



REARSBY LODGE RIDING CLUB CONSTITUTION

Amended on 2nd December 2024 following proposed changes being agreed by members at the AGM on 28th November.

1. Name of Club

The club will be called Rearsby Lodge Riding Club (hereinafter known as 'the club' and may also be known as 'RLRC').

The club will be affiliated to The British Horse Society.

2. Club Structure/Legal Structure

The Club runs as an unincorporated structure.

3. Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of the club will be to:

- promote participation in horse riding as a sport and recreational activity within the local community
- provide opportunities for coaching and competition within the amateur sport of horse riding
- promote good friendship and fellowship amongst riders
- improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship
- support and co-operate with organisations that promote equestrianism in all forms.
- concern itself with any matter which will benefit the horse and horse user in the local community
- provide suitable facilities to further the aims of the club.

4. Membership

- a. Membership of the club is open to anyone interested in promoting, coaching, volunteering or participating in horse riding, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs.
- b. To become a member, persons shall complete a membership form as prescribed by the Committee and pay the annual membership fee. The membership consists of the following categories: Senior Member, Junior Member, Family Member and Social Member. Membership shall consist of persons of age 5 years or over who have been accepted by the Committee and who have paid the due subscription for the applicable year.
- c. If under the age of 18, a parent with Parental Rights and Responsibility must sign all relevant club documents. A person is a junior until his or her 18th birthday.
- d. The Committee may appoint a junior sub-Committee to discuss matters relevant to the junior membership. This sub-Committee, through the Chairman of said Committee, may make recommendations to the Club Committee for their consideration.
- e. 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 Committee. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.
- f. All members will be subject to the regulations of this constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept the regulations and codes of practice that the club has adopted.
- g. Annual membership subscription may be paid at any time through the BHS /BRC online system and runs for twelve months.
- h. The annual subscription shall be determined by the Committee. The club will keep the subscription at a level that is unlikely to pose a significant obstacle to people participating.

5. Sports Equity

- a. 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, equality 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.

- b. 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.
- c. The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- d. All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behavior and promote equality of opportunity.
- e. The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

6. The Committee

- a. All powers of management shall be vested in the Committee.
- b. The Committee shall consist of a total of 16 members, including a Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. If required, the Committee shall elect a Vice Chair from among its members.
- c. Each Committee member shall be elected annually at the AGM.
- d. All Committee members must be members of the Club.
- e. The officers of the Committee shall be elected among their number at the first meeting after the AGM.
- f. If the post of any officer or ordinary Committee member should fall vacant after such an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting.
- g. The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- h. The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- i. The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- j. The Committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held no less than six times per year.
- k. Six Committee members shall form a quorum at each Committee meeting.
- l. Decisions are based on the consensus of the Committee members present. If a vote is required for the purposes of decision making and there is an equal number of votes for and against a given proposal, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- m. The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.

- n. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything relating to the club not provided therein. Their decision shall be final and binding on the members.
- o. The Committee may elect sub-Committees for any special activities or purposes of the Club, which the Committee may authorise.
- p. Minutes shall be made of each Committee meeting and will be available signed in the minutes folder of the Club and held by the Secretary.
- q. The Committee or any person acting on the Club's behalf shall not be held responsible for any personal accidents or injury, loss or injury to property, however caused.
- r. Each committee member is expected to attend all committee meetings, as that is the forum for all decision making.
- s. Each committee member will have a specific area of responsibility reflecting the club's current interests and activities.
- t. The Committee may appoint annually a President and/or a vice president. They shall not only by virtue of such appointment become members of the Committee.

7. Finances

- a. The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.
- b. All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- c. The financial year of the club will run from 1st November – 31st October.
- d. The audited accounts will be presented to the Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- e. An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the AGM.
- f. Any cheques, BACS or any other electronic means of payment (PayPal etc.) drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of or be authorised by the treasurer and one of up to two other officers.
- g. A member of the Club is not liable to pay to the funds of the Club, or anyone else, any money beyond the subscriptions required to be paid by the rules of the club as long as they remain a member.
- h. All surplus income and any profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.
- i. Expenses are payable to members according to the relevant policy.
- j. Vouchers may be given to members according to the relevant policy.

8. Extraordinary General Meetings and Annual General Meetings

- a. General meetings are the means, whereby the members of the club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.

- b. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by a request signed by no less than 10% of the club 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. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members. Notice may be given to any member by email or by post, should no email address be available to the club. 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.
- c. The club shall hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of November/December to:
 - Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM.
 - Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary.
 - Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts.
 - Receive a report from those responsible for certifying the Club's accounts.
 - Elect the members onto the Committee.
 - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
 - Deal with other relevant business.
- d. Notice of the AGM will be given by the club Secretary with at least 14 days notice to be given to all members.
- e. The constitution will be reviewed regularly and will only be changed through agreement by majority vote at an AGM or EGM. Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them at least 7 days before an AGM.
- f. All members aged 18 or over are eligible to vote. The views of juniors may be represented through the establishment of a junior committee (please see 4e).
- g. The Chairman of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.

9. Discipline and appeals

- a. Any concern by any junior or senior member of the club about the behaviour of anyone associated with the club in relation to the welfare and wellbeing of animals or people must be reported to the Committee without delay.

- b. All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the safeguarding policy and procedures. The Club Safeguarding Officer (CWO) is the lead contact for all members in the event of any safeguarding concerns.
- c. All complaints regarding the behaviour of members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.
- d. The Committee will meet to hear complaints within a maximum of 10 days of a complaint being lodged. The Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.
- e. The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 10 days of the hearing.
- f. There will be the right of appeal to the Committee following disciplinary action being announced. The Committee should consider the appeal within 10 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

10. Dissolution

- a. A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.
- b. In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared with any club funds. A decision in respect of any assets of the club that remain following this will be donated to one or more charities as determined at an AGM or EGM at the time.

11. Declaration

Rearsby Lodge Riding Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution as a current operating policy regulating the actions of members.

Name	Sue McGrath	Position	Chairman
Sign		Date	

Name	Jacqui Ludlam	Position	Honorary Secretary
Sign		Date	