

The
Western Equestrian Society



CONSTITUTION
April, 2013

Title

- 1.0 The Society shall be known as “The Western Equestrian Society” hereinafter referred to as “the Society”.

Headquarters

- 2.0 The headquarters of the Society shall be at the address of the Treasurer of the Society, though meetings shall always be held at a place convenient to the majority of the Council members by their mutual consent.

Objects

- 3.0 The objects of the Society shall be to:
- a) Promote throughout the British Isles true high standards of Western Equitation as practised in the United States of America;
 - b) Stimulate growth of this riding discipline to the detriment of the movie image and to maintain its acceptance within the British Isles;
 - c) Actively discourage ridden games or rodeo events that act to the detriment of the image of Western Equitation in the British Isles;
 - d) Define and enforce Rules for the conduct of equestrian competitions approved by or affiliated to the Society;
 - e) Approve Judges to officiate at shows approved by or affiliated to the Society;
 - g) Encourage tuition in all aspects of Western Equitation by means of demonstrations, lectures and training clinics;
 - h) Encourage Members to train their horses to a high standard whether for pleasure or competition and for the latter to such a standard as to become eligible to complete at International level;
 - i) Organise and approve such other activities of all or any kind whether equestrian or social as may be deemed appropriate for the general benefit of the Society.
 - j) Assess instructors for inclusion on the Society’s List of Approved Instructors.
- 4.0 The Income and Assets of the Society shall be applied solely to its stated objects.

Membership

- 5.0 Membership shall be divided into five categories:

1. Life; 2. Full; 3. Family; 4. Junior; 5. Honorary.

Membership cards shall be issued upon acceptance of fees deemed acceptable by Council.

- 5.1 Membership shall be a privilege, NOT a right; application for which shall be made on the correct forms and by fees and procedures prescribed from time to time by the Society. Membership or application therefore may be terminated or rejected by the Council of the Society for reasons that the said Council may feel are detrimental to the interest, policies, programmes, objectives or even the harmonious relationship of the Society and its members.

- 5.2 Whilst in good standing, ALL full members shall have equal rights, interests, and responsibilities, with respect to the Society and its property. They shall be bound and will obey all by-laws, rules, and regulations of the Society and the decisions and actions of the Council. They shall be entitled to vote by personal attendance at the A.G.M., and any extraordinary general meetings.
- 5.3 Annual membership shall be of a fee determined by Council each year, and shall run for 12 months from the 1st day of the month of joining. A renewal notice shall be sent to the current address according to WES records prior to the expiry date of the membership. If renewal is not received by the last day of the month following expiry, membership shall be deemed to be lost.
- 5.4 Junior membership will be 50% of the full membership for those members under 19 on the 1st January each year. On reaching the age of 18 membership will be automatically extended to the expiry of their current membership year, from which date full membership fees will apply. Youth members will have no voting rights.
- 5.5 Family membership is restricted to two adults (aged 19 years or over) plus their children (ages as defined in rule 5) living at the same address. Each of the two adults will have voting rights. Only one Society magazine and two rule books may be claimed by family membership.
- 5.6 Life membership is available at a fee of eight times the annual membership fee. It is not transferable. Voting rights will be the same as for Full membership.
- 5.7 The Society, acting through its Council reserve the right to award full life membership to persons who merit special recognition because of their efforts in the promotion of the Society, or Western Riding. Their voting rights will be the same as for Full membership.
- 5.8 From time to time, the Society, acting through its Council reserve the right to award Honorary memberships (usually for overseas trainers, judges, etc.). These honorary members will have no voting rights.
- 5.9 Amateur status will be given only to those members who have not received cash remuneration for training either riders or horses within the three years prior to their application for this status. Amateur status will be removed from any member who receives cash remuneration for training riders or horses.
- 5.10 Any Member who, at the request of the Council, performs any work or services for or incurs expenses on behalf of the Society shall be entitled to such remuneration or reimbursement as the Council shall approve.

