

## Club Constitution: Long Eaton Riding Club

The Club shall be known as the “Long Eaton Riding Club”, or in abbreviated form as “LERC”.

### **1. Aims and Objectives**

- (a) 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.
- (b) To organise instructional meetings, competitive events and other activities deemed to further the objects.
- (c) To co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- (d) To co-operate with organisations whose main aim is to investigate the subject of bridle tracks 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.
- (e) To concern itself with any subject that will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.

### **2. Membership**

This shall consist of persons who paid the appropriate subscription for the current period and who are, in the opinion of the Committee a fit and proper person to hold membership of the LERC.

- (a) Membership will not be withheld on unreasonable, discriminatory or arbitrary grounds and is open to anyone in the community. Ownership of, possession of or access to a horse or pony is not a pre-requisite of membership.
- (b) The annual subscription for each combination shall be payable on becoming a member, there is no provision for a pro-rata membership fee.
- (c) The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has wilfully broken any of the rules of the Club.
- (d) The Committee may expel a member of the club who in their opinion has acted in a derogatory manner and whose actions are prejudicial to the interests of the club.
- (e) Prior to being expelled, a member shall be called before the Committee to give an explanation of their conduct and the Committee shall listen to any evidence that they may wish to put forward in their defence.

The annual membership fee is presently £10.00.

Non-members may attend any show but will have to pay full price entry fees and will not qualify for points for the end of season presentation.

### **3. How can people join?**

Full information on joining us can be found via the following link;

<http://www.long-eaton-riding-club.co.uk/about-us-committee-rules/become-a-member/>

### **4. Equal opportunities**

LERC will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age. Please refer to our separate Equal Opportunities Policy Document for further details.

### **5. Committee and officers**

LERC are run and administered by an elected committee. The committee are responsible for all of the following on behalf of the club;

- (a) All powers of management shall be vested in the adult Committee.
- (b) A Management Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer.
- (c) The Management Committee may appoint other members to take on the specific roles of Judges Secretary, Awards Secretary, Points Secretary and Fund Raising Co-ordinator.
- (d) The Management Committee may also seek nominations from persons who wish to join the Committee.
- (e) Five duly elected members shall form a Quorum.
- (f) Any matters of an urgent nature that requires a decision before the convening of the next Committee Meeting may be dealt with by the 'Chairs Actions'. Any decision made in this way must be subjected to scrutiny by the full Committee at the next opportunity. The Committee may ratify or reverse any such decision by simple majority vote.
- (g) The Committee may formulate rules for the detailed running of the Club, and may elect Sub Committees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
- (h) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules or for anything relating to the Club not provided for therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
- (i) The Committee shall have the power to fill any temporary vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee, but any person co-opted shall retain office until the next following Annual General Meeting.

- (j) The Committee shall give members at least 14 days notice of an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Advance notice of a meeting may take the form of flyer made available at the LERC Awards Night, be shown on the LERC website or on any social media site used specifically by the club.

The Designated Officers of the committee are as follows;

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Sarah Summerfield
<b>Vice Chairperson/Judge's Secretary:</b>	Gemma Wild
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jane Firban
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Lyn Turner York
<b>Points Secretary:</b>	Isabel Wild
<b>Awards Secretary:</b>	Ella Goodwin
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Lesley Jeffs Bradley Butler Charlotte Hall

## 6. Annual General Meeting

The club hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) once a year.

The Annual General meeting shall take place in December each year to transact the following business:-

- (a) To receive a Statement of Income & Expenditure to the end of the preceding Year,
- (b) To appoint an Auditor,
- (c) To fill vacancies on the Committee,
- (d) All serving members of the Committee shall retire. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election,
- (e) The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Committee from among their membership,
- (f) If the Management Committee appointed other members to undertake specific roles, these members shall be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting,
- (g) New members to the Committee may be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Members will be notified of the date, time and venue of the AGM by publication of these details on the club's website.

Where possible four weeks notice shall be given in advance of the AGM.

The maximum time there can be between AGMs is 15 months to allow for unforeseen factors.

Members must submit items/matters for discussion at the AGM a minimum of 14 days before the date of the meeting.

People may nominate themselves for election to the committee by giving written notice of such, not less than 14 days before the date of the AGM.

What the quorum will be five. This is the minimum number of members that must attend the meeting for it to elect officers or make decisions on behalf of the group. This should be low enough that you will not struggle to meet it, but high enough that big decisions cannot be made by very few people.

## **7. Committee meetings**

The committee will meet as frequently as is required to suit the needs of the club.

Only committee members shall normally be permitted to attend committee meetings. Other members should seek the agreement of the committee Chairperson should they wish to attend a committee meeting for any reason.

The quorum for committee meetings shall be three persons. Committee meetings however cannot proceed without either the chairperson or vice chairperson being present, except in exceptional circumstances.

## **8. General meetings**

These are meetings that all members can attend and take full part in. They shall be called by the club on an ad hoc basis, as and when they are required. These meetings will be arranged at the discretion of the committee, or upon a written request for such being received by a member.

## **9. Finances**

Matters pertaining to money belonging to the club must be dealt with strictly according to the terms of this constitution, as follows;

- (a) The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year.
- (b) The Club shall maintain a Bank Account in the Club's name and cheques signed by any two of the designated signatories.
- (c) The Accounts shall be audited each year by the person appointed as the previous AGM.
- (d) The annual subscription shall be such a sum as determined by the Committee from time to time.

## 10. Changes to the Constitution

From time to time it will be necessary to make changes to this constitution. In order for any changes to be made, the following process must be followed;

- A committee meeting will be convened to discuss the proposed changes,
- The proposed changes shall be published on the club's website for the information of all members, and a 14 day period will be offered for any written objections or requests for a meeting for discussion to be made,
- Thereafter a further committee shall be convened in order for any objections to be discussed, a vote on the proposed changes to be held and (in the event of a vote to make changes) for a timetable for these changes to be published and come into effect to be agreed).

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall normally be responsible for drafting or amending the constitution. They may seek independent legal assistance in doing so if this is deemed necessary.

The constitution shall be dated and signed by the Chairperson of the committee. From that date the new constitution shall immediately come into force and be binding upon all members of the club.

The constitution shall be published on the club's website at all times during its validity, in order that this information may be freely available to all members. The only time that this constitution will not be available in this form will be during any period of amendment or due to any technical fault with the club's website or servers.

## 11. Dissolution

- (a) Dissolution of the LERC shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.
- (b) In the event of the dissolution of the LERC, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the club.
- (c) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:-
  - (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of any debts and liabilities of the club may be transferred to any charitable body with the same objects as the club.
  - (ii) If the club is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide, or, if not, dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the members of the club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

**For and on behalf of;  
Long Eaton Riding Club**