have been received. Any member joining the Club after the AGM shall be deemed to have paid his/her subscription for the ensuing year.
3. The Committee may expel from membership of the Club, any member who has breached any rules of the Club, or has, in the opinion of the Committee been guilty of any conduct derogatory in character or prejudicial to the interests of the Club, 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 to explain the allegations against him or her.
4. **Administration**

The Committee

* 1. All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee consisting of the Chair, the Honorary Secretary, the Treasurer and up to twelve other Committee members. Six members present shall form a quorum.
  2. At the Annual General Meeting each year, one third of the members of the Committee shall retire, the members to retire being those who have been in office the longest. Those who have been in office for the same length of time shall determine retiring members by lot. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
  3. The Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from amongst their number.
  4. The decisions of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
  5. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of rules and for anything relating to the Club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.
  6. The Committee may formulate bye laws for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub committees for special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
  7. The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst 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.
  8. Any Committee member resigning their post shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee for a period of 6 months.

1. The financial year shall commence on the 1st October in each year.
2. There will be two classes of membership – Riding and Non-riding/Social members. There may be an additional joining fee. The annual subscriptions shall be reviewed by the Committee and approved at the AGM for the following year. Any member who does not pay their subscription by 31 January will be deemed to have let their membership lapse and will be required to pay any joining fee.
3. The Committee may elect annually a President and Vice Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October/ November of each year to transact the following business:
   1. To receive and if approved to adopt a Statement of the Club’s Accounts to the end of the preceding year
   2. To fill vacancies on the Committee
   3. To appoint an Auditor
   4. To deal with any special matters which the Committee may desire to bring to the members and to receive suggestions from members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
5. 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 the meeting.

1. The accounts of the Club shall be audited every year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting. The person should be experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the Club.
2. Notice may be given to any member electronically or by post to the email address or postal 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 any 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.
3. There shall be Trustees elected by the Committee, such Trustees to hold office until death or resignation, unless removed from office by resolution of the Committee. The number of Trustees shall be not more than four nor less than two and the property of the Club (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Treasurer) shall be vested in them. They shall deal with the property of the Club as directed by a resolution of the Committee (of which an entry in the Minute Book shall be conclusive evidence) and they shall be indemnified against risk and expense by the Members. Trustees should be members (including Honorary members) of the Club.
4. In the event that the Club be wound up its assets shall be donated to the Equine Blue Cross.
5. These rules may be added to, repealed, or amended by resolution of 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..

December 2019