

West Somerset & Exmoor Bridleways Association

Constitution

1. NAME

The Association shall be known as the West Somerset & Exmoor Bridleways Association, (the WS&EBA).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the WS&EBA is to be an association, affiliated to the British Horse Society, of horse riders or horse-drivers who use, or are otherwise interested in, "bridleways" in the widest sense of any rider's right of way in the West Somerset District.

3. AIMS

- 1) To lobby for the improvement and creation of off-road riding.
- 2) To establish where bridleways, and other rights of way (i.e. byways open to all traffic and unclassified county roads), exist, that can be used by the ridden or driven horse within the area of the WS&EBA.
- 3) To have surveyed all those rights of way described above, to establish their condition, to note any obstructions or unsafe sections, and to report the survey's findings to the appropriate Highway authority.
- 4) To encourage, and assist where appropriate, the Highway authority to carry out their statutory duty of maintaining and improving access for horse riders and carriage drivers on those routes.
- 5) To submit claims to the appropriate Highway authority for the upgrading of paths, not currently defined on the definitive map as bridleways or byways, where evidence exists that such paths should so be defined. Also submit to appropriate Highways authority suggestions for the creations of paths, which would improve the bridleways network (and not unreasonably affect other interests), without necessarily having to find evidence of previous use.
- 6) To lobby the Highways authority to improve the safety and suitability of classified roads, particularly when such sections of the road or road crossings form an essential part of a desirable "community circuit" or bridleway.
- 7) To establish good relationships with landowners, occupiers and Local Authorities (County and Parish Councils) in order to promote the interests of riders and carriage drivers, while at the same time keeping on good terms with other path users such as ramblers and cyclists.
- 8) To promote awareness of the network of bridleways amongst members and communicate interesting rides and routes in the area for members to explore.
- 9) To promote the ideals of safe riding and road safety amongst members and riders generally.
- 10) To co-operate with appropriate organisations on any project that will enhance off-road riding within the area of the Association.

4. GENERAL

In furtherance of the above mentioned purposes, but not otherwise, the WS&EBA shall have the following powers.

- 1) The WS&EBA may raise funds by the way of contributions, subscriptions, donations, grants or any other lawful method, for or towards the purposes of the Association.
- 2) To do all such lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the WS&EBA.

5. MEMBERSHIP

1) Membership is open to any persons wishing to advance the purposes of the WS&EBA subject to approval from the Committee. There are the following categories of membership:-

a) Adult membership.

b) Family membership (Maximum two adults and their children up to the age of 18). Family members shall receive one copy only of any newsletter, notices or correspondence which the Association may issue from time to time).

c) Junior membership - up to the age of 18.

2) Each adult member is entitled to one vote. No applicant is entitled to vote until his application for membership has been accepted.

3) The prescribed subscription fee shall be established at the Annual General Meeting. Members shall pay the prescribed subscription fee on acceptance of application for membership and thereafter annually in advance on the first day of December, (or immediately following the fixing of the membership fee for the year at the AGM, should that be a later date).

4) A member may resign from the WS&EBA at any time by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

5) In the event that a member has not paid their annual subscription within three months after it becomes due then the person's membership is assumed to have terminated.

6. COMMITTEE

1) The WS&EBA shall be managed by a committee of officers, consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, along with the Local Group Co-ordinators for each of the areas. Where appropriate the Committee may co-opt additional members, or members to replace any who may resign, but the maximum number of the Committee members, including officers, shall be 14.

2) Committee members shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the WS&EBA. All posts shall come up for re-election annually.

3) The Committee will normally meet four times a year. Five members of the Committee shall be the quorum. Each member of the committee shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of equality the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

1) The Annual General Meeting of the WS&EBA shall be held each year and within fifteen months of the preceding Annual General Meeting. Notice of 14 days shall be given to the membership. Reports will be presented by the Chairman and the Treasurer along with a statement of the Association's annual accounts. Matters arising shall be decided by a simple majority of those present from the membership. Each member attending shall have one vote. The Chairman will have a casting vote in the case of equal voting.

2) Election for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer will take place at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for these posts should be communicated to the Secretary in writing 48 hours prior to the AGM.

3) An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called whenever requested by more than five members at 14 days written notice to remaining membership. Matters arising shall be decided by a simple majority of those present from the membership. Each member attending shall have one vote.

8. FINANCES

1) The Committee and the Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances and a bank account shall be opened in the name of the WS&EBA into which all monies shall be paid and applied for the use of the WS&EBA. Three people shall be nominated as signatories for the drawing of cheques. Any two of the three signatories to sign each cheque drawn.

2) The WS&EBA shall levy subscriptions and other payments for the general purposes of the Association.

3) The Accounts of the WS&EBA shall be subject to annual checks. This assessment should be carried out by an independent assessor approved by the committee.

9. WINDING UP

If the WS&EBA ceases to operate for any reason, then its assets, after payment of all outstanding debts and liabilities, shall be given to the British Horse Society, or one or more associations with similar aims as determined by the remaining membership.

10. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

No amendment to the constitution shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose. Any amendment shall require the majority vote of the membership who are present at the meeting.