



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CORBRIDGE AND DISTRICT RIDING CLUB

The club will be called Corbridge and District Riding Club (Hereinafter known as 'The club') and may also be known as CDRC. Corbridge and District Riding Club will be affiliated to The British Horse Society via the British Riding Clubs (BRC) affiliation scheme. The club may also be registered with appropriate statutory bodies as required by its constitution and organisation.

1. Club Structure

The Club is a Community Group.

(Community group is defined here as: where a number of people get together for a common purpose or interest. The group may provide support for each other, or support others that need some help in providing for their own needs and objectives. There is a sense of purpose and achievement in the project, All members benefit in participating in the activities. There is a value in being a part of the group.)

2. Club Values

The club supports and embraces the British Horse Society Values:

Horses First, the Horse is at the heart of all we do
One Team, we collaborate with and value our members, supporters and partners
Respectful, we deliver with respect, integrity, dedication and passion
Supportive, we support horses and people to safely enjoy life together
Excellence, we strive for excellence in everything we do.

3. Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of the club shall be:

- In accordance with BRC Code of Conduct, to prioritise the welfare of the pony/horse in everything we do.
- To promote and encourage participation in horse riding as a sport and recreational activity.
- To improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemanship.
- To organise training, instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further the objectives.
- To work in partnership with other local organisations with common objectives
- 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 objective which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.

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. Membership shall consist of anyone who has attained the age of seventeen years (including those who will have their seventeenth birthday during the year commencing in January in which they join) and who has paid the 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.

- c. To become a member, persons shall complete an application form as prescribed by the committee and pay the annual membership fee. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year.
- d. The committee may refuse or remove 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 or removal may be made to the committee.
- e. All members will be subject to this constitution and by joining the club will be deemed to accept these regulations and any codes of practice that the club has adopted.
- g. The annual subscription shall be determined by the committee.

5. Committee

The affairs of the club shall be conducted by a committee which shall include the following officers: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

- a. All committee members must be members of the Club.
- b. The committee shall consist of at least 4 people (including the officers) drawn from the Club membership, with an aim to have between 6 and 12 members. The committee will seek and consider applications for committee membership from the club membership as and when they identify the need to augment the knowledge, skills and experience of the committee.
- c. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the Committee and shall be proposed annually by the Committee from amongst club members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for approval.
- d. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years, unless s/he resigns before the expiry of that period or is unable to continue in office for any other reason. S/he may be proposed for a further three years by the Committee to the AGM for approval. Following a six year continued term s/he can continue the term with re-appointment annually as described above.
- e. The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies (including with regard to Equality and Diversity; Complaints and Disciplinary matters), codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the Club.
- f. The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- g. The committee meetings will be convened by the Secretary of the Club and be held no less than 6 times per year.
- h. The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything relating to the club not provided therein and its decision shall be final and binding on the members.
- i. 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.

- j. Any Committee member who does not attend a Committee meeting for six consecutive months shall be deemed to have resigned his/her membership of the Committee, unless they have sought leave of absence from the Chair. This clause may be waived at the discretion of the Committee.

6. Finances

- a. The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.
- b. The Treasurer will present a statement of current financial resources of the club, including income and expenditure, to Committee meetings.
- c. The financial year of the club will run from 1st January and end on 31st December in each year.
- d. All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
- e. A statement of annual income and expenditure accounts, which have been examined by an independent appropriate person/organisation, will be presented by the Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting.
- f. Any cheques, BACS or other electronic means of payment (PayPal etc.) drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of or be authorised by the Treasurer or one of up to two other officers.

7. Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings

- a. General meetings are the means whereby, subject to any other constitutional provisions, the members of the club exercise their democratic rights in conducting the Club's affairs.
- b. The club shall hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the first quarter of the year 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 examining the Club's accounts.
 - Confirm the appointment of the club officers as proposed by the Committee.
 - Confirm the appointment of any new members onto the Committee as proposed by the Committee.
 - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution.
 - Deal with other relevant business.
- c. Notice of the AGM will be given to the members at least 28 days' prior, in writing stating the location of the meeting and its time.
- d. Updates and proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the Secretary prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to the members at least 7 days in writing before the AGM.
- e. All members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- f. The Chair of the Club shall hold a deliberative as well as a casting vote at general and committee meetings.
- g. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing at least 14 days before the appointed date to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the membership of the Club. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM on 14 days' notice by decision of a simple majority of the committee members. Members shall be sent details of the subject of business of such an EGM.

h. All procedures shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

8. Amendments to the Constitution

This constitution will only be changed through agreement of the members at an AGM or EGM with attendance of at least 10% of the club membership or as a result of seeking such agreement via electronic means such as e mail.

9. Equality and Diversity Policy

As a club affiliated to BRC and British Horse Society, the club adheres to the BHS Equality and Diversity Policy which states “ At the BHS, we value, respect and embrace diversity and equality, enabling us to be inclusive and to engage with as many different groups of people as possible across all our stakeholders.” The full policy may be found at:

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/media/zoyokgee/bhs-equality-policy-jul-2020-v4.pdf>

10. Social Media Policy

As a club affiliated to BRC, the club adheres to the BRC social media policy as follows: Whilst BRC acknowledge that social media can be an ideal way to communicate with both members and the wider equestrian community, any defamatory comments relating to members, officials, volunteers and staff of BRC or the BHS will not be tolerated. An online post is libellous if it is damaging to a person’s reputation. Re-posting or re-tweeting can be seen as an endorsement of the original comment. Publication of information and comments on social media carries the same obligations as any other kind of publication and should follow the same ethical and legal standards. BRC reserves the right to monitor, intercept and review social media postings and activities to ensure that its rules are being complied with, and for its legitimate business purposes.

Further details in relation to the rules are set out in the BRC Handbook 2023

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/media/1z3n0vwi/brc-handbook-2023-final.pdf>

11. BRC Complaints Procedure

As a club affiliated to BRC and British Horse Society, the club adheres to the British Riding Clubs Complaints Procedure for Area, Club and Member Complaints

Many issues can be quite easily resolved by better understanding and communication between the parties concerned and this should be the first option for any complaint. The following types of complaint should be brought to the attention of the Area / Club / Member and resolved by them:

- Disputes between Club members
- Issues regarding the availability of events
- Disputes regarding Club teams

The full policy may be found at:

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/british-riding-clubs/policies-procedures/>

12. Dissolution of the Club

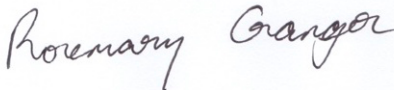
- a. A resolution to dissolve the club can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote (ie above 50%) of the membership.
- b. In the event of dissolution, provided that the club is solvent, all debts should be cleared with any club funds. Any assets of the club that remain following this will be transferred, as resolved by the EGM or AGM to a suitable Not for Profit organisation committed to horse welfare and / or the promotion of horse riding and good horsemanship or the British Horse Society.

13. Declaration

Corbridge and District Riding Club hereby adopts and accepts this constitution.

Name		Position	Chair
Sign		Date	

Name		Position	Secretary
Sign		Date	

Name		Position	Treasurer
Sign		Date	5 April 2023

5 April 2023