Management

- 6.0 All powers of management shall be vested in a Council herein referred to as "the Council" elected from within the voting Membership and comprised of a Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Area Co-ordinator, Show Coordinator, Press and Public Relations Officer, health & Safety Officer and Youth Officer each entitled to one vote. The Council may in addition appoint any other person to council in a nonvoting advisory capacity.
- 6.1 All Society accounts, other than those in outlined in paragraph 7.4, must have at least three signatories, any two of whom must be used for any withdrawal.

- 6.2 Council members shall be elected by the Membership at either an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. No more than two voting officers residing in any one Area, as defined in paragraph 7, and no more than one voting officer from immediate family (i.e. partner, sibling, parent, child) may serve on the Council concurrently.
- 6.3 Any position on the Council which falls vacant may be temporarily filled by the Council from amongst the voting Membership. The appointee shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting whereupon they shall stand down and may offer themselves for election by the Membership.
- 6.4 At the Annual General Meeting in each year one half of the members of the Council shall retire, the members to retire being those who have served longest in office, and as between those who have served in office for the same duration the members to retire shall be determined by lot. Retiring members may offer themselves for re-election.
- 6.5 Members standing for election to a position on the Council, except retiring members standing for re-election, shall submit, no less than 7 days prior to the meeting, brief details of their experience and reasons for their application for the position, to enable the information to be presented at the meeting.
- 6.6 Council members are charged to meet at least three times per year on a day and at a time and place mutually convenient in order to discuss the proper running of the Society for the benefit of its Members in all matters appertaining to the Society. Additional meetings shall be convened by the Secretary at the request of the Chairperson, or of a quorum of the Council, and no less than 10 days notice shall be given.
- 6.7 A minimum of four Council members present are required for a quorum, and the Chairperson shall preside (or in his absence any other member of the Council so appointed by the members present) and shall hold an additional casting vote.
- 6.8 Council members shall be indemnified by the Society against financial risk arising from the execution of their office and shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all expenses reasonably incurred thereby.
- 6.9 Any member of the Council may be removed from office by a Resolution carried by a majority vote at any meeting of the Council or at any General Meeting of the Membership.
- 6.10 The Council shall have power to make, amend, or revoke, from time to time Rules and Bylaws for regulating the conduct and affairs of the Society, provided the same are consistent with this Constitution. A copy of such Rules shall be supplied and changes thereto shall be notified in writing to every Member whereupon they shall be binding on all Members notwithstanding that any Member shall not receive a copy.
- 6.11 When deemed necessary or expedient to assist with the running of the Society the Council may appoint any Committee or Working Party which shall conduct its business in accordance with the directions of the Council and report its proceedings to the Council, and all participants shall be entitled to be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred up to a previously agreed budget through their duties on behalf of the Society.

Representatives

- 7.0 The whole of the British Isles shall be divided into geographic Areas (Appendix A). These Areas to be determined by the Council from time to time as being appropriate to the distribution of Membership. For each Area a Representative shall be elected by the Membership of that Area for a maximum period of two years, after which they shall stand down, and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Area Representative may be removed from office at any time by Resolution of the Council or their Area Membership.
- 7.1 Each Area Representative shall be responsible in respect of their Area for:
- a) Promoting the Society and propagating its objects;
 - b) Organising and co-ordinating activities for Members;
 - c) Acting as liaison between the Area membership and the Council;
 - d) Enforcing the Health & Safety policy defined by the Society;
 - e) Ensuring compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Society's insurance cover;
 - f) Accounting for Area funds and showing they are applied for members' benefit;
 - g) Ensuring that elections are held in accordance with paragraph 7;
 - h) Providing for appropriate disposal of Area funds in accordance with the directions of their Area Membership in the event of dissolution of the Society.
- 7.2 Area Representatives are charged to meet at least once per year, on a day and at a time and place mutually convenient, in order to discuss the proper running of the Society for the benefit of its Members in all matters appertaining to the Society. Resolutions from these meetings shall be passed to the Area Co-ordinator for discussion by the Council.
- 7.3 Area Representatives shall have the backing and support of the Council and may, when deemed appropriate by Council, receive a contribution from Society funds (such sum to be determined by the Council) to assist in the expense of performing their duties, but shall indemnify the Society against debts or liabilities incurred in their Area, whether or not in the name of the Society.
- 7.4 Funds accumulated by each Area shall not form any part of the Society's central funds. They are for the sole use of each satellite area..
- 7.5 Accounts opened by each area must have at least two non-related signatories who do not live at the same address. Any withdrawal from an area account must contain two valid signatures. Area representatives and/or their area treasurer shall produce annual draft accounts which must be circulated to all members in the area.
- 7.6 Each area will hold at least one meeting annually to which all current members in the area should be invited. The draft accounts for the area should be approved by a majority and then submitted to the Society Treasurer at each year end, December 31.

