

# Downshire Riding Club

## Rules and Constitution

1. The club shall be known as **Downshire Riding Club**.
2. The object of the Club shall be 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. To this end the club will undertake:
  - a. To organise instructional meetings, lectures, competitive events and other activities deemed to further these objectives;
  - b. To support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies;
  - c. To maintain full affiliation to the British Horse Society.
3. **Membership:-**
  - a. This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of 18yrs on the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current membership year as adult members and those aged between 6yrs and 17yrs as junior members, having paid the due subscription and completing the required membership form for the current period.
  - b. Junior members will NOT be entitled to vote. However, clubs with a junior membership may appoint a junior committee to discuss matters relevant to the junior membership.
  - c. Honorary membership, may be conferred by the committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club. The Club may grant the status of Honorary Membership on a member for special services to the club. This is an honour largely intended to reward persons who have served the club in extraordinary circumstances and the granting of this award must be recorded in the minutes. The Honorary Membership will be reviewed annually and may be cancelled at any time with the agreement of the Committee and must be recorded in the minutes.
  - d. Anyone wishing to become a member of Downshire Riding Club must submit a completed Nomination Form to the Treasurer.
  - e. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> of October and must be paid by the 30 November. No member, riding or non-riding, may attend any club activity following the A.G.M., until full membership has been paid.
  - f. The committee may expel from Membership of the Club any member who has wilfully breached 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, or caused distress or harm to any animal or person whilst present at any club event/meeting, provided that before expelling him/her, the Committee shall call upon him/her for an explanation of his/her conduct and provide a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him/her.
4. **Administration: The Committee**
  - a. All the powers of management shall be vested in the adult committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a total minimum of 6 and a total maximum of 10 other Committee members. five members shall form a quorum.
  - b. 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 longest

in office. 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.

- c. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from amongst their number.
- d. The decision of the Committee shall be final, unless overruled at a General Meeting by a majority vote. Adult members are only eligible to vote.
- 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 decision shall be final and binding to the Members.
- f. The Committee may formulate byelaws, 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 next following Annual General meeting and then shall be eligible for re-election. To complete the retired members term of office. The member so nominated will be so eligible for re-election at future Annual General Meetings.

The committee will fulfil the job role elected to hold within committee, attend regular meetings throughout the year, take on club duties on a rota basis, engage and involve members at every possible opportunity, setting standards and leading by example at all times.

5. The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of each year.
6. The annual subscription shall be decided each year and approved at the Annual General Meeting having due regard to the financial standing of the club at the time.
7. The committee may appoint annually a president and vice presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the committee.
8. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September 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 vacancies on the Committee.
  - c. To appoint an Auditor for the incoming year.
  - 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
9. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee, or by a written request to the Chairman signed by not less than five Adult Members, specifying the business to be discussed. The Secretary shall give all members 10 days notice of the date of such a meeting, and shall specify in such notice matters to be dealt with at said meeting.
10. The person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting shall audit the Accounts of the Club each year. The person should be experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the club.
11. Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to each member not less than 7 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with. Notice may be given to any member by sending it by post to him at his address in the United Kingdom or by email registered in the records of the club. If any member has no address in the UK 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.
12. The Club, its committee or persons acting on their behalf, shall not be held responsible for any incident or injury to any person or property, howsoever caused.
13. Members shall be properly turned out when representing the club at an event or at any Club events. All riders must wear protective headgear adhering to B.H.S. Riding Club regulations together with proper footwear. Hard hats must be worn to at least the minimum standard with harness properly adjusted and fastened. Hats marked EN1384, PASO15:1998, ASTM F1163, BSEN14572:2005 OR SEI. American standard SNELL E2001, ASTM 95, SNZ3838 1998.
14. There will be a set charge per animal for schooling on every Club night. (Schooling is defined as any mounted or unmounted activity outside scheduled activities) This will be reviewed annually.

15. These rules maybe 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 providing that prior notice has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendment.
16. Web site, Facebook, email and mobile phone –Each of these are the property of JDownshire Riding Club and will be operated to the highest interest of the club and will remain the property of Downshire riding club under all circumstances. The committee will appoint a member to access, update and use the aforementioned for club information. The committee will agree the access ability by key personnel and at no point will anyone person have sole access. In the event that a key person resigns from their post access/ownership of aforementioned will be returned to the committee and at this stage passwords will be changed and allocated appropriately.
17. Any committee member absenting him/herself without good cause from more than 75% of meetings and major club fixtures shall be deemed to have had his committee nomination suspended and shall be notified as such. Any such member will not be eligible for re-election in future years.
18. In the event that Downshire riding club cease to operate, disbursement of club funds will be donated e.g. to the area liaison committee – the club must agree recipient at a special AGM.  
Signed: Chairperson of Founder Committee  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Amendment to Paragraph 5. Chairperson Sarah McLean April 2015  
(as proposed at AGM).**

**Amendment to Paragraph 3 f. Chairperson Zena Martin. As agreed at  
AGM Sept 2017**

---

<sup>i</sup> As laid out in the BHS Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events, attached.