



SUSSEX PEGGERS RIDING CLUB

at Ditchling Common Stud Riding School

Club Constitution

1. Title

The Club shall be known as Sussex Peggars Riding Club

2. Vision

To encourage equestrian skill at arms (SAA) as a sport and recreation within the county of Sussex particularly as well as nationally and internationally, to promote good fellowship amongst all who are involved and to improve and maintain the standard of riding, horsemanship and general participation by all in the sport of SAA

3. Objectives

a) To organise instructional meetings, training sessions, lectures and competitive events and other activities to further these objectives.

b) To develop the pool of trained horses, judges and facilities for the sport

c) To develop and promote the sport of SAA throughout the UK to grow, sustain and excel to such an extent as for other clubs to be formed that are dedicated primarily to the sport of SAA that will enable i) formal application to be made to BRC or BHS to form an independent Governing Body to which all clubs may be affiliated and ii) formal application to be made to the BEF for recognition of the sport and affiliation to the BEF of the governing body that is eventually formed.

d) To concern itself with any object which will further these objectives.

4. Membership

a) This shall consist of persons who have attained the age of eighteen years (and persons aged seventeen years and under within the junior section) and, having been accepted by the Committee, have paid the due subscription for the current period subject to paragraph d) below. Membership is open to all regardless of race, gender, age or sexual orientation.

b) Membership may be conferred by the Committee upon any person deemed by them to have rendered notable service to the Club.

c) No junior member may be a voting member of the Club. However, the club shall appoint a Junior Committee to discuss matters relevant to the junior membership. This committee, through their Chairman, who may attend meetings of the main committee, may make recommendations to the Adult Committee for consideration.

d) Anyone desirous of becoming a member or wishing to renew membership shall be proposed by a member and seconded by another, one of whom must be a member of the committee and his/her name and address forwarded to the Membership Secretary of the club on the appropriate Application or Renewal form.

e) Membership of the committee shall be exclusive to members who are not committee members of any other body or club that is involved in the sport of SAA.

Committee members may however be members of the committee of a governing body dedicated to the sport of SAA that is set up under the umbrella of the BHS or BRC if/when such a body is eventually formed.

f) The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of the Club's financial year. Any member whose subscription is more than one month in arrears shall have his or her name removed from the Membership List after written notice to that effect has been sent.

g) Any member joining the club on or after 31 March shall be deemed to have paid his or her subscription for the ensuing year.

h) 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 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 call upon him or her for an explanation of his or her conduct and provide a proper opportunity of answering the allegations against him or her.

5. Administration

a) All powers of management shall be vested in the adult Committee which shall comprise fully paid-up members of SPRC and include the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Development Manager, Child Welfare Officer, Press & Comms Officer(s) and at least 4 elected members.

b) At the Annual General Meeting each year, one third of the members of the Committee shall retire, the members to retire being those who have been longest in office. Those who have been in office for the same length of time shall determine retiring members by lot. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.

c) The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General meeting.

d) The decision of the Committee shall be final unless over-ruled at a General Meeting.

e) The Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the rules and for anything relating to the club not provided therein and their decision shall be final and binding on the members.

f) 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.

g) The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancy arising amongst members of the Committee, but any person so co-opted shall retain office only until the next Annual General Meeting and then shall be eligible for

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re-election. In addition the committee may co-opt up to 2 further members who shall serve for such period as the committee determines or until the next annual general meeting whichever shall first occur

h) The Committee may appoint annually a President and/or Vice-Presidents. They shall not by virtue only of such appointment become members of the club.

j) Provision shall be made for members to vote by proxy if they are unable to attend the Annual General – or any Special General – Meeting. Such votes shall be personally signed by club members and submitted by post only – addressed to the Secretary. Such provision will not be made in the event of an Extraordinary General meeting.

k) The Committee shall seek to reach decisions by consensus. In the event of a vote being required, it will be by a show of hands and a total of valid proxy votes received. Only elected committee members may vote. In the event of a tied vote, the chair will have the casting vote.

6. Financial year

The financial year of the Club shall commence on the 1 January in each year.

7. Annual subscription

The annual subscription shall be £30 for adult members, £20 for students and £10 for under 18s or such other sum (or sums) as shall from time to time be determined by the Committee subject to review at the Annual General Meeting

8. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November of 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 appoint – or re-appoint - an Auditor

d) To deal with any special matter which the Committee may desire to bring to the attention of the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee. Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to the members not less than 28 days before the meeting and shall specify the matters to be dealt with.

e) Any other business notified to the Secretary by a member not less than 7 days prior to the meeting

f) The Accounts of the Club shall be audited each year by the person appointed at the previous Annual General Meeting. The person shall be experienced in accounting matters and shall not be a committee-member of the club.

9. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee

if, between AGMs, it is considered there is a formal need to consult the full membership. 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.

10. Extraordinary General meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the membership providing at least 10 fully paid up members or at least 25% of the paid up membership, whichever shall be the greater, present a defined resolution to the committee to be considered by the full membership. The Secretary shall give 10 days' notice of the date of such a meeting to the full membership.

11. Notices of Meetings

a) Notice of any meeting may be given to any member by sending it by e-mail, at the address registered in the records of the Club. If any member has no e-mail address such member shall – on becoming a club member - register a request with the Secretary that notices of meetings be sent by post to the address in the United Kingdom that is registered in the records of the Club. If no e-mail address exists and if no request is made by any member for notices to be sent by post, such member shall not be entitled to receive any notice.

b) 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) If committee members fail to attend 2 or more meetings within any given financial year without an acceptable apology then the committee may declare the post open and call for nominations to fill the vacancy.

12. Child Welfare Policy

Sussex Peggars Riding Club will operate a child welfare policy working within the national guidelines

13. Amendment of Club Rules

These rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution at any Annual or Special General Meeting or by a majority vote that is called by e-mail giving a stipulated timescale for a reply – silence shall be deemed to be acceptance in this latter regard. No such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless carried by a majority vote of at least two thirds of club members provided that prior notice of the amendment has been sent to all members stating the proposed amendment.

14. Dissolution

In the case of dissolution of the club, any monies or assets will be donated to an appropriate horse-related charity.

January 2012

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