

South West Riders – Constitution

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. To work closely and co-operate fully with all statutory and other bodies to explore all access opportunities, influencing policy making wherever possible.
- 1.2. Encourage creative thinking in the planning of safe Off-Road Equestrian Routes.
- 1.3. To press for the creation of new Bridleways and the improvement of those in existence.
- 1.4. To link existing Bridleways and other equestrian routes to create an effective network.
- 1.5. To work with statutory authorities to improve road safety.
- 1.6. Recognise the legitimate needs and concerns of landowners/managers affected and work towards ensuring any routes are satisfactory to them.
- 1.7. Press for the development of Multi-use trails and actively support the inclusion of horse riding on existing cycleways.
- 1.8. Actively pursue research of 'lost ways' bringing awareness of the 2026 cut off point for claiming old routes to the fore front.

2. AFFILIATION

- 2.1 The Association shall be an Affiliated Group Member of the British Horse Society.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership is open to all.

4. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 4.1 Full members: Subscription - £5.00

4.2 Family membership for all members of the same household - £7.00

5. RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Full and Family Members shall have full rights of membership.

6. THE FINANCIAL YEAR

6.1 The Association's Financial Year will run from 1st April to 31st March.

6.2 Subscriptions for all classes of membership are payable upon joining membership and thereafter annually on the first day of April.

6.3 Any member whose subscription is in arrears by three calendar months shall be deemed to have resigned.

7. COMPLAINT

7.1 In the event of a complaint being received that the conduct of any member is detrimental to the interests of the Association, the Committee may expel such member without assigning a reason, but shall refund any subscription for the current season.

8. LIABILITY

8.1 All persons taking part in Association Meets do so as individuals and the Association shall not be responsible for any injury that may occur to them or for any damage they may cause.

9. OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE

9.1 The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and normally, but not necessarily, five other members. All members will be electable annually.

9.2 The Association may also elect a President. He/She shall hold the office for one year, being then eligible for re-election. He/She shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee and shall not during his/her term of office be barred from holding another office in the Association.

- 9.3 The Committee may fill any vacancy that may occur pending the Annual General Meeting when an officer or Committee member shall be elected for the next year.
- 9.4 The Committee may also co-opt other members to their number for the current year.
- 9.5 Nominations for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer must be signed by the Proposer, Seconder and Nominee, and presented to the Association Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.6 Other Association Officers may be appointed as appropriate by the Committee to assist with the running of the Association. Such Officers are not eligible for voting on committee decisions unless otherwise a member of the committee.

10. COMMITTEE'S POWER

- 10.1 The Committee shall have full control over the funds and management of the Association. Five committee members, duly convened shall constitute a quorum.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held during March or April to receive reports and accounts of the retiring Committee and to elect Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
- 11.2 Any motion to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting must be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary more than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, proposed and seconded by two Association members.

12. THE CONSTITUTION

- 12.1 This Constitution shall only be altered at a General Meeting after notice has been given to every member that alteration of rules is to be considered at such meeting.