General Meetings

- 8.0 An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within four months of the end of the financial year to transact the following business:
- a) Receive reports from the Chairperson and other Council Officers;
 - b) Receive and if approved, adopt a Statement of the Society's audited Accounts in respect of the preceding financial year;
 - c) Appoint an Accountant to prepare properly audited accounts for the current financial year in accordance with approved auditing standards – unless temporarily revoked at an AGM.
 - d) Elect Members to fill vacancies on the Council;
 - e) Deal with any matter which the Council may desire to bring before the Members;
 - f) Discuss resolutions proposed by voting members by written notice to the Secretary, by no less than 42 days prior to the meeting.
 - g) Receive suggestions from the Members for consideration by the Council;
 - h) Discuss any other business relevant to the running of the Society.
 - i) Notice convening the meeting and specifying the agenda, together with a copy of the audited accounts shall be sent to all voting members no less than 21 days prior to the meeting.
 - j) No business other than that printed in the agenda shall be the subject of a vote.
- 8.1 The financial year of the Society shall run from January 1st to December 31st each calendar year.
- 8.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Council or shall be convened within 30 days from receipt of a requisition specifying the business to be discussed and signed by no less than 25 voting Members. Only the business for which the meeting has been called shall be transacted thereat. No less than 21 days written notice of such a meeting shall be given to all voting Members, unless convened under the provisions of Item 11.
- 8.3 At a General Meeting the Chairperson shall preside (or in his/her absence any other member of the Council so appointed by the Members present) and shall hold an additional casting vote.

Variation

- 9.0 The Constitution of the Society shall be amended, supplemented, or rescinded only by a Postal Ballot. Where a constitutional change is recommended by Council the postal ballot may be arranged prior to an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, with the ballot result being announced at the said meeting. Where Council have been requested to arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting, and provided that notice and details of the proposed changes have been included with the agenda, the postal vote will be circulated after said meeting. Such Resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of at least 10% of the total current voting membership. Postal Ballot papers must be returned to the nominated recipients by the closing date of the Ballot.

Liability

10.0 The Society and its Council and Officers and Persons acting on their behalf shall not be liable for any accident, injury, illness or damage to horses, owners, riders, grooms, spectators or any other person or property whatsoever or howsoever caused.

Dissolution

11.0 If at a meeting of the Council a Resolution to dissolve the Society is adopted by at least three-quarters of the full Council, whether voting in person or by proxy, then the Council shall, within 14 days convene an Extraordinary General Meeting by notice in writing of no less than 28 days. If the Resolution is adopted by a majority of at least 10% of the total current voting membership following a Postal Ballot of the total voting Membership, then the Council shall appoint an approved Insolvency Practitioner to dispose of the Assets of the Society and discharge all liabilities and to distribute the proceeds thereof to or amongst any Registered Charity or Charities whose activities are as closely as possible consistent with the objects of the Society and which shall be approved by a simple majority of a Postal Ballot of voting members.

Appendix A

Geographic Membership Areas

- 1 Grampian & Highlands.
- 2 Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire.
- 3 Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire.
- 4 Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear,
- 5 Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Yorkshire.
- 6 Avon, Dyfed, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Herefordshire, Powys, Worcestershire.
- 7 Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire
- 8 Berkshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Sussex, Surrey.
- 9 Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk.
- 10 Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands.
- 11 Borders, Central, Fife, Lothian, Tayside.
- 12 Dumfries & Galloway, Strathclyde.
- 13 Dorset, Hampshire