

CONSTITUTION OF THE SCOTTISH DRESSAGE GROUP

1. Title. The Club shall be known as the **Scottish Dressage Group**.

Objects

2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) To promote participation in and provide facilities for the amateur sport of riding.
- b) To encourage riding as a sport and recreation, to promote good fellowship amongst riders and to improve and maintain the standard of riding and horsemastership.
- c) To organise instructional meetings, lectures and competitive events and other activities deemed to further the objects of the Club.
- d) To be affiliated to the British Horse Society and to support and co-operate with recognised organisations interested in the breeding and the use of all breeds and types of horses and ponies.
- e) To concern itself with any objective which will benefit the horse and horse user in the district.

Membership

3. This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years or over on the 1st January in the current year (and persons aged seventeen years and under if a junior section is formed) and, having been accepted by the Committee, have paid the due subscription for the current period. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any persons deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club. In 1995 it was agreed to allow juniors to join as long as the number didn't exceed 15% of total membership. No junior member may be a voting member of any Riding Club and should be accompanied by an adult at all club events.

4. A member shall complete the application form as prescribed by the committee. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other benefits. The committee may refuse membership only for good cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year which is 1st October. Any member whose subscription is more than three months in arrears shall have his or her name removed from the membership list after written notice to that effect has been sent to him or her. Any member joining the club after a date agreed by the committee shall be deemed to have paid his or her subscription for the ensuing year.

6. The Committee may expel from membership of the Club any member who has breached any of the rules of the Club, or who has in the opinion of the Committee have been guilty of any conduct derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of the Club, provided that before expelling him or her the Committee shall allow the member to appeal the decision to the members and provide an explanation of his/her conduct and allow a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him/her.

7. Administration

- a) All powers of management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and up to eleven committee members, five shall form a quorum.
- b) At the Annual General Meeting each year, two members (the members to retire being those who have been longest in office) shall stand down from the Committee, but may be available for re-election. Committee members shall normally be elected for a period of two periods of three years (i.e. six years) but if no nominations received a committee member would be eligible for re-election.
- c) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Training Officer shall be elected annually by the Committee from amongst their number.
- d) 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 on the members unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.
- e) The Committee may formulate by-laws for the detailed running of the Club and elect sub-committees for any special activities of the Club which the Committee may authorise.
- f) 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.
- 8.** The financial year of the Club shall commence on 1st October each year.
- 9.** The annual subscription shall be such a sum as is determined by the Annual General Meeting, any changes to be effective from a date agreed at that Meeting. The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
- 10.** The Committee may appoint annually a President and Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the Committee.
- 11.** The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November in each year 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 year
 - b) To fill vacancies on the Committee.
 - c) To nominate an auditor.
 - d) To deal with any special matters which the Committee may desire to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.
- 12.** A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by a request signed by not less than ten per cent of the 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 the matters to be dealt with at the meeting.
- 13.** The accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting. The person should be experienced in accounting matters and not a member of the club.
- 14.** Notice may be given to any members by sending it by post or email to any address within the United Kingdom registered in the records of the Club. If any member has no address in the UK, such members shall not be entitled to receive notices. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to any members or the non receipt of such a notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
- 15.** These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual General 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 provided that prior notice has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendments.

16. The Club, its Committee and persons acting on their behalf shall not be held responsible for any accident or injury to any person or property whatsoever and howsoever caused.

17. The number of members shall be limited to such number as is determined by the Annual General Meeting. The current ceiling is 120 (changed from 120 to 80 at the AGM in 2013, and back to 120 at the AGM in 2014).

18. Members shall be correctly turned out at all mounted events. Hard hats, to the approved standard, must be worn at all mounted events. Hard hats must be worn to at least the minimum standard set by the British Riding Clubs with harness properly adjusted and fastened. Skullcap hats must be worn with a silk.

19. All surplus income or profits are to be reinvested in the Club. No surpluses or assets will be distributed to members or third parties.

20. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, any equipment shall be donated to the RDA via the RDA Regional Chairman and any outstanding funds shall be divided equally between the following charities:

1. The Grass Sickness Research Fund.
2. The Brook Hospital
3. World Horse Welfare

Constitution amended December 2014

Amendment History from 2013

1. 24/12/2014 – Item 17 – Membership ceiling raised to 120 in accordance with agreement at 2014 AGM held on 01/12/2014.